

# **Poolesville High School PTSA Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Oct 14, 2025

**Location:** Zoom

**Recorded by:** AI, Formatted by Cindy Wang

## **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by PTSA leadership via Zoom. The agenda included updates on PTSA membership and donation features, graduation planning, school construction progress, attendance and device policies, winter sports registration, PTSA financial updates, officer approvals, and information regarding the MCPS boundary study and program analysis.

## **2. Leadership Updates and Announcements**

### **President's Report – Cheryl**

- Reviewed PTSA membership levels and encouraged families to join and support organizational initiatives.
- Shared information about new Givebacks donation features that allow members to contribute a percentage of purchases to the PTSA.
- Invited senior parents to complete a Google Form regarding concerns about the proposed graduation venue change to UMBC.
- Encouraged volunteers to fill open PTSA roles, including cultural arts, reflections, membership, and fundraising.

### **Principal's Report – Mark Carothers**

- Discussed homecoming activities, football events, and recognized the student section's engagement.
- Noted the field naming in honor of Howard Lyles.
- Reviewed the PSAT testing schedule and emphasized the importance of attendance and alternative activities for students not testing.
- Reminded parents to complete winter sports registration early so students can participate safely on the first practice day.
- Clarified misconceptions about potential boundary changes and affirmed that he does not plan to leave Poolesville for the Downtown Crown High School.
- Reviewed administrative updates including student communication protocols and school safety expectations.

## **3. Construction and Facilities Update – Mark Carothers**

- Reported that the media center, TV studio, cafeteria, and building services spaces are expected to be operational by November 4.
- The north and east parking lots, greenhouse, barn, field areas, and basketball court are projected for completion by January 5.
- Tennis courts are planned for availability by the spring season.
- School beautification projects, including murals, are scheduled for March and April.
- Confirmed that the exterior dining area will be accessible to students, though furniture installation may occur later.

#### **4. Attendance, Mobile Device, and ID Policy Update – Daphne**

- Reviewed attendance expectations, noting that 10 consecutive unexcused absences may result in unenrollment.
- Outlined the tardy policy, with progressive steps including detentions and administrative referrals.
- Explained the personal mobile device (PMD) policy, restricting phone use during instructional time and assessments.
- Noted that exceptions will be made for late arrivals caused by bus delays.
- Discussed implementation of phone pouches for students who must keep phones but are restricted from use.
- Reviewed the ID policy requiring visible IDs at all times outside of class, with increasing consequences for repeat offenses.
- Mark encouraged students to personalize their lanyards, suggesting a creative design contest.

#### **5. PTSA Budget and Leadership Planning**

Budget Report – Anne:

- Reported that last year's financial review was completed and approved by the auditor.
- Shared that membership revenue remains below the \$5,000 target and encouraged continued recruitment.
- Confirmed PTSA authorization for debit card use for e-commerce purchases.

Officer Approvals:

- President: Poolesville
- Vice President: George
- Treasurer: Anne
- Secretary: Cindy

Open Leadership Positions:

- Cultural Arts
- Reflections
- Membership
- Fundraising

The next PTSA meeting is scheduled for November 18 and will include a presentation on ParentVue in Canvas and AI in the classroom by Dr. Hunsinger-Blair.

## **6. MCPS Boundary Study and Program Analysis**

### **Regional Planning Overview – SooAnn**

- Provided updates on the MCPS boundary study and program analysis, aimed at providing equitable access to high-quality programs across all regions by 2027.
- Clarified that current Poolesville students will not be affected by the changes.
- Emphasized that existing Poolesville programs will not be eliminated or relocated; rather, similar offerings will be expanded elsewhere.
- Shared proposed Region 6 assets and discussed areas in need of program development.
- Encouraged community members to email questions and concerns to PoolesvilleCluster@gmail.com by October 22 and October 30.

### **Student Perspective – Aanshi (Global Ecology Program)**

- Presented student concerns related to program quality, implementation timelines, transportation logistics, and transparency.
- Mark commended students for their thoughtful advocacy.
- The group identified a need for further clarity on potential impacts to programs and staffing.

## **7. Next Steps**

- Mr. Carothers will resend the teacher availability link in his Sunday message.
- PTSA members will continue promoting membership to meet annual goals.
- Students will complete winter sports registration and confirm email receipts.
- Parents concerned about the UMBC graduation venue will complete the provided Google Form.
- Senior parents wishing to advocate for an alternative location may contact Cheryl.
- Students will ensure IDs are visible when entering the building and while not in class.
- SooAnn will testify before the Board of Education on October 23 regarding the boundary study and program analysis.
- SooAnn will attend the private MCPS advocacy meeting on October 31.
- PTSA will continue recruiting volunteers for open roles.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded following review of PTSA, school, and MCPS updates. Attendees were thanked for their participation and encouraged to join the next scheduled PTSA meeting

