



Princeton High School PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, January 18th 2023, 8:30 AM, PHS New Wing

| Attendees | |
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| Sasha Weinstein, PTO Co-President | Frank Chmiel, PHS Principal |
| Sue Evans, PTO Co-President | Diana Lygas, PHS Dean of Students |
| Beth Behrend, BOE | Marlon Davila, Mural Artist at PHS |
| | Bethany Siddiqui, PHS Coordinator of Student and Family Services |

| Brief Description / Agenda |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from the PHS PTO and general updates. • Board of Education brief update. • Marlon Davila, Mural Artist at PHS • Tour of the ROARE center by Bethany Siddiqui, PHS Coordinator of Student and Family Services • Monthly update from Frank Chmiel, PHS Principal. • Update from Diana Lygas, PHS Dean of Students. |

| Summary of the discussion | |
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| Speaker | Items discussed |
| Sasha Weinstein and Sue Evans (PTO Co-Presidents) | <p>Welcome from the PHS PTO and December update. Approximately 24 people attended this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica Viera, PTO Co-Treasurer gave an update on PTO funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$2,100 received since Dec 7th. ○ Spent about \$4,500 since Dec 7th – lanyards, Hispanic celebration, donation to Meals on Wheels (\$100 donation to Meals on Wheels was in memory of PHS Spanish teacher's husband's passing. https://matherhodge.com/tribute/details/2550/Paul-Hayden/obituary.html#tribute-start) ○ \$13,500 income so far this year (vs \$17,700 received last year at same time). ○ \$14,000 expenses so far this year. ○ \$56,000 bank balance. ○ PTO Taxes due this month. • New families Report (Mette Otte) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next meeting will be held Jan 26th in person at 7pm. ○ Topic will be about college. PHS College Counselor Nipurna Shah will attend as well as a senior student to share the student perspective. ○ Everyone is welcome at these meetings. • Career Day for PHS Students – Monday, 1/23, 8:30am-12:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 60 career presenters (parent/community volunteers) in several clusters. (Note: 56 presenters showed up on day of event.) ○ Students will start in their home rooms. ○ Divide homerooms/grade into sections – 2 homerooms per section (approx. 50 students) and that section will go to one group of career cluster at a time for 30 minutes. Expect each section will be able to visit most clusters. ○ 1500 students breaking up into sections and finding a large area within the building to meet is complicated! |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The PTO funds will be used to provide beverages, snacks, breakfast, and lunch for all the career presenters, moderators, and parent volunteers. • Student Wellness Center – snacks for students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a new area where students hang out during free periods. Diana Lygas and Michelle Simborski and school staff have been leaving out snacks for students who have been taking them. PTO suggested that we could create a signup genius for parents to buy snacks on a weekly basis and drop off at front desk: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044caeaf28a5f85-snacks?useFullSite=true#/. • Arm-In-Arm Valentine's Food Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is underway. Contest to see which school raises the most food. PHS parents often donate money instead of food items. • Cranbury Arts Council (Noelle Kinney) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PHS art students will exhibit their work at Cranbury Arts Council for the month of February. ○ Come see the art work at the PHS Gallery on Friday 1/20 at 6pm before the art work moves for the exhibit. |
| Beth Behrend (BOE, PHS Liaison) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Education is still working on the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Hoping to present a draft in February. • The Board is working on the 2023-2024 Budget. Working Meeting on February 7th where the budget will be initially presented and discussed. • An updated demographic report prepared by an external company will also be presented at the February 7th meeting. • The 2018 Referendum provided funds to build the new spaces at PHS including the dance studios and new classrooms that include the ROARE center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The BOE is hosting an open house on Thursday January 19th from 6-7 for parents to via these new spaces. ○ In addition, the 2021 referendum provided funds for necessary roof repairs across the district which will allow the district to explore options for solar installation for future energy savings and sustainability. • Long term planning committee is looking at options to address capacity and learning needs in light of new residential growth; district buildings are aging and PHS is nearly 100 years old. • Board Meeting Schedule: https://www.princetonk12.org/board/meeting-schedule |
| Marlon Davila (Mural Artist at PHS) | <p>Marlon Davila is a professional artist and PHS Alum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He created a mural in the new PHS Wing with the help of students. • The PTO provided funds for art materials for the project. • Marlon spoke about the mural at the meeting and these were some highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring nature into the classroom ○ Roaring Tiger which is a play on the word ROARE (Resource Office for Access, Renewal and Equity) center. ○ Trees – symbol of life. Branches reaching out supporting the leaves - |



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| | <p>symbolic of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marlon gathered information from students on what they would like to see. The mural shows the word Peace in several languages including Haitian Creole, Arabic and Chinese. |
| Bethany Siddiqui (PHS Coordinator of Student and Family Services) | <p>Bethany Siddiqui, Coordinator of Student and Family Services, provided meeting attendees with a tour of the ROARE center (Resource Office for Access, Renewal and Equity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intent of the center is to provide a space that is inclusive and supportive of the students. • Recently partnered with local nonprofits to provide a pop-up shop “Dress to Impress” to serve the student community in need which was a great success. • Students come to the center to study, socialize, eat lunch etc. |
| Frank Chmiel (PHS Principal) | <p>Principal Monthly Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Students will wear their IDs on lanyards (The PTO helped the purchase of these lanyards). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seniors will have white lanyards. ○ All other students will have blue lanyards. ○ Looking at purchasing bright orange lanyards for visitors to wear. This will be a new addition to the current sign in process where visitors have their IDs scanned. • There will be a special student assembly on February 10th to review all these new processes with the students. • Will also review the new expectations with students about being on time for class. (There is an average of 5 mins passing time between classes). • Princeton Education Foundation (PEF) is trying to raise funds to renovate the outdoor courtyards by selling bricks. |
| Diana Lygas (PHS Dean of Students) | <p>Club Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Fair will be held February 2 – during PE time so students can sign up to join a club. • It would be great to have software to track room usage for clubs which is one of the issues students face trying to find the club location. This type of software is expensive. There is a google spreadsheet but not all clubs update their location. • Each club must have an adult supervisor. Students need to find the adviser. |
| Open | <p>General Q&A at the end of the meeting included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference between Canvas and PowerSchool can be confusing for new parents. PTOC held a Lunch and Learn on this topic on November 2022. See this link for a recording of that session: https://princetonptoc.weebly.com/lunch--learn-meetings.html • Will there be Mid Terms this year? It is up to individual teachers to decide. Historically they were worth a percentage of the full year grade but this has since changed. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Council are hosting a Hot Coco sale to raise money on Wednesday January 18th .• Join the PHS Informal Facebook parent group to get answers to common questions.• What is PHS doing regarding sustainability?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PHS has a Green Team and is a NJ Sustainability bronze status school.○ Food waste is composted.○ Curriculum included in classes○ School roofs have been renovated and can therefore support solar panels in the future.○ Retaining basins – replanting with native plants to retain more water.○ Switching to LED lighting throughout the school.○ Tried to get a green electric bus grant but was unsuccessful. They are very expensive but board continuing to explore grant opportunities.• Are the PTO meetings always in the morning?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No. This is the first one this school year. A previous survey sent to parents did not provide a clear preference of AM vs PM and Zoom vs In Person. Therefore, the PTO is trying to vary the time and format. |
| | Next General PTO meeting is on Wednesday February 1 st at 7pm. This will be in person at PHS. Dara Karas, PHS Director of School Counseling Services, will be the guest speaker to talk about class selection / schedule. |

Meeting ended at 10:00 AM.