

Poolesville High School PTSA
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
7:00 pm
Membership Meeting Agenda
[Meeting Recording](#)

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Session being recorded for posting on PTSA website
 - b. Member registration in chat
 - c. Quorum verification

2. President's report
 - a. Board CIP hearing – President referenced the new CIP from the Board of Education. President mentioned that it indicates a PHS construction completion date in the 2025-26 school year. This is confusing as the Construction Team has indicated that the bulk of construction would be completed by the Fall of 2024.
 - b. Treasurer vacancy – President stated that we do not have a Treasurer and would welcome interest in this position.
 - c. Designate PHS as Charity beneficiary on Amazon Smile– President reminded all on the meeting to please make sure to select PHS as your charity on Amazon Smile. Use Smile.amazon.com when making Amazon purchases.

3. Principal Carothers' report – Over 400 Students earned straight A's by the end of marking period and the marking period went well. Congrats to athletes winning state championship. Student survey is providing a lot of good feedback. He will meet with student leaders. There may be adjustments to the schedule after the holiday - mainly a longer lunch period to get work done, get help, and for clubs to meet. Also, he will build in time in the schedule for daily morning announcements. The staff has talked a lot about clearer guidance on reassessment policies. Thanksgiving holiday schedule is changed with back-to-back half days, Monday will be periods 4-7 and Tuesday periods 1-3 with longer Falcon time to get caught up with work. May not be a "homework-free" weekend, but staff wants to give students time to complete work ahead of the holiday.

4. Update on Mental Health Week at PHS – The goal was to support student well-being – Ms. Nagy shared a presentation. She reviewed wellness week and what students could do each day, such as a wellness table during lunch, Tuesday was gratitude day, there were games, relaxation with music, lessons on power of optimism on Friday. Students could write notes and thoughts about how they are feeling. Students are raw and real on what they have been through over the past year and half, constantly communicating with teachers about the challenges that students are facing and how students feel. Generally students are becoming more conditioned to being back in school. Students are sharing honest feedback. Tips: encourage kids to get involved, have quality family time and structure it; make sure teens know you value them as who they are not just their grades. Students often need someone to listen. Ask what you are doing that's not helpful and what am I doing that is helpful. Combat negative thinking, remind them of past successes. Make sure break habit of cell phone usage. Remind kids about the

support available at the school. Mr. Carothers thanked Ms. Nagy and mentioned that they have noticed some social skills have been lost like conflict resolution due to lack of face-to-face time with other students. He is very thankful for counseling department and the counseling staff. Any child can walk in at any time to talk to any counselor. Because so many students enjoyed wellness week, staff is trying to figure out what more can be done going forward on planning more interactive activities related to wellness.

5. Committee updates

- a. Membership Committee - Update from 2nd Vice President:
 - i. Membership drive – Door Prize drawing for Fall Membership Drive will be held during the December meeting
 - ii. Please join – <https://poolevillehs.memberhub.com/store#>
 - iii. Volunteer appeal – sign up form <https://forms.gle/gkLVDytE7oQooVPo9>
- b. Communications Committee – a lot of comms are going out on FB page and the FB group, group is more organic for parents to ask questions. We are looking for a Communications chair to help with FB posts and other comms.
- c. Fundraising Committee - Lynn Schaeber is chair of this committee. Emphasis is on re-building the parent community. We are doing restaurant nights but also Parent Mixers at various times throughout the year. Next mixer is at Windridge Winery on Dec. 11. Committee is also working on student club grant program where funds for clubs will be raised. Clubs must apply for a grant to request specific funds from the PTSA. Clubs must submit grant proposal. Next program fundraiser is candy cane bouquets for \$5 in December, and the PTSA will also hold a Mardi Gras bag sale in February, then a daffodil sale in the Spring.
- d. Post-prom Committee – Cheryl Booth provided an update. She does not have a student at PHS yet but is a post-prom advocate. Post-prom will be held May 6. The Committee is currently submitting applications for grants. Theme will be “Carnivale” at the high school. Committee is working on details on how to get students from Prom in Rockville back to the high school. As everyone is doing Amazon shopping, please look at the Post-prom Amazon wish list for student prized to be given out at the Post Prom event. We are looking for volunteers for the Post prom committee. We need help with fundraising and planning. We turned in quality grants this year and were commended for planning a quality project last year.
- e. Hospitality/Staff appreciation Committee – Hospitality Co-Chair Christine Schneider reports that volunteers are still needed to help with Staff Appreciation events each month of the school year. Upcoming event is December holiday treats. Please look for sign-ups for donations and volunteers.
- f. Cultural Arts Committee – Still looking for a chair for Cultural Arts
- g. Reflections Committee – Dana Baxter Smith is chair. She is looking for volunteers for committee, is a national movement by PTSAs to help students express themselves through the arts. Will have more information on potential competition students can enter.
- h. Bylaws Committee – Bylaws review is due to happen this year. We need help with this. Also Jane Lehrmann has stepped down as Cluster Coordinator.

6. PHS School Construction Update (5 minutes) – Jen Roberts from Dustin shared a PPT. She mentioned that this update is similar to that of last PTSA meeting, and the schedule not changed. Dustin will start after January 2021 and is now building out a temporary main office in NE corner of the school. Administrative offices will move locations over Winter break. Also, they passed the electrical inspection today, so drywall is being hung and things are progressing nicely. This will allow demolition to start in the Spring. Jen also noted that the bus loop will change locations to Wootton Ave side of the building starting January 25 at the start of Spring semester. This is all in preparation for the demolition of old front of the school. Subcontractor bids must be received by Dec. 2. Dustin and MCPS will go to the BOE on January 12th for approval with the GMP negotiated between Dustin and MCPS.

7. Meeting Q&A:

Q: What about safety of student drop off? A: There will be some areas for staff parking spots, but some spots will be eliminated. Student parking will also take a hit in terms of spaces. Some staff parking will move over to the student lot. Mr. Carothers continues to keep sending messages out about not dropping off students on Wootton. There will be more resources to manage the student lot for drop offs.

Q: where will students enter school once construction begins? A: Students will access school through the gym entrance and also by the senior bench.

Q: What is being built in each Phase 1 and 2? A: Bulk of project in Phase 1. Phase 1A is in yellow on PPT

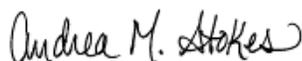
Q: Do current bids include the new gym? A: No they do not.

Q: Budget in CIP is still \$71 million can you explain? When would we expect to see an increase in the budget? A: Old budget was \$62 million, \$71 million already reflects an increase in costs. Can discuss offline to answer PTSA President's questions on the budget for construction.

President thanked the construction team for being thorough and answering our questions. Next month's meeting will have a more concrete and will likely have more questions.

8. Review and approval of October minutes- President called for vote to approve the October Meeting Minutes. Vote was called and ayes and nays counted. All ayes and no nays. Minutes from Oct meeting unanimously approved.

9. Next meeting – Presidents reminded all in the meeting that the next meeting will be Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 pm



PTSA Secretary Signature: _____

Date: December 20, 2021