

PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL


PTHS Principal's Advisory Council Agenda

January 12, 2026

Michelle Fair, Dave Van Gelder, Amy Lenahan, Lynda Correale, Margaret Power, Alyssa Stoffer, Jeannie Lowder, Marianne McGee, Nicole Moore, Steve Pristas, Susie Denham, Terri Snoots

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Approve November 2025 Minutes: approved
 - a. Two corrections—2/2026 SACI to be attended by L. Correale and 4b.i.1. – “but the indication was that it’s better to overcommunicate than under communicate.” added
3. Welcome: State of the School
 - a. CIP update
 - i. In between BOY and MOY. Keeping on track with Commitment 1 and 2. Commitment 3 shows favorable response from school with request for select increase of teacher communication
 - b. Staffing
 - i. Letter of Intent time for staff; learning about staff’s wants/needs for next school year
 - c. Budget FY26
 - i. Early February for information
 - ii. Upcoming changes to the budget model regarding allocation (Specialty Programs, etc.)
 - iii. Certain positions are allocated (paid for) like principal
 - iv. Will be shared at the March 2026 PAC meeting
 - v. Parent question if we’re moving away from site-based management. Division (and other local divisions) have more centralized processes. Looking at division goals for equality and equitability across all school.
 - d. Student Behavior Update
 - i. Ms. Stoffer will present after DSC presentation. Great student presentations with her “Vibe Checks” last week.
 - e. Senior Signs 2026
 - i. Personalized or not? In-house printing or outside companies?
 - ii. Other surrounding high schools offer outside company, personalized even if it cost.
 - iii. In past, school purchased with no personalization.
 - iv. For students/families who aren’t native speakers, outside company may make process more cumbersome. Like to give option of name or not.
 - v. Leadership Class students asked if they would pick-up or be delivered in their yards—students liked be surprised by their sign. Really want their signs.
 - vi. Make sure it doesn’t become an equity/equitable solution.
 - vii. Free signs. Parents who choose personalization and are able to pay more.
 - viii. Mr. Van Gelder shared that we want to do nice things for our seniors and he will take it back to the team.
 - ix. Mr. Van Gelder shared that if school pays for the sign, then no personalization.
 - x. Ms. McGee asked what are the options—general sign from PTHS, private vendor for personalization.
 - xi. Jostens can make the sign (benefits the school) but there are more less costly companies out there.
 - f. Gallup Survey pending
 - i. Parents and students should know the feedback is important and used in decision making at Patriot High School.
4. Director of School Counseling, Ms. Terri Snoots

- a.  [25-26 plan for Academic Advising.docx](#)
 - i. Ms. McGee could not access the link so Ms. Snoots will share with everyone
 - b. Ms. McGee shared from SACI debrief in PAC how it was shared that freshmen could not take AP courses.
 - i. Canvas page for rising 9th-graders—scheduling form, webinars, presentations, open house like events
 - ii. AP Computer Science and AP Principles; Advanced courses are available as “training wheels” before AP courses. Many AP courses have prerequisites; build upon each other.
 - iii. 16 years old without a waiver for select AP courses.
 - c. Ms. Snoots went over the academic advising link starting with this school year’s communications to assist students with their schedules for the 2026-27 school year. This process starts January 28.
 - d. CCRV is especially exciting for our [sophomores and juniors]; including courses online so 1st year of college through PWCS for free. PTHS counselors are aware of what students need and can advise, using EOS, AP Potential, Specialty Programs, Graduation requirements
 - i. Ms. Pristas had some specific concerns about CCRV; Ms. Snoots asked for her to contact her directly
 - e. HS Course catalog is now available online
 - f. Parents review student’s schedules in ParentVUE (May); courses/sections may close; students can make change(s) until late May.
 - g. Master Schedule is built based on what the students request (want).
 - i. Administrators and department chairs review sections and teachers
 - h. Ms. Lenahan shared that CCRV—for her—as her son is a freshman in college wound up one credit short of being sophomore.
 - i. Ms. McGee shared that he is one class shy of having an associate’s degree. Ms. Snoots discussed those requirements and how additional classes would be needed outside of PTHS. Ms. McGee shared they would talk more.
5. Student Behavior Update—Mrs. Stoffer
 - a. 90% of our students are making the right decisions with a breakdown of the other 10%—about 2% have had 3 or more infractions and about 7% have less than 3 offenses.
 - b. Headphones still tend be a little bit of an issue, but overall students are complying.
 - c. Vaping in bathrooms targeted with a new vape protocol—44% decrease!!
 - d. Quarter 3 will have a focus on hallway use, tardies, and outbounds.
 - e. Trying to show that our students are making good choices and are seen.
 - f. Parent asked about locked bathrooms—locked in the morning in subject areas but open in the commons; closed when physical plant concerns, incidents (illness, graffiti); locked during the subject areas’ lunch time, but once cleaned/cleared, they are reopened.
 - i. Mr. Van Gelder will talk to Ms. Pristas about her concerns.
 6. Superintendent’s Advisory Council on Instruction-M. McGee
 - *AI was a BIG TOPIC! Information referenced below may be why we are seeing an embrace of services such as Khan Academy and Varsity Tutors in the parent engagement series whereas we were being warned against them before. In addition, they spent a bit of time telling us about the exhaustive process they go through for vetting “free” services to PWCS staff and students.*
 - **Question for AI/data analytics** – *how do we personalize learning for each student’s strengths/growth areas, paired with high-quality digital materials and best instructional practices?*
 - **More Information About the AI Discussion** A 50-member AI working group formed in Fall 2023 (including principals, teachers, cabinet, staff) developed guidelines for classroom AI use by teachers, students, administrators, and staff, covering people, processes, and technology.
 - **Currently Available/Upcoming AI Tools for PWCS**
 - CoPilot for Staff, ChatGPT for Staff, Canva, Newsela already accessible.

- Teacher ChatGPT cohort launched December; iOS26 on iPads with Apple Intelligence launched December.
 - Protected Microsoft CoPilot for high school students targets February 2 launch, with clear expectations, guardrails, consequences, digital citizenship, and ethical AI focus.
 - *Guidelines, acceptable use communication, and teacher training with core curriculum model lessons are forthcoming*
 - **Technology Update and 5-Year Roadmap**
 - *It was stressed that “data will be king” over the next five years, requiring ongoing upskilling, media literacy (fact vs. fiction), and awareness of virtual/augmented reality. They want PWCS students to be well prepared to use AI or students will be left behind.*
 - The PWCS Five-Year Technology Roadmap focused on strategic data management, instruction, talent management, Profile of a Graduate/STEM skills, and digital transformation.
 - **COMMENTS REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGES**
 - PWCS Supervisors presented shifts in instruction across PWCS: embedding the *Inquiry Design Model (IDM) in history/social science with compelling questions, source analysis, and locally awarded verified credits replacing some SOLs.*
 - Science now uses the 5E model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) and new standards that stress conceptual understanding and integrated scientific/engineering practices instead of ***rote memorization***. *Massive focus on students being able to answer, “Why?” and not just remembering terms.*
 - Math instruction emphasizes the “data cycle” (formulating questions, collecting, organizing, analyzing, and communicating data) from Kindergarten through Algebra 2.
 - *Key comments - all students are expected to write, think critically, collaborate, and support claims with evidence, with guidance for how families can support learning at home.*
7. Open Discussion
- a. Ms. McGee asked about grades showing on transcripts and will they be dropping.
 - i. Ms. Snoots had already left the meeting.
 - ii. Mr. Van Gelder responded that new grading regulations and corresponding gradebook changes impacted the rounding of grades, causing some grades to drop (A to B+, for example). PTHS was around 900 impacts, but 1st quarter grade will stand and is being corrected behind the scenes. Rounding decisions are in the process of being made by the division as the School Board amends the policy and corresponding regulations.
 - iii. Ms. Power questioned why the change was made in the middle of the year and not at the start of next year.
 1. Timing of the updated policy and regulations and review by the division and stay current to exist as reviews occurred.
 - a. Parents should stay tuned to the School Board meetings and agendas.
 - iv. Ms. Holden referenced transparency and stakeholders being informed; parents are not feeling that happened—not a fun Monday with the panic from students.
 1. Educators were also concerned and acting on the impact to the students.
 - v. Ms. Power shared that she was appreciative of everyone being here!
8. Adjourn—6:46 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 16, 2026, in-person
- May 4, 2026, in-person