



Princeton High School PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, December 7th 2022, 7:00 PM, Zoom

Attendees	
Sasha Weinstein (PTO Co-President)	Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal)
Sue Evans (PTO Co-President)	Dana Karas (Director of School Counseling Services)
Michele Tuck-Ponder (BOE)	Carrie Elwood (101 Fund)
	Michael Orfe (MCTS Representative)

Brief Description / Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from the PHS PTO and general updates. 101: Fund overview from Carrie Elwood. Board of Education brief update. What the school is doing at every grade level for preparing the students for life after high school from Dana Karas, Director of School Counseling Services. Monthly update 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 November update.</p> <p>Meeting will be recorded. Zoom meeting had 45 attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people like meeting at 7pm via zoom, PTO is still trying to decide. Next meeting will be Wednesday Jan 11 (not the first Wednesday of the month). 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.
Carrie Elwood (101: Fund)	<p>Carrie Elwood – guest speaker – spoke briefly about the 101: Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.101fund.org/ The 101: Fund has been providing need-based college scholarships to Princeton High School (PHS) graduates for over 50 years. Carrie is the treasurer of the 101: Fund. Recipients can receive up to \$12,000 total. During the 2020-21 school year the 101: Fund spent \$122,762 supporting 67 students, including 12 students attending MCCC. In the middle of an annual appeal – see website link for donations. Applications are available starting February 2023 at https://www.grantinterface.com/home/logon?urlkey=the101fund Students applying for a 101: Fund scholarship must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent graduates from Princeton High School (applicants must apply within two years of their PHS graduation) Admitted to a college, university, non-profit technical school, or non-profit vocational school Financially eligible as determined by The 101: Fund Awards Committee
Michele Tuck-Ponder (BOE, PHS Liaison)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board is still working on the strategic plan. Public meeting held on November 14th. Recent Board of Education monthly meeting (November 22nd via zoom at 7:00pm) updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Princeton gave an update.



Summary of the discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Princeton Public Schools and Student Mental Health activities was discussed. ○ Report from PHS representatives regarding the results of a student survey (painpoints): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inconsistent WIFI ▪ HVAC – too hot ▪ Would like healthier options at lunch
PTO Treasurer update	<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"> ○ Revenue \$12,780 <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. • Expenses: \$10,000 for this school year so far (PTO has funded many events) • Donations down this year relative to other years. • Looking to add Venmo next year.
Dana Karas (Director of School Counseling Services)	<p>What is the school doing at every grade level to prepare students for life after high school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School counseling department needed to refocus efforts post Covid-19. • Grade 9 – introduction to their learning styles – partnered with the science department. • Grade 10 – lesson through history classes – Holland Codes and learn about the connection between interest in who they are and future career paths. • Jan 23 career day – coming soon! • Early College and Career Planning Night held on Dec 6th for sophomores and juniors in the PAC. • Michael Orfe spoke with G9/10/11 MCCC technical school opportunities.
Michael Orfe (MCTS Representative)	<p>Mercer County Technical Schools (MCTS) brief overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your school counselor and visit www.mcts.edu to apply online as a sophomore. • Encourage students to visit MCTS to see what the college is like. • Consider all of your high school options. Learn about MCTS college and career readiness programs. • Students do not have to pick between technical schools and going to college. Many MCTS courses offer certification and/or college credits. Many of the students at MCTS go on to other colleges. • Junior and Senior year attend MCTS for a half day. Bussed free from PHS. • PHS enrollment has grown over the years. • Are students still considered a PHS graduate? Yes. • Mandatory graduation requirements still exist such as English, Math, PE etc. <p>Summary: 3 programs available at MCTS for high schoolers: 1) Full time programs for ninth graders – have to apply in eight grade. STEM, Health Science and Culinary Arts – only 3 career areas. Like regular high school and your 'elective' is in these 3 specific areas.</p>



Summary of the discussion	
	<p>2) Shared time programs are part time in G11 and G12.</p> <p>3) Career Prep programs – look at website – technically shared time programs. Must have a 3.2 GPA, seniors only can apply.</p> <p>Can also email Michael if you have questions: morfe@mcts.edu</p>
Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal)	<p>Principal Monthly Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Festival<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need parents and colleagues to volunteer as a Career Festival speaker.○ Sasha Weinstein and Michele Tuck-Ponder came up with the idea.○ Would like 7-8 career tracks and approx. 10 people per track.○ Will send out the requests via school messenger.• School safety:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balance PHS culture with new safety and security measures.• New signage on outside to direct everyone to The Tower to sign in.• Letting someone in through another door can be considered trespassing.• Will purchase lanyards via support from the PTO so all students can wear their ID.• Looking at consolidating areas where students sit during free time rather than sitting anywhere.• PHS student Advisory – will explain ‘the why’ behind these increased safety measures.
	<p>Next PTO meeting is on Wednesday January 18th at 8:30am in person in the New Wing due to a popular college event happening on January 11th evening in the PAC.</p>

Meeting ended at 8:15 PM.