



PHACT PTSA February Meeting Agenda

Wednesday February 16th at 6pm, via Zoom Video Conferencing

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92525011133?pwd=c1E2RDNhRGtBbU5pYUM5L3FCdHkyZz09>

Meeting ID: 925 2501 1133

Passcode: 3GPmtQ

Attendees: Sherry Smardon, Kathy Freed, Cindy Palmer, Christy Andrychowski

- Darcy Baran, Korrie Ford, Joan Fox, Denis LaBelle, Lisa LaBelle, Karen McElroy, Brian Tedeschi, Heather Victoria

Agenda Items

1. Approval of January 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. 74 members as of today
2. Still eligible for PTA scholarships
3. For teachers/administrators of the year nominations – must be members of PHACT to be considered
 - a. Heather to send follow-up email

4. Advocacy Report

1. DEI Grant
 - a. Diversity profile is in
 - b. Invitation for group for listening program (March)
 - c. Stipend/gift card: where and how much for recipients
 - i. 10 participants/\$25 = \$250
 1. Approval given for amount and place(s) – 2 places (Blondies and Zlotnik's)
 - ii. If in-person, will provide beverages/snacks; If virtual, remaining funding can go into the PHACT account
2. Tik Tok Grant
 - a. Should receive funds in the next 2-3 weeks; welcome mtg. is February 23rd at 12pm
 - b. Lisa to share invite for Welcome Meeting; no packet or detailed guidance
3. Cultural awareness activities
 - a. Table in cafeteria for monthly awareness event – on-hold
 - b. Black History Signs to go up this week; coincides with advisory program held at PH
 - c. Consider signs in different languages – offering translation services, direction to the office, etc. for visitors to the school – could use leftover funds from grants
 - 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
4. 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. May is mental health awareness month – hold event outside
 - ii. Use grant from SERAC to use to support a mental health awareness, anti-vaping, etc.
 1. Consider having a rep from various agencies (i.e., Natchaug, United Services, etc.) on-hand to speak
 2. Planning to start (more to come in March); Karen has some supplies from previous events
 - iii. Darcy – Safe space/Zen Den is in the process of being outfitted (room is ready; will be ordering some supplies)

5. Reflections Report

1. Update – Thank You's were sent
2. Certificates are in-hand and will be printed; signed by Mr. Tedeschi (19 certificates) – next Friday (2/25) celebration

6. Recent Accomplishments

1. Awarded Digital Citizenship (Tik Tok) grant
 2. Accessibility program for use on PH website
-

7. New Business

1. Science Bus PTA offering
 - a. Mr. Tedeschi working on getting dates; state of the art 7 stations/mobile trailer; do this during school day hours
2. Veterans Base Camp – have until April to come-up for down-payment
 - a. Lester and Phyllis Foster Foundation, etc. – PHACT cannot raise funds for separate organizations but can help communicate events to assist, etc.
3. Chaplin's Bicentennial Events
 - a. July 2nd (reenactment – student participation is key) and September (parade; perhaps we get a group of the PH community to march) – gathering more info
4. Spring Fling – Junior class is 100% on-board to do this event this year; next step for a couple of the PHACT officers to meet with the Junior class officers in the next couple of weeks – start brainstorming
 - a. Vendors for the event – vendor letters have to go-out soon
5. Outstanding Admin/Teacher awards (CTPTA) – deadline is March 18th (all letters of support, nomination, etc. are due); special 1-item agenda on March 2nd for nomination push
6. Special Education Funding
 - a. Lisa had provided an email to explain the formula currently used for per student funding
 - b. Transportation costs have not been reimbursed in years; good contract in-place with current supplier
 - c. Form a group to take this forward to the community for consideration; current budget has huge number allocated to a small number of students; we are funded less based on the state formula
 - i. State accommodation across the state for ALL students; need to advocate for all students
 - ii. Next steps: consider special meeting to tackle this topic; pull-in the elementary schools; get to a point where letters can be composed and sent to legislators – find all other towns that are in a similar situation (get in-contact) then invite others in to the team; Identify our representatives/legislators for the 3 towns
 - iii. Plan for sub-meeting: Tuesday March 8th (Lisa, Kathy, Joan, Karen)
7. Empty Bowl event – market PHACT; coincides with town vote (May)
8. Plunge for Hunger – both high school basketball teams are supporting this event at PH on 2/19 at 11:30am (get this in Happenings on the Hill and on Facebook)

8. Ongoing Business

1. CVSH Grant – need to check PHACT mailbox to see if this has been received
2. Updates from visits
 - a. Continuing outreach to Brooklyn, Canterbury and Sprague for shadow visits
 - i. Consider open house/tour for parents and the student based on interest and inquiry (number of requests)

- ii. Update: 2 students have shadowed in the last couple of weeks (Canterbury and Brooklyn)
 - iii. Consider a Parent-to-Parent connection for students that have visited PH; add to PHACT email distribution; invite to events (Spring Fling, Empty Bowls, etc.); get this same info out to parents in the 3 towns elementary schools
 - iv. 7th grade orientation – consider having someone from the PHACT team in attendance
- 3. Staff Appreciation Days – February 22 is school bus driver day (no school that day – coordinate w/Mr. McKenna)
- 4. Teachers' Needs – none
- 5. Fundraising
 - a. Cook book or
 - b. Calendar – photography class has just started (consider this fundraiser for next year) - Ms. G to check-in with PHACT (may come to March session) – 13 students in class
 - c. Foxwoods Bingo fundraiser – looks like this is not happening this year
- 6. 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
 - i. Lisa spoke with the French Club (no current restrictions) – won't be a limiting factor
 - ii. Lisa to outreach to Treehouse to confirm April 30th or May 7th
 - iii. Confirm with the French Club once we have confirmed with Treehouse
 - iv. Once we have a date/time/location – Heather will check with Kohls – may be able to work with them to gain volunteers
 - v. Table sponsors, baskets (work with each class), raffles, etc.
- 7. DNB Memorial Scholarship (Fundraising)**
 - a. Ongoing management of memorial fund dollars; met with the Community Foundation of South Eastern CT (2/2)
 - i. Provided different ways we could look at it; need to think about scholarship rates of return - Need to figure-out what RD-11 can do to compare with the above direction from CFSEC
 - ii. Current process is not sustainable (level of scholarship, length of scholarship); Darcy to connect with RD-11 contacts for discussion
 - iii. Consider discussion around ongoing award of scholarship (starting with class of 2022)
- 8. Booster Club Update
 - a. Continue to discuss at March PHACT meeting

9. Open Discussion

- 1. Next meeting date:
 - a. Wednesday March 2nd additional session with focus on timely items (Zoom)
 - b. Monthly meeting - Wednesday March 23rd at 6pm (Zoom at this point)