

PCHS PTSO Meeting

August 6, 2020

Members In Attendance: Jennifer Aldous (Co-President), Tiffany Shewell (Co-President), Suzanne Vandenberg (Vice President), Amy O'Reilly (Secretary), Julie Strople (Treasurer), Heather Sims and Kelly Vendetti (Members-at-Large) *in person*. Phidias Cinaglia and Shannon Warner (Members-at-Large), Bari Nan Rothchild, Elisa Slobodow, Phidias Cinaglia, Molly Efrusy, Jolee Pointer and Laura Zink *on Zoom*.

****There were many PCHS parents on the Zoom, it is unclear whether all the names attending virtually were recorded. Assume this is an incomplete list.*

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Kelly moved to approve the June 4, 2020 meeting minutes and Heather seconded the motion. **The June 4, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

Welcome to the new school year:

Jennifer welcomed everybody and explained that we are a very new board! Please stick with us and help us set a positive tone for the school year. Our goal is to help make a positive impact on the students, administration and teachers.

Principal's report:

Roger was unable to attend. Jennifer and Tiffany met with him earlier this week and reported on his behalf.

- There are 60 new families that have registered for PCHS. 20 families left or moved or selected a private/other school. So, there will be a net 40 new students.
- 53 families have elected the remote option. The deadline for this election is tomorrow.
- PCHS Counselors are very busy making calls to parents, so the numbers will certainly shift.

This year is going to be very unusual and Roger hopes that we can be positive and patient as much as possible. There is a lot of anxiety! So, we (PTSO) are hoping that we can all, as a board, be leaders, rather than adding to the anxiety. We thanked Roger and offered our assistance. We emphasized that he can count on us! For the first month volunteers in the school will be FAR fewer than usual.

Jennifer asked for questions.

Phideas asked where to turn if he has questions about the COVID precautions and school environment. Should he ask us or call the school? Jennifer recommended that anybody with questions about the COVID safe-school plan should consult the presentations that were made at the school board meeting 7/21/2020 and PCEF webcast 7/22/2020, recordings of which are available on the PCSD website. There are many other resources there as well. The school has made the school counselor available for questions and concerns. Parents simply need to request a call from the counselor. Bari Nan added that her experience with her student's counselor was very positive. Finally, parents can email communications@pcschoools.us with specific questions. They are very responsive. We, the PTSO, cannot speak for the school.

Student Council Update:

No report – student representatives tbd.

Financial Report:

The Board thanked Julie for preparing the financials in advance of the meeting. Julie gave this brief start-of-year report.

- Membership dues of \$600 so far as well as a check from Smiths for \$1100.
- No refund yet from Woodward relating to Grad Night 2020 which was cancelled. She will contact them and update the board.

Jennifer added that the Board will have a 2020-21 budget meeting sometime in the next two weeks so that we may present a budget at the next meeting. We will likely leave the budgeted items at “normalized” levels in hopes we can actually hold the PTSO programs and events, especially spring events like the docu-drama (Heidi Hewitt), etc.

Membership:

We are hoping to encourage parents to join the PTSO. All funds are used for student programs, teacher support, and teacher mini-grants, which may be in high demand in this unique year. Encourage everybody to sign up! All members receive access to the PCHS directory. It is easy to join by clicking on the PTSO Membership page on the PCHS website. Please spread the word.

Events and Programs:

We discussed upcoming events. Requests of the PTSO are very low at this point as volunteers are not really allowed at the same level as in the past.

- Registration is typically the big event at this time of year. Our help is not needed since it is all online and/or handled by staff.
- Laptop distribution and collection – all will be socially distanced – our help is not needed.
- New this year is a student welcome bag which will include 2 buff-style masks as well as a pamphlet of rules and regs for COVID. We offered to help with the bags and are waiting to hear back.

- Back-to-School-Night Dinner - Normally the PTSO hosts a dinner for the teachers at back-to-school night. Teachers are required under contract to be here. This year, the event will be virtual *for the families*. Teachers will be pre-recording content and offering an online meet up where families can ask questions or voice concerns. Suzanne is planning a grab-and-go dinner for the 90 staff who will be working that night. Last year the budget was \$1,000 but most food was donated. Suzanne welcomes advice from anybody who has experience with grab-and-go dinners like this.
- Picture day is coming in September. Details and date to be determined. Seniors are unable to share gowns as they have done in the past so instead will dress up in the more formal suit/dress/outfit of their choice. Online learners will be integrated into picture day. We may need more volunteers than usual as they expect it to take a little longer with cleaning routines added.

Related: The school is putting into place a card entry system and the photos will be used for student ID keycards. The card will unlock approved entry and exit doors. The system will be able to track who comes in and out of the building, i.e. students out to lunch, Treasure students in the building, etc. Not sure on the timeline for this system.

Directory: Kelly reported. The data for the directory will come from the district technology group towards end of August at which point she will compile and send the link out to PTSO members. This Google spreadsheet is a valuable benefit to members. Probably mid-September. Note that while everybody does not receive the directory link, everybody does receive the Miner Minute.

Miner Minute: Kelly anticipates sending the next edition of the MM on Monday. She added that the MM does sell advertisements for \$50. The PTSO earns enough through advertisements to cover the cost of Mail Chimp, which is material because we have over 2,500 recipients on the

mailing list. In order to mitigate this cost, Kelly is going to send an email to graduated parents AND recipients who have never opened the MM informing them that they will be removed from the list unless they request otherwise. Currently the MM is not going to rising sophomores. She will work with the Treasure PTSO on that.

PCEF liaison: We need a volunteer to be the PCHS PCEF liaison. In past years this has earned the PTSO a \$500 grant from PCEF. The liaison spreads information about PCEF to the PCHS community in order to encourage donations from all PCHS families. Kim Abbett, Member-at-Large is a board member at PCEF, as is Molly Efrusy, so in the meantime they can keep us informed. Please spread the word!

School Community Council: We need some volunteers to serve on the SCC. Bari Nan is a current member so anybody interested can speak to her. This position is a neat opportunity which offers insider's view to what is going on in the school. Please spread the word.

Other Business:

Suzanne referred to Roger's request for patience and moral support from the PTSO. Meanwhile, she noted that many of our usual contributions are likely to be cancelled. Are there things we could do on a monthly basis to help the teachers and administration? Tiffany and Jennifer will speak to Roger.

Tiffany asked how everybody felt about the setting and format for today's meeting (some live, some Zooming). The general consensus was that there is value to live meetings but that not everybody can or will attend in person so the Zoom option should be retained (although the audio creates difficulties). Also, most agreed that the cafeteria was a bit noisy. Tiffany closed by saying that it is likely that we will need to be very flexible and that the meetings will change locations month-to-month.

Meeting adjourned 9:47am.

Next general meeting September 17, 9:00am.