

# PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL



## PTHS Principal's Advisory Council

### **Agenda & Minutes**

January 13, 2025

Attendees: Mr. VanGelder (presiding), Amy Lenahan, Susie Denham, Polly Salter, Margaret Power, Denise Hendershot, Jeannie Lowder, Marianne McGee, Michelle Kincaid, Lynda Correale, Michelle Kincaid

Motion to begin the meeting at 5:39, seconded

### **Agenda & Minutes**

1. Introductions:  
Mrs. McGee brought Mrs. Correale in the spirit of "Each One Bring One"
2. Meeting Minutes Approval:  
November Minutes; Hendershot moved to approve and seconded
3. Bylaw Revision Approval:  
Revisiting election of new officers as wording adjusting in November 24 to have the officers in place at May meeting for following year; motion approved and passed
4. Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction (SACI) Update
  - a. Meetings—12/12:
    - i. Mrs. McGee reports "How do we identify student needs for those who don't self-identify?"
      1. Mr. Van Gelder reports on Needs Assessment completed at beginning of the year. Possibly should this be done twice a year or on a quarterly basis? The school system uses MTSS reports to identify students reported by teachers, counselors, and family members who have addressed concerns.
      2. Mrs. McGee stated that sometimes those needs are not known at the beginning of the year. What about school avoidance?
        - a. Katie Moore addresses attendance first with students at 5 days missed.
      3. Mrs. McGee stated that she wondered how parents could be made aware of the supports in place, but maybe not in another email.
        - a. Van Gelder stated that counselors gave a presentation at the beginning of the year to all students. We also have the See Something, Say Something app that is being used.
      4. Mrs. Lowder stated that colleges have a lot of support workshops on anxiety and/or avoidance. Does the school have such interventions?
      5. Ms. Hendershot asked if teachers have training on identifying students who need support for some of these issues.
        - a. Mr. Van Gelder stated that annual training is in place.
      6. Mrs. Jett McVea offered alternative to long emails or surveys, like a monthly infographic on a specific topic for their student (ex: Anxiety in Teens).
        - a. Feedback was positive from parents on this.
      7. Mrs. Lowder suggested more positive feedback from the parents attending meetings, but it's hard to get parents to attend (via Mrs. McGee).
      8. Friday Emails could include a "Supporting Our Students" section that may include 'infographic' topics.
        - a. Ms. Power wondered if this could come through School Status so it would come via text to the parents/community?

- b. Ms. Kincaid to include something from the counseling office or clinic, or scheduling.
- c. Ms. Solter could potentially give department updates at the PAC meetings.
- d. The website could be updated to make it more accessible.
  - i. Mrs. Jett McVea suggested working with Luke on website and creating a first infographic to see how it goes.
- e. Amy Lenahan is trying to get the Leadership students to work on getting information out to the students; if digital, this could be shared with parents.

#### 5. Status of the School

- a. Mr. VanGelder is acting principal at this time without a timetable to this position. He is currently working out of the main office.
  - i. Not always easy to be in education, especially in 2025. Our community has high expectations, as they should. We are in good hands at Patriot.
- b. Update on CIP Goals
  - i. On track for the CIP. Our goals are academic: improving scores for Eng 11 for EL students and Bio scores for EL & SWD.
  - ii. MOY meeting will have prep in about 2 weeks with actual MOY on March 3.
  - iii. Students sense of belonging through Advisory class. Upcoming Student Interest Advisory class in January.
  - iv. Commitment 3 is PAC.

#### 6. PAC Training Ideas

- a. Part of the CIP states that Patriot is supposed to provided training for the PAC. What is it that parents are looking for in this training? What professional development are you interested in.
  - i. Mrs. McGee asked if there is training on “How you grow your PAC?”
    - 1. Ms. Power asked if there is a good number?
      - a. Answered by Ms. Kincaid: As long as it’s balanced by grade or by area of community.
  - ii. Ms. Lowder is interested in the budget training for PAC and the differences between the Advanced and Standard diplomas.

#### 7. Upcoming:

- a. It does not look like the division is going to try to change the grading period beyond Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Ms. Solter asked if this affects DE courses. Mr. Van Gelder stated that NOVACC adjusts their schedule separate from PWCS.
- b. Auditorium is getting a half million dollar lighting package upgrade and will close down for a couple of weeks in March. Division is affording to that to Patriot.
- c. Our refresh is happening this summer; new paint, carpeting, etc.
- d. Budgeting will start in the next few weeks to project next year’s budget. Admin will be transparent with PAC.
- e. Enrollment is at 1950ish students.
  - i. Scheduling is upcoming. Course catalog is available on Patriot’s website.
  - ii. Specialty program applications are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- f. Graduation Date? Targeting the first week of June. Ms. Utter is helping to coordinate that.
  - i. Mrs. Correale asked what senior dues pay for?
    - 1. Mr. Van Gelder stated that the dues include a tee shirt, breakfast, and a portion of the senior gift.

#### 8. Open Discussion

- a. Ms. Solter commented on Unified PE having a Student Athlete of the Year. Phenomenal to be so inclusive!

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> virtually. Please send Ms. Solter an email if you are interested in a position as a chair, vice chair, or secretary for next year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm. Seconded and dismissed.