



PHACT PTSA October Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 15th at 6pm, via Zoom Video Conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96312489287?pwd=R05qRmU4Umk4ODQ0U0wzV2FNbHhRQT09>

Meeting ID: 963 1248 9287

Passcode: WtgYw4

Attendees: Sherry Smardon, Kathy Freed, Cindy Palmer, Christy Andrychowski, Lisa LaBelle, Heather Victoria, Karen McElroy, Darcy Baran

Agenda Items

1. Approval of October Minutes

1. Motion to Approve: Cindy Palmer
2. Second Motion to Approve: Kathy Freed
3. Comments or abstentions: None
4. Motion carries via vote: Approved

2. Treasury Report and Approval

1. Motion to Approve: Christy Andrychowski
2. Second Motion to Approve: Kathy Freed
3. Comments or abstentions: None
4. Motion carries via vote: Approved

3. Membership Report

1. Number of active members – 44 members; up 5 from last meeting
2. Heather has all the materials to go out to PH staff (could not get into MemberHub)
3. Action – Kathy Freed to bring membership forms to the next BOE (11/16)
4. PH Newsletter – how do we get PHACT membership advertisement in the newsletter?
 - a. Via BOE – **Action:** Kathy to take this to the Newsletter Cmte. for advertisement (include link to MemberHub website, etc.)
 - i. Action completed at 11/16 BOE meeting

4. Advocacy Report

1. DEI Curriculum review committee (CRC) – Lisa sent email to Mr. Tedeschi to gauge teachers' interests (previous lead stepped-down) – committee has met their goal; will continue to monitor (will be renamed DEI)
 - a. Is essential but now is not a great time; need a staff member to head the committee – lots going on right now, but plan to speak in January (survey of local schools)- Lisa provided a list of goals, as well as a list of proposed committee makeup, etc.
 - b. PHACT DEI wouldn't be successful; PHACT is advocating for this but would not be "the" committee
 - c. Continue to monitor and build-on foundational tasks; plan is start full-bore in Summer 2022
 - d. SafeSpace club is currently growing – more to come
2. Cultural awareness activities: Hispanic Heritage and Native American Heritage months were celebrated; how can we make this more of an item?
 - a. Two main focus group types (cultural and health) – marginalized people and mental health: Lisa has a monthly listing for both types
 - b. Consider having non-intrusive materials, table set-up during lunch, etc.; also, "fun facts" during daily PH news
 - c. August and December days?
 - d. **Action:** Lisa to work on table in cafeteria for November (Kathy to out-reach to her contact to see if we can get materials/tokens to get out)
3. Lawn signs for PH – potentially 15 days plus to recognize (Lisa has done outreach on pricing)
4. Health awareness activities – Ms. Lussier is covering this through classes, etc. (no PHACT involvement at this point)
5. Nat'l PTA - Infrastructure bill – go to public schools; AC, heating, roof, etc.
 - a. Couldn't fill-out/complete the initial form; error message
 - b. Bill has already passed (removed from bill altogether)

5. Reflections Report

1. 2021/2022 Theme: "I will change the world by "
 2. Flyers w/intro went-out to teachers; **Action:** Darcy will put it in Happenings on the Hill, etc.
 - a. Darcy has all of the advertising mechanisms from last year – will just need dates/updates for this year
 3. Judges to be pulled/criteria established (guidelines)
 4. PH 1st place winners have to be provided to CTPTA by January 17th
 - a. Most will be sent digitally; if artwork needs to be there physically, Karen to overnight it (no need to mount artwork for display at PH)
 - b. Cocoa and Cram/Saturday Study & Art event for mid-terms (TBD) – where art could be viewed
 - i. Date artwork is due: January 6th and Displayed on January 8th
 - ii. **Action:** Karen to follow-up with Ms. G/Darcy to follow-up with school administration
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5. Lisa to follow-up with Karen on streamlining the guidelines that the students really need to know, etc.

6. Recent Accomplishments

1. Trunk-o-Treat = Success!
 - a. Painting pumpkins and cupcakes – better than a movie (more interactive)
 - b. Roughly 200 folks came-through
 - c. For next year – “Did you Know...” signs and perhaps a listing of accomplishments; consider small factoid signs in the line moving for candy; PHACT table/last car has PHACT materials?
2. Flannel shirt day – good participation across the PH school community!! Raised over \$600 to go towards the DNB scholarship
3. FunDrive
 - a. Focus on bagged items; blast on FB, etc. - Folks have reached-out to Kathy with notice that they have bags ready to go
 - b. Need a U-Haul (15 ft. ~\$125 plus gas) or 15 cars/trucks
 - i. If U-Haul donates, see if we can pick-up Friday night; Cindy has volunteer driver for U-Haul truck
 - c. Approved for Newington drop-off location (drop-off at 11:30a)
 - d. Morning of the 27th – make it a last drop-off (8:30a-10a)
 - i. When posting – all clothing/material must be in good bags
 - ii. Have a box of heavy-duty garbage bags to re-bag if necessary; **Action:** Sherry to get a box from BJs
 - iii. Consider having pop-up tents if bad weather (Karen, Cindy)

7. New Business

1. Volunteer Grant (Christy) - Nothing yet

8. Ongoing Business

1. Updates from any of the Open Houses
 - a. Brooklyn shadow visits follow-up has happened – December (has been hard to schedule)
 - b. Sprague is coming in Nov. 23rd (23 students coming to visit PH)
2. Poinsettia sale – opportunity for fundraising (use of local suppliers?)
 - a. Lisa checked with our local garden/nursery provider – no one local is doing poinsettias; Not realistic for this year; consider for 2022 (start looking in September)
3. Staff Appreciation Days - National Education Support Professionals Day (Nov. 17th) – Lisa to post message
4. Teachers' Needs
 - a. Heather advised this was included in membership email (currently in email limbo with Heather)
5. Inspirational Quotes Project (tabled from September meeting)

- a. Heather outreach to PH community -
 - i. Ms. G – different group of students; maybe GSA and senior class can lead the effort; notes left in girls’ restroom (positive vibes)
 - ii. Student services – space for students that feel overwhelmed; sensory station (great place for quotes to be housed)
 - iii. Andrew – we can get into the school over winter break (12/27-1/3) to hang quotes; walk-through to identify locations for quotes to be hung
 - iv. Already have quotes pulled together from last year (tiered collection)
 - v. Pinning all the logistics down/the student group to get involved
 - vi. Cricut maker – needs this to create the quote (librarian has this)
- 6. Fundraising
 - a. FunDrive – see above
 - b. Cook book or Calendar Updates – photography class isn’t happening until next semester (consider this fundraiser for next year)
 - i. Consider prepping in-time for 2023 calendar for potential sales at next Fall’s PH open house;
 - 1. **Action:** Darcy to get this to our photography teacher (start building a library of photos/artwork)
 - ii. Cook book – most folks would buy one but can find recipes online; consider building an online cookbook (Google slides, SharePoint, etc.)
 - 1. Make it a community involvement project
 - c. Papa Ginos night – **Action:** Christy to outreach to Papa Gino’s to see which dates may be available in December (preferably a Friday night)
 - i. Action completed 11/17 – Papa Gino’s night will be held 12/22, 4p-8p at the Willimantic location
 - d. Mother’s Day – High tea; crafts fundraiser (TBD)
 - e. Card-making: community project last year – cards for sale (cards look good); bundle cards (10-15) are varied (perhaps for sale at the Holiday Concert)
 - i. Holiday concert support – the last concert, parents supported bake sale
- 7. Business sponsorship of PHACT (Fundraising)
 - a. Treehouse Comedy – interested in comedy night this year? TBD will on November agenda
 - i. Previously held in March for DNB’s birthday; **Action:** Lisa to check with the Franco-American club
 - b. Sponsors have been on webpage for well-past the year; reach-out to current sponsors to re-up for 21-22 school year; reach-out to local/community businesses (RTS, Bagel One)
- 8. DNB Memorial Scholarship (Fundraising)
 - a. Name plate ordered for last year’s recipient? Sherry had discussion with engraver
 - i. **Action:** Sherry will be getting the plaque engraved (hoping to be done by Thanksgiving)
- 9. Booster Update
 - a. Fall awards slated for Wednesday 11/17 at 6p
 - b. Basketball update based on CIAC guidance; Pirate Palooza slated for December 4th
- 10. Empty Bowls and PHACT Role - Will be an Empty Bowl but no official PHACT role

9. Open Discussion

- 1. Next meeting date: December 14th, 6p via Zoom