



PHACT PTSA January Meeting Agenda

Wednesday January 26th at 6pm, via Zoom Video Conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91480327514?pwd=bXJ5ZlNlOGk1ZmtEcktHYzBneWM3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 914 8032 7514

Passcode: hnPX22

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

Agenda Items

1. Approval of December Minutes

1. Motion to Approve: Kathy Freed
2. Second Motion to Approve: Cindy Palmer
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. 73 members as of today
 - a. Would like to push for 100 but new membership year starts in the April (big push by PHACT in Fall 2022); more folks getting our newsletter and learning about the activities, grants, etc. that we are supporting
2. Ideas to continue growth of membership: sign-up forms at the Booster ticket table at basketball games; at sports awards; challenge folks on FaceBook
 - a. Darcy to print copies of the membership form for distribution (will leave with Mr. Krot)

4. Advocacy Report

1. DEI – Lisa to reconnect with Mr. Tedeschi in January
 - a. See grant below
2. Cultural awareness activities
 - a. Table in cafeteria for awareness event
 - b. Yard signs – Black History sign has been ordered
 - i. Administration would like us to invest in signs that celebrate accomplishments all year long instead of a “per month” basis, which the PHACT team agreed upon
 - c. Consider signs in different languages – offering translation services, direction to the office, etc. for visitors to the school
 - i. Currently working with foreign language teacher; consider an app and/or phone-in capability
 - ii. Darcy is going to check with the translation company we use; if we can’t, working with Mr. J to create simple signs
3. Mental Health Advocacy
 - a. Future event: Awareness of resources we have – consider either an in-person or Zoom Q&A session with our PH staff and parents (consider a night in March/April)
 - i. Grant from SERAC to use to support a mental health awareness, anti-vaping, etc.
 1. Consider having a rep from Natchaug on-hand to speak
 2. PH does already have NARCAN on-hand
 - ii. Planning is happening but slowly based on COVID, etc.
 - iii. Darcy – Safe space/Zen Den is in the process of being outfitted (hoping for mid-February or so)

5. Reflections Report

1. 19 students participated (4 categories); certificates, ribbons and trophies were ordered and have come in
2. Karen will print certificates for participants; when Ms. G and Darcy deem appropriate, announce winners at school
3. Karen to send update email out to previous judges to advise that this year was a bit different but we’ll get back to normal next year
4. Christy/Heather to handle thank you notes for judges
5. Post winners’ names to PHACT FB page; Karen to review release
 - a. Darcy will get it in Happenings on the Hill this week

6. Recent Accomplishments

1. Awarded the National PTA’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grant
 - a. Lisa attended a call earlier this week; check should be on the way soon
 - i. Kathy Freed is co-lead
 - b. Complete diversity profile and create DEI action plan (more review to be done)
 - c. Listening sessions with 15 people in our community
 - d. Monthly calls to discuss progress of our program; lots of resources
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- e. Action plan due June; share with school community to move to implement in new school year (can apply for add'l funding)
 - f. Videos to share on PHACT Facebook page
 - g. Lisa to share our award on FB and with Tracy Hastings (The Chronicle)
2. Highlight on Nat'l PTA website
 - a. PH was highlighted on the Advocacy page
 3. Completed the Inspirational Quotes project
 - a. Put-up during the last week of December; well received by students and staff
 - b. PHACT member will check to see how the quotes are holding-up in the high-traffic areas (near doors, etc.)

7. New Business

1. Application for Digital Citizenship grant
 - a. Lisa developed and submitted the grant
 - i. Create student panel, work with school counselors, etc.
 - ii. If we are granted this, we would need to go-through steps by June

8. Ongoing Business

1. Papa Gino's Fundraiser (Christy)
2. CVSH Grant (Christy)
3. Updates from visits
 - a. Continuing outreach to Brooklyn, Canterbury and Sprague for shadow visits; holding until January based on current COVID environment
 - i. Still quiet – on-hold until February (have heard that there are a few Canterbury and Sprague students interested in a visit)
 - ii. Consider open house/tour for parents and the student based on interest and inquiry (number of requests)
4. Staff Appreciation Days – February 7-11 is school counselor week; February 22 is school bus driver day (no school that day – coordinate w/Mr. McKenna)
5. Teachers' Needs – none
6. Inspirational Quotes Project Update - See Recent Accomplishments section above
7. Fundraising
 - a. Cook book or
 - b. Calendar – photography class has just started (consider this fundraiser for next year)
 - i. Darcy will outreach to Ms. G to see if we can start a collection of photos/artwork in class
 - c. Foxwoods Bingo fundraiser – Kathy is tracking info down on this
8. Business sponsorship of PHACT (Fundraising)
 - a. 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)
 - b. Treehouse Comedy – interest in comedy night in 2022 or 2023
 - i. Lisa spoke with the French Club (no current restrictions) – won't be a limiting factor

- ii. Lisa spoke with Treehouse – contract and commit two months prior to an event; no penalty in postponing
 - iii. Let's consider potentially April once we are a little closer and have a better idea around COVID concerns – REVISIT for February
 - iv. Khols – may be able to work with them to gain volunteers
 - v. Table sponsors, baskets (work with each class), raffles, etc.
9. DNB Memorial Scholarship (Fundraising)
- a. Name plate ordered for last year's recipient – plaque is with the printer
 - i. Action: Sherry to follow-up on plaque pick-up – Complete
 - b. Anonymous Donation for DNB memorial fund – consider ongoing management of memorial fund dollars
 - i. Action: Reevaluate current standing and future management (consider ROI, control, reach to community, etc.)
 - 1. Lisa has scheduled a meeting for 3p Wednesday (2/2) via Zoom with the Community Foundation of South Eastern CT.
10. Booster Club Update
- a. Continue to discuss at February PHACT meeting

9. Open Discussion

- 1. Next meeting date: Wednesday, February 16 at 6pm via Zoom
 - a. Try for in-person in March