



Princeton High School PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, November 2nd 2022, 7:00 PM, Zoom

Attendees	
Sasha Weinstein (PTO Co-President)	Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal)
Sue Evans (PTO Co-President)	Diana Lygas (Dean of Students)
Betsy Baglio (BOE, PHS Liaison)	

Brief Description / Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from the PHS PTO and general updates. Board of Education brief update. Board of Education election candidates. Monthly update and discussion on HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) from Frank Chmiel, PHS Principal.

Summary of the discussion	
Speaker	Items discussed
Sasha Weinstein and Sue Evans (PTO Co-Presidents)	<p>Welcome from the PHS PTO and October update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsored coffee and pastries for Instant Decision week (10/31-11/4) with over 20 colleges on site. Sponsoring food for a PHS staff social on Monday November 7th. Supported Hispanic Heritage Month (October) – students participated in grade level assemblies; school-wide door decorating contest. PTO provided a first prize Tortuga's lunch and second/third prize candy filled pinatas. Parent panel meeting was held on October 18th at 8:30am in the high school. A 4-parent panel answered questions from other parent attendees. Plan to hold 2 more parent panels in 2023. Princeton Public School annual winter coat and clothing drive was held from October 31st to November 4th. All PTOs participate. There was a collection box at the PHS Tower entrance. Donations are sorted overnight and then distributed on Saturday November 5th at Community Park School. PHS and PMS PTOs are hosting a Common Sense Media Talk called "Behind Their Screens" by the authors of the book on November 15th at the middle school. The event is free but does require registration at http://princetonhspto.weebly.com/upcoming-meetings.html. New Parent Meetings – anyone can attend – next meeting is on Thursday November 17th in person at the high school, room 142, 7:00-8:30pm. Topics include how to get your student involved at PHS and course selection and graduation requirements. Guest speakers include Diana Lygas, Dean of Students, and 2 older high school students. PTO funds a lot of events but we need YOUR donations and PTO dues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://princetonhspto.weebly.com/donate.html Venmo link is on the PTO website. Also accept checks. Many companies do a corporate match. Check out what the PTO does on the PTO website. Always looking for volunteers. Talk to Sasha or Sue if you have questions and want to know more. Join the informal PHS Parent Facebook group.



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Summary of the discussion	
Betsy Baglio (BOE, PHS Liaison)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board is still working on the strategic plan. Public meeting on November 14th at 6pm – all are welcome to attend. Next Board of Education monthly meeting is November 22nd via zoom at 7:00pm. Meeting is open to the public.
Adviti Muni (PTO Co-Treasurer)	<p>PTO funding update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income received so far this year starting September 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donations from parents. Company matching contributions. Amazon Smile – PTO is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. If you make the PHS PTO your charity on Amazon smile, the PTO receives 5% of the proceeds. Have received about \$9,000 so far this year starting September 1. This is lower than at the same time last year (\$13,000). PTO has funded the events already mentioned by Sue as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman T-Shirts Lunch at freshman orientation Staff lunch during Staff Development week in August. Decorations for Homecoming Dance in September.
BOE Candidates	<p>The 5 BOE candidates introduced themselves and spoke for 2-3 minutes in alphabetical order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deborah Bronfeld Susan Kanter Dafna Kendal Margarita “Rita” Rafalovsky Lishian Lisa Wu
Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal)	<p>Topic HIB – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying NJ Law implemented in 2010/2011.</p> <p>PHS has 3 Assistant Principals assigned to students by student last name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cecilia Birge: A-G last names Rashone Johnson: H-O last names Dr. Nicole Mantuano Lacsamana: P-Z last names <p>Dean of Student Life – Diana Lygas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of this presentation is to educate you and your students on HIB. One time event or repeated events where a student or group of students are targeting another student or group of students. Can be written, verbal, gestures etc. Causes emotional harm. Usually revolves around a distinguishing characteristic - cultural / gender / religion etc. Diana Lygas is the PHS Anti-Bullying Specialist. Not all reported HIB incidents are found to be a HIB incident. Parents on both sides are notified. Interviews are conducted. Some investigations end in an unfounded status with not enough



Summary of the discussion	
	<p>evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor behavior nonetheless is dealt with the school code of conduct. • PHS uses a Restorative Justice approach to school discipline. • Educate offenders. Provide counseling. • There is an appeals process for both sides based on the finding. • Educate our school community and hopefully reduce HIB incidents. • The Covid-19 pandemic had a negative impact. Students lost interpersonal skills. The school is tasked with the challenge of restoring these skills. • How to report a HIB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Report in person – to the Assistant Principal, Diana Lygas, teacher etc. ◦ PHS website has an online form. Can be anonymously submitted. Form created by the state of NJ. Can type into the form and submit via email. • Trying to increase bystander involvement – talk to students to intervene when they are seeing HIB. • Monthly seminars are being planned – building effective friendships, getting out of toxic relationships, conflict resolution etc. • Guidance wellness space – area for students to simmer and decompress. An area to get support and help process their feelings. • The goal is to make the behavior stop whether it is considered HIB or not. • Rashone Johnson and Diana Lygas are co-chairing a safety team this year. All about HIB and school safety – physical and social aspects. • Parent question – can a parent have a HIB against them? Yes. (A student can bring a HIB claim against a teacher. But a teacher cannot raise a HIB claim against a student.) <p>Principal Monthly Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHS Instant Decision Week, 10/31-11/4, in the new PHS wing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A few Universities attended each day. Short interviews with students. Representative from the University can provide an instant decision on their application. This is new for PHS. The School Counselors helped set this up. • Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations supported by the PTO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Student leadership involved in planning the events, supervised by some of the Spanish teachers. ◦ Each grade level participated in an assembly where the students put together all the entertainment. • School safety and security measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ PHS has a strong culture of freedom, trust, and autonomy. ◦ However, PHS is ramping up safety and security measures. ◦ Any visitor must check in with a photo ID and wear a visitor sticker during the visit. ◦ Students will wear their IDs around the building. This is a new change. PHS admin team and building monitors need to be able to easily monitor who is in the building. ◦ Signage on the exteriors on all building doors directing people to go to the Tower entrance. Slightly different signage on the



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	<p>inside that no one should be let in through these doors other than the Tower entrance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEL – Social Emotional Learning• Safety drills – 2 offsite evacuation drills to the Tiger stadium each year, one of which was completed recently.
	<p>Next PTO meeting is on Wednesday December 7th at 7pm via zoom.</p>

Meeting ended at 8:15 PM.