

PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL



PTHS Principal's Advisory Council Agenda

September 8, 2025

Agenda & Minutes

1. Introduction
 - a. Those attending:
 - i. Dave Van Gelder – Principal
 - ii. Michelle Fair – Executive Assistant
 - iii. Margaret Powers - Co-Chair, Booster Rep, Junior parent
 - iv. Amy Lenahan – Co-Chair, Leadership & AP Econ Teacher, SCA Sponsor, Freshman parent
 - v. Cassie Beamer – Booster Rep, Senior parent
 - vi. Jeannie Atkinson-Lowder – Vice Chair, Junior parent
 - vii. Marianne McGee – SACI Rep, Junior parent
 - viii. Nicole Moore – Senior and Sophomore parent
 - ix. Meg Holden – Patriot Parents FB page, Senior and freshman parent
 - x. Kathryn Jett McVea – Secretary, FACES Rep, FCS Teacher, Freshman parent
2. Approve May 2025 Minutes
 - a. Motioned and seconded at 5:41pm
3. Welcome: State of the School – presented by Dave Van Gelder
 - a. Start of school was off to great start, minus busses which was county-side problem
 - b. Pass rate of SOLs was positive
 - c. Pep Rally was great
 - d. Needed more Police presence for football games
 - e. Admin teams more visibly present with mobile desk to support students and cell phone policy
 - f. Community messaging: no real perceived threat, but a concern that became a police matter; we share as appropriate
 - g. Lenahan shares about Senior Parking Spots; parents praised this decision and were happy for the packets provided
 - i. Awesome that families came together to help with parking lot painting; community building
 - ii. End of year idea to give back to clubs and classes who help paint over the spots
4. Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction - M. McGee
 - a. SACI has a nice webpage on PWCS webpage
 - b. First meeting on October 9, 2025 – Potential Topic: What makes a successful PAC?
 - i. Some schools have 40-50 members attending
 - ii. Shout out for PAC at Back to School Night
 1. Jett McVea mentioned the flyer with QR code form to join PAC being passed out
 2. Also inviting Ms. Gomez, our Parent Liaison, to bring in more ELL parents/populations
 - iii. Sunday Newsletter is great; would like to see upcoming PAC meetings and topics announced
 - iv. Not available for Feb 12, 2026 meeting; who is available?
 - v. Need to integrate more ELL parent representatives
 - vi. Vision 2030 upcoming
5. PAC Training – Dave Van Gelder
 - a. Overview and future of PAC
 - i. Increase membership!
 - ii. Training: CIP and Budget Training
 - b. PAC Member's responsibilities –
 - i. Looking at Continuous Improvement Plan, feedback from pack steers the CIP

- ii. Budgetary Information shared so input on where money could be going
 - iii. Helping to grow PAC and giving feedback, both positive and negative
 - c. Principal's responsibilities –
 - i. Striving to be transparent with Patriot community: communication releases, budgetary information, progress reporting
 - ii. Receiving feedback on strengths and opportunities for growth
- 6. CIP Introduction and Review
 - a. 4 Commitments:
 - i. Learning and Achievement for All
 - 1. ELL and SPED students are much lower in scores than other populations so there are measurable gaps that need to be corrected
 - ii. Positive Climate and Culture
 - 1. Looking at Gallup Survey data – Students don't feel like their teachers understand their unique needs
 - a. Completed empathy interviews
 - b. Students want more "voice and choice"
 - iii. Family and Community Engagement
 - 1. Parents indicated that they don't necessarily know how to get involved or how to get engaged
 - a. Sunday SMORE communication
 - iv. Organizational Coherence
- 7. FY26 Budget
 - a. Just shy of \$22 million
 - b. Based on 1931 student members – per pupil allocations
 - c. Division has started an endowment process for funding from alumni with a 501C3 plan
 - i. This will eventually roll back to schools as they apply for grants
- 8. Bylaw Review, Adjustments, and Annual Review
 - a. Membership wording to include *at least* 2 members per graduating class, but worry about meeting a quorum
 - b. Is PAC membership open to any parent?
 - i. Van Gelder is open to any parent's involvement, but the PAC isn't necessarily the right avenue for all communication; may stifle the agenda
 - c. Teachers could encourage parents to get involved in PAC, PTSA, Boosters
- 9. PAC Business
 - a. Determine the 2025-26 dates for PAC meetings 5:30pm
 - i. Virtual Oct 27
 - ii. In person Dec 1
 - iii. Virtual Jan 12
 - iv. In person Mar 16
 - v. In person May 4
- 10. Open Discussion
 - a. Social media left a negative taste after last year, but school pride and BTS night showed that parents and students want to get involved
 - b. On behalf of students, request for soap in bathrooms
 - c. Booster meeting on Wednesday night, Sept 10th

Meeting adjourned 7:04pm