**PHS PTO Meeting Minutes**

Monday, December 5, 2022

7:00 PM – PHS Media Center

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Christine Koobatian, Amy Jamgochian, Jen Nikolich, Colleen Brower, Dr. Paul Jones, Debbie Broadwater, Michelle Goncalo, Jen Lynch, Maureen Nee, Cindy O’Connor, Brendan Merritt, John Baldelli, Trista DiDonato, Julie Cappuzzo, Shanna Hampton, Amanda Filippone(16).
2. **President’s Report: Christine Koobatian (ckbtn@charter.net)**
	1. Data on students achievement because of Covid shows a dip in scores and an increase in absences. For more information, please refer to the presentation from the 11/28 BOE meeting found on the Region 15 website.
3. **Vice President’s Report: Trista DiDonato (trista\_didonato@yahoo.com)**
	1. N/A
4. **Treasurer’s Report: Jen Nikolich (jjnikolich@aol.com) / John Baldelli (jb@baldellicpa.com)**
	1. See financials.
	2. Direct Donation total = $11, 471
	3. Amazon Smile donation = $24.52
	4. **AmazonSmile**:
		1. It is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (the PTO encourages you to select Pomperaug High School PTO, Inc.) every time you shop, at no cost to you.
		2. AmazonSmile is available at **[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)**  on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.
		3. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice (please select Pomperaug High School PTO, Inc.)
		4. Directions on how to use Amazon Smile:
			1. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
			2. In the “Start by picking your charity” box, type in Pomperaug High School PTO, Inc. and click on “search”.
			3. On the next page, select Pomperaug High School PTO, Inc
			4. On the next page, check the box that says “Yes, I understand that I must always start at **smile.amazon.com** to support Pomperaug High School PTO Inc.”
			5. Start shopping!
	5. Directions will be sent to the staff and the PTO will post these directions on Facebook.
	6. If you have any ideas to raise money besides direct donation, please let the PTO Board know. Suggested ideas include the following:
		1. Give Local through the CT Community Foundation. Deb Broadwater and Shana Hampton will look into it for the PTO.
		2. Pay it forward event at Minx. Trista DiDonato will research this.
5. **Recording Secretary’s Report: Colleen Brower (col52668@aol.com)**
	1. N/A
6. **Teacher’s Report: Cindy O’Connor (coconnor@region15.org)**
	1. AP Research students: students will begin collecting data
	2. Can and bottle drive for Class of 2026: Thank you for your support this past Sunday!
	3. Eco friends: Fall clean up around the PHS campus
	4. Best Buddies Club: Friendsgiving was a success! This was the first large group gathering since pre-Covid.
	5. Big Brother and Big Sister: working with kids K – 2 weekly.
	6. Audition for Big Fish (spring musical) is starting 12/22.
	7. World Language: 1st round of proficiency test; 2nd testing will be in Spring to show their growth.
	8. Career Center: Kim Randalot, our PHS Career Center Coordinator, would like to thank the McKeown and Cappiello families for donating tea and cocoa to the Career Center on 11/15 for students who stopped by to submit their college applications on the day that the application fees were waived.
7. **Principal’s Report: Dr. Paul Jones (pjones@region15.org)**
	1. Winter sports have begun
	2. Play was awesome!
	3. Choral and instrumental winter performances upcoming
	4. Parents: Check PowerSchool for your child’s grades and attendance.
	5. Course registration for the 23-24 school year will begin in February
	6. Dr. Jones updated everyone on questions regarding the Senior Year Experience. If parents have questions they are encouraged to reach out to him.
	7. Comment from parent: The new Journalism course is awesome!
	8. College essay writing will roll back into juniors’ Advisory in the spring.
8. **Committee Reports:**
	1. Hospitality: Julie Cappuzzo (juliecappuzzo@yahoo.com)/Shana Hampton (shannakhampton@gmail.com)
		1. Cookie Exchange Dec 19th. Look out for the Sign Up Genius. We appreciate your help!
	2. Fall Fundraiser: Direct Donation: Colleen Brower $11,471
		1. The vast majority of funds raised through the Direct Donation fundraiser pay for the Teacher Grants, which benefit all students at PHS.
		2. $6,060 = Venmo + $4,621 = Checks (as of 11/28/2022) = $10,681 total donated.
	3. Teacher Grants: Maureen Nee (mpnee20@gmail.com)
		1. 8 grants submitted and 5 grants were approved
		2. $1,500 total in grant expenditures
9. **New Business:**
	1. Monument sign (LED sign at the entrance of PHS): Maureen Nee took the lead to collect information. Providing this sign fits in with our mission to improve school spirit and communication.
	2. It will cost between $30 - $40 K: The PTO will need to fund raise for this. Suggested ideas include:
		1. Sponsorship from local businesses
		2. Go Fund Me Page: Brendan Merritt to take the lead
		3. Legacy brick idea: John Baldelli to take the lead
		4. Need to work with Southbury’s Planning and Zoning committee first to make sure this can be done. Christine Koobatian will follow up with Planning & Zoning.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Brower

**Dates to Remember:**

12/12: Board Of Education Meeting, PHS Media Center, 7:30 PM

12/13: Chorale, Symphonic Band & Orchestra Concert, 7PM PHS Auditorium

12/21: Choir, Band & Orchestra Concert, 7PM PHS Auditorium

12/26-1/2: No School, Winter Recess

1/9/2023 PHS PTO meeting, 7PM PHS Media Center

1/11: Jazz, Band & Chamber Concert, 7PM PHS Auditorium

1/16: MLK Day, No School

2/6: PHS PTO meeting, 7PM PHS Media Center