



PHACT PTSA October 2022 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022, at 6pm, via Google Meet

Attendees- Heather Shedd, Cindy Palmer, Kathy Freed, Heather Victoria, Joy Becker, Darcy Baran, Lisa LaBelle, Brian Tedeschi

Agenda Items

1. Approval of September Minutes- Cindy Palmer motioned; Heather Victoria seconded

2. Recent Accomplishments

- a) PTA Symposium – Lisa LaBelle presented on local advocacy at the CT PTA Symposium
- b) Lisa LaBelle was nominated as the Director of Membership on the CT PTA Board of Directors
- c) Science Bus - positive experience for the students.
- d) Open House - well attended.
- e) Brooklyn School of Choice Fair - represented Parish Hill and connected with Brooklyn parents and students.

3. Treasury Report and Approval - reviewed and approved

4. Membership Report - 58

5. Advocacy Report

- a) Continuation of conversation of having speaker discuss differentiation and tier 1 interventions- Lisa will schedule a presentation with CPAC for the community to attend. Food will be provided. A meeting will be arranged with CPAC, Mr. Tedeschi, Darcy Baran and others to discuss a possible Professional Development Day presentation.
- b) Cultural awareness activities – Hispanic awareness posts and information was provided.
- c) Signage in multiple languages – no updates
- d) Mental Health Advocacy – support for suicide prevention around school (signs, hotline). Mental health awareness fair prior to the Open House was a success. Darcy reports plans to do this every year.
- f) Student/parent handbook - Mr. McKenna confirmed changes to language will be made.

6. Reflections Report

- a) Discussed involving multiple departments- Art, music, drama, english, etc. The earlier information is provided to the teachers the better so they are able to plan- ideally in the next two weeks.

7. New Business

- a) Trunk or Treat – Friday, October 28th from 6pm-8pm. Per Middle School Council the students plan to sell pizza, donuts and apple cider. Students will offer face painting, pumpkin painting and a haunted hallway. There will be a ventriloquist show and the original Hocus Pocus movie will be playing. Flyers should add all of the things being offered. Kathy asked that Brooklyn, Canterbury and Sprague elementary schools be invited along with Scotland, Hampton and Chaplin. Encourage community to provide a trunk for treating and/or donate candy to the event- Darcy will include in Happenings on the Hill. PHACT will try to get a sense of how many trunks will be participating this year. Brian agreed to make a list of important facts that will be placed on signs that will be lit up around the circle so that the community can learn about Parish Hill opportunities and accomplishments. Handouts/brochures will also be available to hand out.
- b) PTA Grants – did not apply for any new grants. Will focus on finishing the DEI grant.
- c) ‘Meet our Government Representatives’ – Lisa would like to arrange a meet & greet with local state representatives to learn more about their agendas on education. Lisa will also prepare an informational sheet on the candidates to send out to the community.
- d) Community Calendar – Lisa will follow up with Kat Brown.
- e) School of Excellence – We received 49 responses for the base survey. We reviewed the feedback and the Focus Areas and objectives to choose from. Heather Victoria will send out the survey results along with the objectives to this group to review before making any final decisions.
- f) Corsi-Rosenthal Boxes - Heather Shedd will follow up with the science teachers to see who will be participating, how many boxes will be made and will work with Andrew Barillari on the materials needed. PHACT will assist financially if need be. Pictures will be taken of the students/projects, article will be sent to the newspapers and founders will be tweeted.
- g) Free Mental Health Training- interested in looking into again for teachers and community.

8. Ongoing Business

- a) Staff Appreciation Days/Teachers’ Needs- October 2nd was National Custodial Worker Day
- b) Fundraising
 - a. Savers FUNDrive - Lisa will respond that we will not be participating.
 - b. Got Sneakers - Heather Victoria will send to the Boosters group to see if they are interested.
 - c. Group will review link Cindy Palmer sent which provided many options.
- b) Treehouse Comedy Show - Judy Noel is looking into companies.
- c) Possible Homecoming – Heather Shedd will work with teachers who are interested in getting involved. Dance will be on 11/18. Chef Beth offered to make the food for the dance. Festival for students and the community will be on 11/19 and will include music, craft fair, lawn games, and bonfire.

9. Open Discussion - none

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2nd at 6pm via Google Meets.