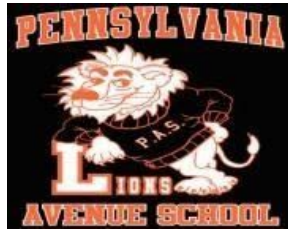


Pennsylvania Avenue School 27 PTO Meetings 2020-2021



- ❖ **Date:** September 30, 2020
- ❖ **Meeting Called to Order by:** Joy Barrett, Recording Secretary, at **6:36pm**
- ❖ **Executive Members in Attendance:** Susan Palmeri, Michelle Pires, Gerard Palmeri, JoyAnne Barrett, Mrs. Clyne, Mr. Leusen, Principal.

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting:**
 - 1st Motion to Approve:** First Meeting of The Year – Unnecessary
 - 2nd Motion to Approve:** N/A

- ❖ **Treasurer's Statements:** Gerry Palmeri, Treasurer
 - **-PTO balance:** \$16,877.24
 - **-PTO Goals:** \$16,442.98
- **Reading of Communications:** JoyAnne Barrett, Recording Secretary
 - Nothing at this time
- ❖ **New Dates to Remember:**
 - Oct 5- Oct 9 Spirit Week
 - Oct 5 - KidsStuff Kicks off
 - October 6 - Clothes By the Pound Drop Off
 - Oct 20-Nov 2 - Book Fair online only
 - Nov 16- Dec 4 - Penguin Online Gift Shop

- ❖ **PTO Meeting dates -**
 - Oct 21
 - Dec 9

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❖ Comments from the President:

- Welcome! Thank you all for joining us tonight! I want to remind everyone to fill out the Membership forms. It's great that we have ppl joining the PTO but we need to remind everyone to fill out the Google form so we can get everyone's correct information. Our number one job is to work with the school, teachers and staff for the betterment of the students.
- I'd like to introduce the Executive Board Members:
- Sue - I'm Sue Palmeri and I'm your PTO President.
- Sue - Michelle Pires (is having computer technical difficulties atm) She is your Vice President
- Joy - I'm Joy Barrett and I'm your Recording Secretary & Social Media Chair (As well as Spirit Wear Chair)
- Gerry - I'm Gerry Palmeri and I'm your Treasurer
- Back to Sue -
- I'd like to encourage everyone to use the PTO Website as well as the School Website and our PTO Facebook page.
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Thank you!

- ### **❖ Reminder From Recording Secretary Joy Barrett to The Chairs & Floor** - When it's your turn to speak please limit your notices, questions and concerns to 1-2 minutes. If need be you can always directly email the Executive PTO Board or Principal Leusen with a concern & to speak further. We would like to try to keep these Zoom meetings as short as possible and this will help ensure this.

❖ Chairpersons Reports/updates : (LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.)

- Spirit Wear - Will start Fall sale asap, date to be determined. Available On hand Spirit Wear to be sold currently, will figure a way to get that advertised and available to everyone.
- Box Tops - currently running it's Fall Collection to be dropped off in school when able or scanned and available online to submit.

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❖ Principal's Comments: Mr. Thomas Leusen, Principal

- Thank you for attending the meeting. First I want to introduce Nurse Clyne who is very dedicated for showing up after hours every time. Nurse clyne is someone you will get to know very well and embodies our core values in Penn Ave. Wow! This is the most highly attended PTO meeting in my 4 years. The more ppl the better! Also, thank you all for attending with 34 participants so far. Zoom meetings just may be the new trend. Our mission is simple - it is all about the kids. It takes everyone to participate. The pto supports all in this initiative and we work as a **TEAM. Together Everyone Achieves More.** This PTO and board works great together and is in fact a great team that works well with our staff. I am so grateful for having a wonderful PTO.
- Regarding updates for Sept and October: This is a very challenging time for all of us. Everything moving forward has the safety of students 100% in all decisions the teachers and staff make at Penn Ave. I want to thank everyone for the patience and flexibility I know all of us have had to be flexible and I'm grateful. There are a few new things for this year. Two committees have been created. 1. is the Pandemic Response Team charged with creating a plan for going back to school - a lot of what decisions they make stem with what BOE lays out. 2. Diversity Council is how we can be a more diverse and inclusive school and work together and how we can cooperate and still recognise our differences and work together. As principal, I'll be working closely with both.
- Concerning phase 1 & 2 (and beyond) going forward opening up Oct 12. - Miss Connie is working very hard, Nurse Clyne is working very hard. All the paras and ppl working with tech support and making phone calls are doing a tremendous job. We started off this school year 100% remotely and it was interesting watching teachers teach to a computer screen. And yet they were so high energy despite it. There were bumps and glitches but teamwork prevailed and that was phase 1.
- phase 2- next week will release documents made by the Pandemic Response Team stating security measures which is very thorough. I will be creating a video of basically snapshots of what our school will look like for phase 2 and we'll get a view of what the school will look like with our kids going back coming back.

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❖ **Principal's Comments: Mr. Thomas Leusen, Principal (CONT.)**

- coming up with Diversity Council - Week of Respect week- respecting each other- we will still be dressing up and still be having kids participate. (Each day will have a separate themed dress up to participate in - email pictures to Mrs. Ilaria. - participation is optional. - email and reminders and events sent out.)
- School Diversity Council sees it has been Hispanic Heritage Month & we'll mention & honor their culture.
- Hopefully a lot of the events that the PTO normally does with the parents and kids that is enjoyed by everyone may be able to be pushed to the spring depending on how restrictions are lifted with the pandemic.

❖ **Concerns from other Committee Chairs & Floor: (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) (IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.)**

- Mrs Viteri- Q-When going into hybrid will there be lunch?
- L- yes there will be lunch in elementary school. desks are appropriately separated 6 ft - socially distanced apart. They can bring lunch or get cold lunch. We're encouraging everyone to eat outside while weather permits, in fact, for the time being the school will be doing everything they have the ability to do outside for classroom activities while weather permits.
- Jennifer Davenport- I'm requesting information regarding joining the inclusion council. Can anyone join?
- L - Yes, anyone can join and I will get that info to parents.
- Mrs. Arredondo - What will be happening as lead parents or class parents, we need guidance and ability to get emails from the classroom parents.
- Sue Palmari - Lead /grade/class parents haven't been chosen yet. We normally get info from pto members during open house at sign up and then get them out to appropriate ppl. We currently have only 42 members to supply parent email info. We need to get an email sent out from leusen to remind everyone to sign up for pto but to also fill out the membership form with info details to be able to supply to parents.
- Mrs. Ganesh- when is phase 3 happening?
- L - Phase 3 will start possibly in January. Phase 4 in March.

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❖ Concerns from other Committee Chairs & Floor: (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) (IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.) (CONT.)

- Mrs. Morante- First, I wanted to say that we appreciate all the teachers and you all- second, just received notice that there will no longer be technology class anymore, can you explain why?
- L - Mrs Bauer is teaching at school 26 currently from a call out and can't split with us synchronously. Also, I've given out every chromebook from this building and every WHS chromebook. In my opinion tech class is a moot point, what I mean to say is that kids are already getting enough screen time atm. We are in the ppl business, this school is about ppl and kids not computers. They'll get the time they need with a computer made up, don't worry, but need the ppl connection foremost.
- Mrs. Patel - typing.com will still be available, yes?
- L - Yes as well as a list of platforms that Mrs. Bauer will supply.
- Mrs Leeman- Will we be able to have a back to school night virtually?
- L - It is something I'm thinking of doing but it's kinda been done already, too. The video I talked about that's coming out shortly will have much more detail in it however I'll have to give it more thought. Other schools didn't physically meet with teachers , our school did at the beginning of the year at school book pick up and quick meet and greet. There also definitely will be a parent teacher conference. It may be in person before thanksgiving, hopefully.
- Mrs. Leeman - also, is the trunk or treat canceled?
- L - most likely. It's not possible as of right now. It's less of a possibility.
- Mrs. leeman - But school 21 is doing a car wash? Doesn't that give you a bad name?
- L - Ah, I'll have to check about that but we've got our strengths. Again, doing a trick or trunk is not something we can safely do at this time.
- Mrs. Davenport- I just wanted to state that my husband is a professional DJ and we offer his services for any PTO event.
- Michelle Sutton- if a teacher says to pick up a book at school is there a specific time we should come?
- L - You can come anytime between 9-3. Ring the front bell and someone will answer, most likely Connie, and we can get that to you.
- Mrs. Arredondo- if we come back in spring can we still do the color run?

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❖ ***Concerns from other Committee Chairs & Floor: (If not urgent, please speak with the Executive Board separately.) (IF SPEAKING LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.) (CONT.)***

- L - yes, we will have to see how things go. Well see, hopefully we would like to do that among many of our favored activities and be able to allow them to happen in the spring if restrictions lessen. Hopefully that can be a possibility.

❖ ***New Business/Old Business: (LIMIT TO UNDER 2 (TWO) MINUTES.)***

- N/A

❖ ***Adjourn Meeting/Final Presidential Remark:*** *Reminder from President to fill out PTO membership forms and thank you all for coming to this first Zoom PTO meeting.*

❖ ***Time Called:*** 7:28Pm