

# POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PTSA GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

The general meeting of the PHS PTSA was once again held virtually. There were 142 participants at the zoom meeting. The President, Dawn Albert called the meeting to order at 7:02. She welcomed everyone and explained that the meeting would primarily be a presentation by the school administration on the reopening plan for PHS. However some PTSA business needed to be taken care of first. The minutes from the October and December minutes were sent, via email, to the membership prior to the meeting for review. David Griffith made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as presented and Jane Lehrman seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Dawn stated that the rest of the business part of the meeting would continue after Mr. Carothers presentation.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Carothers had a slide show presentation of the Reopening Plan. He stated that the plan was still in the planning stage because parents/students had until February 26 to make a final decision on their choice for virtual or in-person learning. Mr. Carothers reported that PHS had a 93% response from the choice survey. As of this reporting, 630 students will be returning to in-person learning. He stated that everyone would receive an email on February 23 that stated their current choice and that the last day to change their choice would be February 26. After that time there would be a 2 week blackout period for the staff to finalize the schedules and plans for returning to the building. He reported that as of March 15<sup>th</sup> the schedule would change when the first students return to the building that day. The phase in plan that was presented to the BOE included having 12 grade return the week of 4/6, then 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the week of 4/16, and finally the 10<sup>th</sup> grade to return the week of 4/26. This plan has to be approved by the BOE at a March meeting.

The students, who will be attending in-person, will do so on a rotational weekly schedule. However, Wednesday will continue to be a virtual asynchronous day of learning for all students. The daily schedule will be the same for all students, however there will be some changes. The school day will start at 7:45 with Student Support time. The first or fifth period class, depending on the day of the week will still begin at 9:00 am. Lunch has been shortened by 10 minutes and the afternoon classes will now resume at 12:20. The day will end at 2:30 unless the student has an extended day schedule. The time schedule for Wednesdays will remain the same. Mr. Carothers went on to describe the models of in-person learning. He explained how the teacher will handle both the students virtually and in-person. The students in-person will also be taught via the zoom classroom but will get feedback and questions answered live. After a question and answer time, Mr. Carothers went on to talk about the things done and that will be done to keep everyone safe, including requiring everyone to wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking. He then reviewed the lunch procedures for in-person students. A few new items were discussed. The students will not be able to use lockers, and there will be no open lunch. If the students leave school property during the day, they will not be allowed back in the building. Each student will be supplied with their own headphones. There will be masks available in case a student forgets one. Students are to bring their MCPS Chromebook, charger, and other supplies to school each day and carry them with them throughout the day. There will be no sharing of supplies and materials. A Q&A session followed.

Mrs. Grubb then talked about the athletic schedule for the rest of the year. Fall sports start in March and Spring in April. Physicals are required prior to attending practice.

End of the year Senior Activities were also discussed. There will be some kind of Graduation ceremony. Currently it is planned to be held at Mt. Saint Mary's on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Plan "B" would be to have a ceremony in the Stadium outside at PHS. Prom/Post Prom is still a fluid situation based on what MCPS decides. The School and PTSA are making plans in case we are given a "green light" to proceed.

However there is one bright light. MCPS is supplying every senior with a cap and gown free of charge.

Once again there was a short Q & A session. The slide show presentation and a recording of the meeting will be posted on the PTSA website.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Dawn thanked the PHS administrative staff for all their efforts. Dawn reported that work on the new school building was still "in progress". No changes to the gym size had been made as of this reporting but we are still advocating for a new bigger gym.

TREASURER REPORT: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Jacqueline reported that membership was down from previous years but not unexpected due to the current situation. She encouraged everyone to join because we still have expenses to meet.

STAFF APPRECIATION: A big Thank you to Helen Trainor and her committee for all their efforts so far this year.

POST PROM: No Report.

FUNDRAISING: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

MCCPTA REPORT: Jane Lehrman, cluster coordinator, reported that there would be a cluster virtual meeting on April 22. She stated that when the date got closer she would send out an email with more information.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sandra Baggett

PHS PTSA Secretary