

Jan 12, 2021
PTG Meeting via Zoom

In Attendance:

PTG: Dianne Breitstone, Carol Kessler, Lynette Simmons, Irena Dabarakrov, Tami Stark, Genevieve Cimino, Tara Vaccaro

Administration: Denise Campbell, James Bolen, Mr. Bongino

Board of Education: Tara Belfi, Ingrid Wright, Amy Brogan

Tami Stark approved Nov. minutes, Tara Vaccaro seconded

President's Announcements:

We were able to hold the cookie bake, and all recipients were very appreciative.

French club reached out to us for a donation for promotional maple syrup lollipops. Not yet determined if/how much we will donate.

Genevieve Cimino is leaving effective Feb 1. PTG board needs a treasurer. Good time to be trained, please let us know if interested. CPC treasurer is also open, but we may already have found a replacement.

Much like for Halloween, we decorated the cafeteria in a winter theme.

The Literary luncheon has been cancelled for this year. We send out a survey, received very small response, tried to figure out how to make it work, (doing it remotely, small group, etc.) but ultimately decided cancelling is best/safest option. Thank you Monica and Claire for all your great work on this Committee these past few years. Thank you to Sandra and Caroline for stepping up for next year.

SEPTO will be holding a meeting on Wednesday Feb 3rd at 7pm. The topic is, "Determining What College Will Support Your Child." The speakers are Erin Goldwaithe and Jessica Reeney.

FOCUS: Stephanie DiNozzi, Chair “Our Community Connections” will be the focus for the remainder of the year. They are seeking different ways of connection the community as a whole, not just connections with the school but also connections with each other. They are creating via Zoom opportunities to connect in different ways based on personal interest not just by the school your child goes to. They’re hoping this creates an opportunity to connect different ages and stages of parenting to foster a collaborative environment to open different kinds of conversations to connect in a fun way. Trying to provide a distraction from COVID as other groups are doing so well with that already. Wednesday First one is called Spin Cycle, it’s a spin class, your stationery bike can be used. They are free two sessions run by Lindsay Vine, who is new to the community. Wednesday Jan 20th at 9:30 am and Thursday Jan 28th at 6pm. They’re trying new things. Will offer active parenting, health and wellness, cooking demos, all on Zoom. A survey will be coming out to gauge interests. Sign up is via SignupGenius on their Facebook page, or email Stephanie directly. There is a flyer going out also.

Denise Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Human Resources

Regarding the SEPTO announcement, if you have a classified student or a 504, you should participate in this seminar even if you child is not a junior, so you know what to expect and how to prepare your child for college. You can find out how support services work at the college level.

Quarantines at the high school have increased. There’s been a big spike in cases in the district since last week due to a trickle down effect of people gathering during the holidays. There is a ripple effect between exposure and the lag time of awaiting the receipt of test results, which will continue into this week. Many teachers were able to sign up for vaccines despite computer software on the site crashing. The school is ahead of schedule in this regard, and the teachers qualify as being in class 1B. The quarantine rules across all schools are the same but since the environments are different, it may not appear that the rules are uniform. Less than 6 feet for ten minutes or more to an infected person qualifies one to have to quarantine. In some classes students are sitting within three feet of each other, but all have masks and shields. They are conservative quarantining, but it is required by the state. A lot of positive cases have been asymptomatic. They listen to what the students say in regard to exposure to someone who’s infected, but they check anyway. Siblings/family of someone has to quarantine are not considered close contacts. They must be a close

contact of the infected person, not just of the sibling who was in close contact with an infected person. This applies to twins as well. Getting the vaccine or having had COVID does not mean that you no longer have to wear a mask. The length of quarantine has been shortened by the CDC and Dept of Health from 14 to 10 days, so the school has lowered their required quarantine length accordingly. School has not been a place of spread since all CDC guidelines are being enforced.

Is notice of quarantine only an email, not a phone call? Usually but not always. If the necessity for quarantining is determined late at night, they will call. If no response to the email quickly, they call. Please call us if you receive an email and wish to discuss further.

Quarantine begins the first full day of quarantine, not the date of exposure, but the day after exposure.

Are the coaches being asked about close contact also now that intramurals and low impact sports have begun? They do take attendance and the school checks in with the coaches. All the protocols are in place during the sports sessions. Please have your child leave the school after sports promptly so it does not slip into a social situation with masks off and protocols relaxed among the athletes.

Are the seating charts static throughout the year? How is that being kept track of? Teachers submit seating charts to administration, and keep track of any changes. With the accelerating quarantines in the district, will we be going back to a virtual model only, no one at the school? A Google form will be sent out to confirm if you want your child to continue to do remote, hybrid, or in person, as the current individual students choices are only in effect until Jan 26, the end of the quarter.

If there is a staff member that must stay home to quarantine, is instruction interrupted? There have been many teacher absences, ranging up to as much as 16 in one day. Some can work from home, some not. They are short on substitute teachers. They're trying as much as possible to keep instruction consistent for the students. Sometimes the teachers remote from home.

Dr. Bolen, School Principal:

Working with School Improvement Team on core values they want to stress at the school. RISE UP is their acronym for the core values the high school is stressing. Will be kicking this campaign off at the first day of the second half of the year. Monday-Respect, Tuesday-Integrity, Wednesday-Service, Thursday-Empathy, Friday-be an UPstander. Working on the logistics for signage, t-shirts, etc. letters will be sent out to families, please discuss these core values with your children.

Mr. Bongino, Athletic Director:

Low and moderate risk winter sports has begun. PHSAA (Public High School Athletic Assoc.) in tandem with the Governor's Office has made classifications of what category each sport falls into. The only person who can lift this restriction or change the risk categories is the governor. Section 8 has made no decision on a timeline as to if the season for high risk winter sports will be cancelled or go forward.

The state has provided guidelines in regard to how the intramurals for the high risk sports can be offered. Basketball: No game play, everyone has their own balls, doing skills, drills and conditioning only. Gyms set up in stations. Cheer learns a dance which will be a part of their future routine if one is held, and they do fitness and yoga also. No stunting. Shadow wrestling only, with conditioning.

Mr. Bongino feels the camaraderie along with a level of normalcy and exposure to their coaches is important, so began the intramural program. All the high risk sports offered via intramurals have enrolled above the figures predicted. A student may enroll in both a sport and intramural if there is no time conflict.

March 1st begins fall sports. All high risk fall sports are also postponed (football, girls volleyball, ice hockey). These sports may not have a season, but will have intramurals. Field hockey will have a season, as will soccer, tennis and cross country track.

Spring sports begin April 22nd. All spring sports are considered low and moderate risk except for boys lacrosse. NCAA has changed boys lax to moderate risk, so the Sections are lodging a protest to the state to change boys lax from high risk to moderate so they can play. The state said no but they are still pursuing.

Coaches will be using seating charts for travelling on school buses. The state has initiated many new protocols regarding mask breaks/wearing, one player to the bathroom at a time, no spectators allowed at athletic events either home or away, locker rooms are for changing only. After two weeks will revisit the no spectators rule. Live streaming is being looked into. Different masking rules for the players per sport. If on bench, must be masked.

Feedback for intramurals and low and moderate risk sports so far has been positive. With golf, the department is at the mercy of the country clubs. Not sure when the start date will be.

Crew will go forward beginning March 1st .

Dr. Bongino is not optimistic that current restrictions will be lifted.

Next PTG meeting 2/9/21 at 9:30 via Zoom

