

**Poolesville High School PTSA  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

Meeting held virtually via Zoom.  
Presiding Officer, PTSA President, Andrea Stokes

Ms. Stokes called the meeting to order at 7:00 with a welcome message and an introduced to Executive Boards members. There were 46 usernames on the meeting as the meeting began and quorum was met. A list of usernames at 7:16 is attached as "Exhibit A."

Ms. Stokes then called for candidates for Secretary Position, Chad Older was the only candidate and introduced himself. Dana Smith opened a motion to elect Chad Older. The motion was seconded by a zoom participant. With quorum still in attendance, the motioned carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Stokes invited participants to ask questions via chat. She informed everyone the meeting needed to be recorded, after giving an opportunity for anyone who did not wish to be recorded to exit, she started the recording process. The Recording began at 7:08

A reminder was given that communications are sent through member hub and 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents list is not yet available to the PTSA. Until then, they must monitor member hub.

Information on what the PTSA does and how it operates:  
Back to school night was a successful way to meet parents. That event was followed up by Poolesville day where there was a chance to meet more parents.

Plans are being made to provide a practice SAT for Juniors this year.

The PSTA offers grants for clubs and an application will be available.

The PTSA will also offer a post prom activity to offer a safe space for students. It is not necessary to go to the prom to attend the post prom activity.

Staff appreciation events are planned on a monthly basis. To the extent possible, in-kind donations are sought but to fill in the gaps, funds are used.

To fund activities, we must continue fundraising and growing the membership.

Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Principal Carothers' report**

The report began with an introductions of the admin team: Mark Carothers, Principal; Susan Krouner, Business Administrator; Dan McKenna, Assistant School Administrator; Allison Wilder, Magnet Coordinator; and Angelica Rivas-Smith, Assistant Principal.

Introduction of new teachers. Several new teachers were hired because the school ia growing and a staffing shortage last year. The school is currently full staffed with teachers. There is one paraeducator vacancy and a couple of building services positions that remain open. Three employees have taken over in new roles but remained at the school.

A list of student support contacts is available on the school's website and will continue to be published in his weekly message.

Last year was a difficult transition back to in-person learning but this year is better. The building is growing and student population is growing. The school is guided by five priorities; See attached "Exhibit B."

The attendance policy was shared with parents and it was emphasized that being in attendance is important.

The school hallway policy was discussed. There are one to two passes available per class. Students must sign in and out of class.

Grading and reporting: The most up to date grades can be found in parentvue. In every class there should be a minimum of 2 reassessments. The higher grade of the original or the reassessment is the one that is used.

Cell phone policy, called sometimes referred to as PMD or Personal Mobile Device Policy. Attached as "Exhibit C". In general, PMD cannot be used during class unless instructed to by teacher for something like a "kahoot." It is hoped that even during extra time in class, not allowing PMD will foster friendship and community.

Extracurriculars: Expect changes to policies. After recent issues at other schools some security practices will change to keep everyone safe.

Upcoming events: No school Monday, September 26, 2022; Early release on Friday, September 30, 2022 and Homecoming Week October 10 to 15<sup>th</sup>. PSAT day is October 12, 2022.

PSAT will be available for 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Q and A.

Homecoming dance will be at the high school. Location at the school is TBD.

1,315 students are at the school. 2019 was a little over 1,200. School is projected to grow. New school is expected to have occupancy of 1,500. Numbers in "test in" programs are the same. The growth is all due to local community growth.

There may be an opportunity to take the PSAT for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, parents should reach out to Mr. McKenna and available on a case-by-case basis.

Drama boosters used to exist but no longer is active. If parents are interested in, it may be revived.

Challenges: No expected challenges other than those standard human conflict issues. Students seem to be in a better position than last year after having been out of the school for a year.

When a child tests positive for COVID: Resources are different than last year. It is considered a normal absence, students should work through canvas and work with teachers. Important to report the positive test to the school through the provided link. Students must isolate for five days after the start of symptoms. Must wear a mask for five days after return.

1. PHS School Construction Update (10 minutes)

Chris Deraleau from MCPS and update from Jen Roberts from Dustin Construction. Architects' office also in meeting. Still on target. See attached schedule marked as "Exhibit D." Much of the work was done underground, such as stormwater facilities and electrical

Next: Will look like a building going up in October. Steel will be delivered and work above ground will be obvious. Student safety is top priority

Q & A:

. Phase 1 is smaller areas / classrooms vs Phase 2. Phase 2 is large student areas.

On track to turn over the second gym in March 2023. The main gym will not be until the end of 2024.

Auditorium is part of phase 2, spring and summer will work to renovate the auditorium.

Walk ways are covered and are dark especially with after school activities. Lights will be installed, many done already. Should be on from dawn to dusk automatically. Additional lighting may be added as needed. Lights were installed after back to school night when it was discovered during first night time event how dark it was.

General Business meeting:

PTSA General Business:

Treasurer's review of PTSA financials and proposed PTSA budget for 2022-23 school year was distributed and discussed. Kelly Elam shared the budget from her screen. Carryover was \$17,459.78. Committee chairs will discuss the money for their events. Projected end balance will be \$11,716.71 at the end of the school year which Ms. Elam thought was about the appropriate level to keep in reserves.

Ms. Stokes commented in support of the proposed budget and opened a discussion:

Q: How many members? Currently at about 140 members. Want to increase membership and encouraged to have members reach out to others. Budget estimated 150 members so we are almost at budget goal.

Q: Brick Fundraiser? With the construction of the school, bricks that had been at the school that had been purchased will be placed in new school. New bricks will be available for purchase. PTSA will work closely with MCPS and Mr. Carothers to sell bricks. A time and location is not yet available. This will be a multiyear effort / fundraiser. Architects are aware of the bricks and are thinking about putting them in the "learning landscape area" between gym and academic wing. Not finalized.

Q: Amazon Smile? Working with Amazon to get the administrative end on their end. Amazon is holding on to the money until the new bank account is verified. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Poolseville HS to get a donation to the school.

Member vote to approve May 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Kelly Elam motioned to approve the budget and it was seconded by Amanda Graver. With a quorum still in attendance, the budget was approved unanimously.

Kelly Elam presented the annual review for last year:

Every year we have to a financial review of the prior year. The budget was balanced last year and everything appears in order.

Committees:

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- CO** Chad Older (Me)
- PH** Poolesville High Sch... (Host)
- MC** Mark Carothers
- AG** Amanda Graver
- A** Angela
- BW** Bonnie West
- CB** Caleb Bodmer
- CR** Chris Rickert
- CT** Chris Tao
- CM** Christie Maisel
- C** Christine Sproat
- CD** Christopher Deraleau
- DD** Damian DeVriendt
- DI** Dana's iPhone12
- D** Deborah
- Denee (de-NAY) Ferguson (she...
- Diane Marie St. George
- G** Gupta
- I** iPhone
- JR** Jen Roberts - Dustin

Exhibit A

- NI** Nan's iPhone
  - Nicole Williams-Militsis
  - NK** Nikolay Kopaliani
  - NI** Nino's iPhone (2)
  - P** Patrick
  - Reaya Reuss
  - RG** Regina Grubb
  - S** Sandi
  - S** Sue
  - Tamara "Lyons share Living" on...
  - VJ** Vinod John
- 
- JR** Jen Roberts - Dustin
  - J** jenn
  - JW** Julia Wight
  - J** Justin
  - KB** Kajal Biswas
  - KH** Karen Howell
  - KE** Kelly Elam
  - KE** Kelly Elam
  - Kerri Sumlinski
  - Kirsten Lewis
  - L** LEE
  - L** ling
  - LC** Luz Cueto
  - MC** Macy Carman-Goeke, VMDO
  - MW** Meg Woodman
  - M** Michaelen Barsness
  - MS** Min Su

**At PHS, we believe...**

- 1. Every student has the right to a successful, supportive high school experience and a well-rounded, rigorous education that prepares them for college and career.**
- 2. Human connections are foundational to meaningful learning.**
- 3. Challenges are opportunities to respond in the moment with innovative, empathetic approaches and perspectives.**
- 4. Progress is fostered when we operate with positive presuppositions, open minds, and persistence.**
- 5. Poolesville High School is a unified, whole-school community when its diverse members feel heard, seen, valued, and supported.**



# Personal Mobile Device Policy

Talking: Mark Carot

“A personal mobile device (PMD) refers to any non-MCPS issued device used to send or receive data via voice, video, or text.

Mobile phones, e-readers, tablets, personal computers, smart watches, or other devices equipped with microphones, headphones, speakers, and/or cameras are all considered PMDs.”

[Current COG-RA Regulation](#) posted on MCPS website.

- ❖ Students are not permitted to use their own laptops or devices
- ❖ Students will be responsible for bringing their MCPS-issued Chromebook to and from school daily.
- ❖ Students will not be permitted to use their cell phones and other mobile devices during class for non-instructional purposes.

# Construction Schedule

Talking: Christopher Derales

