

PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL

PTHS Principal's Advisory Council Agenda

December 1, 2025

Meeting started at 5:40pm

In Attendance:

Dave Van Gelder, Michelle Kincaid, Margaret Power, Erin Wesol, Jeannie Atkinson-Lowder, Meg Holden, Nicole Moore, Marianne McGee, Lynda Correale, Amy Lenahan, Tatiana Gomez-Ayala, and Kathryn Jett McVea

Agenda

1. Introduction
 - a. Around the room, all grade level parents represented
2. Approve October 2025 Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve and seconded by members
3. Welcome: State of the School
 - a. CIP update
 - i. Formal review on December 15th with staff from KLC
 - ii. Goals are to improve in areas of:
 1. Learning and Achievement for All, targeting SPED and ELL students
 2. Positive Climate and Culture, targeting student belongingness and student voice and choice
 3. Family & Community Engagement, targeting positive and clear communication
 - b. Staffing
 - i. Jamie Marsh has started as Administrative Intern; came from Battlefield HS
 - c. Budget FY26
 - i. Some additional funds from increased student enrollment to be used as needed; some held in reserve, but mostly used for departments and student needs
 1. Band – new uniforms
 2. Gym – updated sound system
 3. Lighting throughout school being replaced
 - d. Admin Approach/Successes
 - i. Ms. Gomez's Thanksgiving event for Newcomers
 - ii. Senior Friendsgiving
 - iii. Busy Schedule for Events: concerts, games, PTSA Holiday Market this Saturday
 - iv. Do students have agency in the learning environment? Visitors to Patriot this Friday looking for engagement levels in students: actively engaged, passively engaged, or disengaged
 1. Teams of 4 comprised of 13 in-house staff, other PWCS teachers/admin, and KLC staff
 2. Goal is to make it to Core, Elective, Gifted, SPED classrooms, etc. and set 30/60/90 day goals with feedback
 - a. Includes DE and AP classes, but these are just 10-minute snapshots
 - b. Looking for trends in engagement
 - v. Kahn Academy will be accessed during Advisory to show SAT prep, with step-by-step instructions; free resource to take mock quizzes and tests
4. Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction-M. McGee
 - a. Parent Engagement Series include Khan Academy and Varsity Tutors
 - i. Making sure parents know what's available
 - b. Dr. McDade was featured speaker at last session
 - i. Key takeaways:

1. During SACI, it was mentioned that PWCS is aggressively overcommunicating, but the indication was that it's better to overcommunicate than undercommunicate.
 2. Absenteeism is still a problem across the division
 3. Parents will now need to sign off on scheduling decisions moving forward
 - a. Student SACI Reps commented that freshman cannot take AP classes
 4. Some high schools feel that the vape detectors either don't work, are not installed, or are not deterring student vaping
 - a. Dr. McDade insured that they are working
 5. 100% of schools have formal business partners for student internship placement with CTE, etc.
 6. 100% decrease in taser and firearms on campus
 7. Praise for growing TFT program
 8. Many students walk into college with 30 college credits because of DE classes
 9. SOL overall pass rates are not where they'd like to be
 10. 94.8% graduation rate division-wide; 95% was goal
 - a. Patriot's graduation rate is around 99%
 - i. rate includes students who don't graduate on time for various reasons (SPED)
 11. Standards of Excellence are being looked at for alignment
 - c. Need alternate for February 12, 2026, SACI meeting—L. Correale
5. Open Discussion
- a. Mr. Van Gelder explained:
 - i. 50% grade floor was dropped and now students get the grade they earned during 25-26 year
 1. New director of student learning says this is not rooted in regulation
 - a. Quality grades on 4-point scale correct this problem
 - b. Grades will be equated at the semester point
 - c. Google PWCS high school grading
 - ii. State has decided that pass rate of 400 will not be pass rate on SOLs
 1. Over 3 years, it will be bumped to 460 threshold
 2. This will likely affect graduation rate once SOLs are applied to final grade at potentially 10%
 - iii. None of this is set in stone or official yet, but changes will come in 26-27 school year
 - b. Ms. Power wanted to extend invitation to Ms. Snoots to attend January meeting for scheduling questions
 - c. Ms. Lenahan discussed Leadership students working together with BHS Leadership students
 - i. Planning co-event to promote Toys for Tots
 - ii. Mr. Van Gelder will have to wear purple if BHS takes a lead on this event
6. Adjourned meeting at 6:45pm for fellowship and snacks 😊

Upcoming Meetings

- January 12, 2026, virtual
- March 16, 2026, in-person
- May 4, 2026, in-person