

Meeting Title	Princeton High School PTO Meeting		
Meeting Date	December 7, 2016	Meeting Time	8:30-9:45am
Meeting Chair	Shazia	Meeting Location	PHS Learning Commons

Attendees	
Administartion	Parents
Principal Gary Snyder	Shazia Manekia
Assistant Principal Jessica Baxter	Jill Frost, Tulikaa Bhatia
	27 Parents

Brief Description/ Agenda
Asst. Principal Jessica Baxter discussed the new Senior Project initiative; Principal Snyder discussed balancing class learning with experiential learning, the Bell schedule committee and PHS Wellness initiatives

Summary of the discussion	
Speaker	Items Discussed
Shazia	PTO to fund bean bag chairs for learning commons; Free tutoring service at IDEA Center; and Winter Clothing Drive a success
Jessica Baxter	Pilot year for Senior projects with 7 students. The committee worked for 2 years, visited different schools and workshops to decide the structure and requirements. The only pre-requisite for this course is that the student be a Senior who has a free period in their schedule. Each student has a faculty advisor and a community facilitator. In the 1st Quarter, the student and faculty advisor meet to discuss the question the student is trying to answer. The student will build the research proposal in the 2nd Quarter and work with the community facilitator for 35 hours to get experiential learning in the 3rd Quarter. The 4th Quarter is the presentation and product phase. The product could be a paper, PowerPoint, or video. There would be a Gallery walk similar to a science fair where each student will showcase their Senior projects in May. The purpose of the Senior project is to let the student develop their passion and apply it to a real life situation as a connection from PHS to the next phase of their life. The Senior project is worth 5 credits and has a Pass/ Fail grade each quarter.
Principal Gary Snyder	Senior project is part of school's focus on hands on experiential activities to strike a balance between classroom time and taking it to the next step. The faculty committee overhauling the bell schedule is trying to combine the after-school activities such as school publications (The Ivy, The Tower, Spork and 151mm) so that students learn collaboration along with technical and budgeting skills. The new learning management system is already being used by teachers creatively such as in History 1 & 2 where 135 students are having online discussions on their reactions and thoughts after assigned readings and talks.
	Gary answered a parent question about online courses during summer by agreeing that the Financial literacy requirement can be completed by taking an online course during summer for \$150 fee but cautioned that online courses do not typically end in better learning for the student mainly due to lack of motivation due to no personal touchpoints.
	Gary also discussed parent concerns about the school assembly going awry. Since PHS has very few assemblies, the students are not clear about the rules of engagement in a large group of 800 students. Most speakers speak in shorter group sizes, but sometimes there are benefits to getting together to hear a common message for community bonding.

Principal Gary Snyder	Gary's top priorities for PHS Wellness: (1) Homework - quantity, number of hours, and spreading it out. (2) Bell schedule - structure of the school day based on including experiential learning, performance assessment (such as projects and presentations in lieu of tests), and curriculum assessment. (3) Continue to recognize wellness issues and provide support. For example, starting school later to better suit teenagers' sleep cycle, providing quiet time during the day, and staggering break times.
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Meeting conclusion/ Action points

Next meeting @8:30am on Jan 4, 2017 Location TBD