

Poolesville High School PTSA

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Jan 21st, 2025

Meeting held virtually via Zoom video Conference
Presiding Officer Audra Dove, PTSA acting President

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by presiding officer Audra Dove. A notice was given that the session is being recorded for hosting on PTSA website and an alert appeared the Zoom application.

2. PHS Principles Update and Q&A Mr. Carothers

- Reflections Art Contest: Several students advanced to county adjudication in literature and visual arts.
- Newsletter & Volunteer Interest Form: Sent out on Sunday.
- Post Prom: Scheduled for May 16th at North Potomac Community Center with bus transportation arranged.
- Fundraising: \$25 donation per family requested.
- PTSA Mini Grant: Reopened, offering up to \$500 per grant.
- School Closures & Scheduling
 - Weather-related Cancellations: School activities canceled for safety.
 - Senior Parent Webinar: January 28th, covering graduation and activities.
 - Semester Transition: First semester ends Tuesday.
 - No school Wednesday.
 - Second semester starts Thursday, January 30th.
 - Course Registration: Reminder for grades 9-11.
 - Delayed Start: Two-hour delay due to extreme cold.

3. PHS construction Progress from MCPS Project Team - Chris Deraleau, MCPS Project Manager

- Delays: Weather impacted construction, estimated two more weeks for south lot and main entrance.
- Gym: Walls nearly complete, increased height.
- Facility Improvements: Team room, wrestling room, and fitness room taking shape.
- Auditorium renovation includes new wood paneling, ceiling clouds, and a sound system.
- House rooms equipped with retractable seating.
- Locker rooms, media center, and cafeteria preparation underway.
- Crane arrived; steel installation begins next week.

4. Career Education & Advising

Montgomery County Career Advising Program

Patricia Rushton presented details on Montgomery County's career advising program, created through the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation.

The program serves students in grades 6-12 and aims to help students determine career paths by grade 10.

Key components of the program:

Connecting with students to explore career options.

Collaborating with school staff to integrate career advising into academics.

Providing career counseling services to guide students' decisions.

Introduced the RICEC framework (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, Conventional) to help identify students' strengths and interests.

The program uses a dialogical model to foster student engagement.

Connecting Students with Experiential Learning

Patricia and Michaela emphasized the importance of hands-on learning experiences.

Opportunities discussed:

"Meet a Pro" events, where students engage with industry professionals.

Student Advisory Council initiatives for career development.

Bulletin board project to help students visualize future career paths.

Monthly career events to expose students to different fields.

Upcoming initiatives:

College field trip for 9th graders.

Professional skills workshops for students of all grade levels.

The team reiterated their role as a resource for students planning their futures, whether for college, trade school, or workforce entry.

Poolesville High School Field Trip

Michaela and Siya discussed the upcoming college field trip for students.

Potential destinations:

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

University of Maryland, College Park (UMD).

Goals of the trip:

Expose students to college environments.

Provide insights into different career paths.

Advertising strategies for the program:

Classroom visits.

Working directly with 12th-grade students.

Social media promotion (Instagram, etc.).

Patricia suggested setting up a Rise and Cap information table at community events.

MoCo Cap Program and Career Coaches

Discussion on expanding awareness of MoCo Cap across different grade levels.

Promotion strategies:

Utilizing the school website and newsletters.

Partnering with Michaela and Mark to spread awareness.

Roles of staff members in career advising:

Terry Young – Internship Coordinator.

Rosalie Diato – College & Career Information Coordinator.

Patricia confirmed that every middle and high school in Montgomery County has a dedicated career coach.

Michaela and Patricia emphasized that career coaches collaborate across the county to ensure all students have equal access to opportunities.

5. The conversation ended with Poolesville passing the treasurer's report to Ann, who highlighted that they had exceeded their expectations for membership and donations, and that they had raised \$1,000 for mini grants. The next meeting was scheduled for February 18th, with Foundry Admissions as the guest speaker.

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved by the members.

Minutes:

Minutes compiled by AI, reviewed and submitted by:

Cindy Wang, Secretary, Poolesville High School PTSA