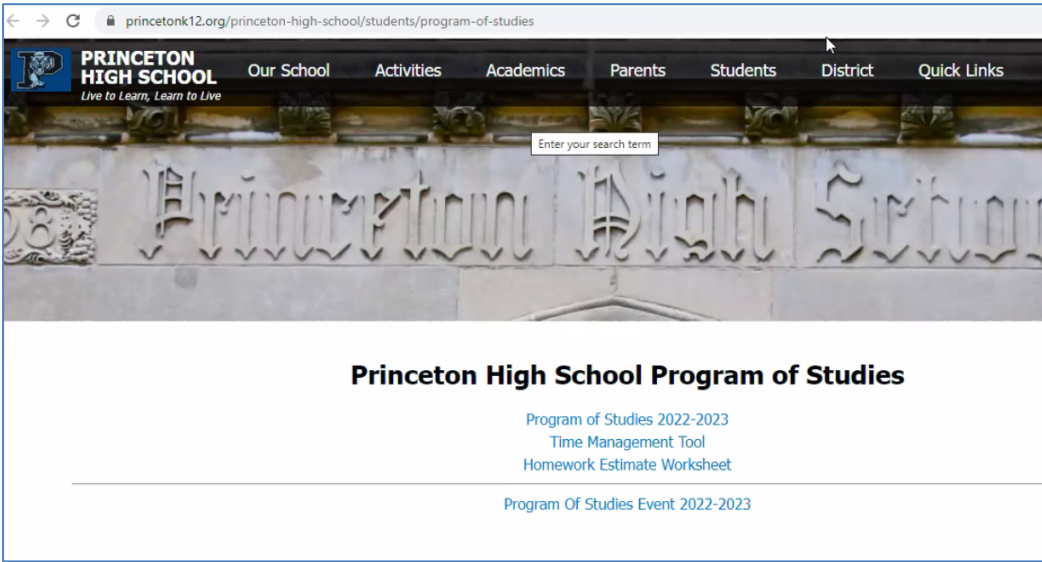


Speakers	
Shazia Manekia (PTO Co-President)	Dana Karas (PHS Director of School Counseling Services)
Sasha Weinstein (PTO Co-President)	Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal)
Betsy Baglio and Beth Behrend (BOE Members)	

Brief Description / Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from the PHS PTO and general updates. Board of Education brief update. Guest Speaker, Dana Karas, speaking on Course Selection and Academic Planning. Principal Frank Chmiel monthly update.

Summary of the discussion	
Speaker	Items discussed
Shazia Manekia and Sasha Weinstein	<p>Welcome from the PHS PTO.</p> <p>Princeton Perks Cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Princeton Perks Card is still on sale until the end of February. Buy a card to enjoy discounts at nearly 70 local shops and restaurants from January 1 through December 31, 2022. The discount card features great savings at a growing list of businesses, with most retailers offering 10% off. Visit princetonperks.com for information on each business's discount offer. Choose Princeton High School so that the proceeds go to the PHS PTO to help students attend prom who cannot afford the cost of a ticket. <p>Valentine's Food Drive for Arm in Arm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can bring healthy food items to school and place in the collection basket near the main door Tower entrance. Alternatively, please consider donating food items via the Arm in Arm website: https://amplify.ampyourgood.com/user/campaigns/3984 <p>PTO Council Townhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PTOC is hosting a Townhall meeting for parents and caregivers on the social health and wellness of our students on Feb 15 at 11:30am. Their Guest Speaker will be Dana Karas, Director of Student Counseling Services, and her team. They want to design the session based on your feedback. If you'd like to submit your thoughts, there is a form online. Please visit the PTO website, under the Wellness & Sustainability page. Or visit the PTOC website to provide your feedback for this session via a google form found at: https://princetonptoc.weebly.com/. <p>PTO's New Family Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last week, the PTO's New Family Group met virtually, and the student speakers spoke about the importance of their mental health especially for the juniors and seniors, and the great stress they are under as they are planning for life after graduation. This parent group meet throughout the year and they run great meetings to help parents. Please visit the PTO website for more information on the New Family Group and meeting dates.

Summary of the discussion	
	http://princetonhspto.weebly.com/new-to-phs.html
Board of Education Betsy Baglio Beth Behrend	<p>Beth Behrend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The January 25th 2022 Facilities Stewardship Referendum passed by a large margin. February 16th - Meeting to discuss sustainability. Will cover what the district is doing as it develops it's 3-year sustainability plan. March 16th - will have a follow-up meeting to get some public input into the planning for sustainability. <p>Betsy Baglio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOE Monthly meeting open to the public on February 22nd. Budget workshop meeting on February 8th open to the public. <p>Look at the board website https://www.princetonk12.org/board for meeting dates and agendas.</p>
Dana Karas	<p>Dana Karas is the PHS Director of School Counseling Services. She spoke about Course Selection and Academic Planning at PHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have begun the class scheduling process for the 2022-2023 school year. Link to all the courses and information on the district website. Assemblies at the middle schools to provide information was well received. Link on the district website to a presentation about all the different electives that are available; overview of how to go into PowerSchool to select the course they want to take next year; Program of Study, Time Management Tool etc. Teachers have been asked to submit recommendations for courses which require it. February 14th – students will start meeting with their counselors to review their selection and general Q&A. If parents have additional questions, they should set up a separate meeting with their counselor. Expect the class selections will be confirmed after Spring Break. Information to the above found at the following link: https://www.princetonk12.org/princeton-high-school/students/program-of-studies

Summary of the discussion	
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an additional session in the ESL classrooms to provide extra help for non-English Speakers. • Summer class offerings – plan to have this sorted by March. The Department Supervisors play a role in this. • Program of Studies – new version helps parents to look and ensure that their student is meeting their graduation requirements.
Frank Chmiel	<p>Principal Monthly Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built a team of students and staff members to plan to honor this month and also extend Black History throughout the year – Black History 365. ○ February 2nd – Blackout Day – asked everyone to wear all black. ○ Incorporated red in celebration of the Lunar New Year on February 1st. ○ Historical exhibit will be setup by ‘Museums in Motion’ in the Numina Art gallery at PHS. Students and faculty can visit during the day. It will be open to the community for 1-2 nights. ○ Sale of Black History 365 T-Shirts – the link was shared in the ‘Sunday Night Blast’ email from Mr. Chmiel. Asking everyone to wear their t-shirts on February 28th. • Graduation – looking at the day after the last day of school. Thinking about a 10am morning graduation (storms are common in the afternoon in June!). The class of 2022 will be involved in the decision-making process. • Prom venue: choosing an outside venue that is covered due to the unpredictability with Covid. • PHS Swim Teams (Boys and Girls) are Mercer County Champions – finals were on Monday January 31st. • ‘Sunday Night Blast’ email is a good way to communicate with parents, faculty and staff. • Empowering students is important. Student Advisory Committee monthly meetings will resume. • Absences – What is an excused vs verified absence?

Summary of the discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Verified absence – parent calls into the attendance office – this is not the same as an Excused absence. ○ (Unverified - no communication / reason from parent.) ○ Excused absences – parameters provided by the State of NJ. Not the same as verified absence. Some examples – religious observance college visits (up to 3 in G11/12 only), ‘Take your Child to Work’ day, students participating in Veterans Day, sports and club tournaments etc. ○ If your tiger student has some absences, be cognizant what the state considers as excused. There is an Attendance Committee at PHS. Want to avoid chronic absenteeism – exceeding 10% of the total school days. 180 school days in the school year. Therefore, 10% is 18 days, which is the total amount of absences in a class that you are allowed to miss. If absent more than 18 days in a course, considered chronically absent. Child can lose credit for that class even if they have an A! ○ Be careful taking vacation days as these are not excused. PHS has a problem with chronic absenteeism across all demographic groups.
Sheila Geoghegan	<p>Sheila Geoghegan is a PHS parent who is part of a group that opposes the establishment of cannabis retail stores in Princeton, and especially stores close to our schools. Please see their website for more information.</p> <p>https://nocannabisretailhere.com/</p>
	<p>Next PTO meeting is on Wednesday March 2nd at 7pm via zoom.</p> <p>See the zoom recording of this meeting posted on the PTO website.</p> <p>http://princetonhspto.weebly.com/meeting-archives.html</p>

Meeting ended at 8:05 PM.