

PHSO

Parents Helping Students Organization 2009-2010
Minutes, September 16, 2009

Attendees:

Georgette Wilson
Sue Burghouwt
Victor and Pamela Camaya
Doranne Borges
Paul Profit
Anne Burns
Susan Lewis

1. The meeting was opened by co-President Georgette Wilson who welcomed everyone, especially new members, and explained what the PHSO does as an organization including an explanation of the following:
 - Freshman Orientation
 - Book Awards
 - Substance Abuse Awareness
 - Senior Projects
 - Staff Appreciation Breakfast
2. Introductions:
 - Georgette Wilson: PHSO Co-President
 - Sue Burghouwt: Book Awards Chair
 - Anne Burns: PHSO Treasurer and
 - Susan Lewis: PHSO Secretary
3. Secretary's Report was corrected and then approved
 - a. Secretary was directed to forward minutes to be posted on PHSO website
4. Treasurer's Report—submitted, presented and approved
5. Old Business
 - a. Staff Appreciation Breakfast –Held on 6/25/09 in PHS library. Over 25 donations of food/funds. Message did not get out on listserv in time, but all went well thanks to volunteers.
 - b. Freshman Orientation: PHSO greeted parents at the door and passed out flyers. Supplied refreshments and any information for those who asked.
 - c. Website: Now located through the School Department website. PHSO will try to get all meeting minutes and agendas posted on the site. PHSO was pleased to note that the "Daily Bulletin" is current once again.

6. New Business

- a. Open House on 9/24/09: PHSO will have a table set up with tri-fold board and flyers. Anne Burns will inquire as to whether it is possible for someone from student counsel to man the PHSO table.
- b. PHSO Scholarship: In the past PHSO awarded a \$250 scholarship to a student and the scholarship recommendation came through the guidance department. The PHSO is looking to reinstate the program and is looking for a person to chair a scholarship committee – Anne Burns offered to chair. The committee will be responsible for developing the scholarship award criteria.
- c. Assignment of Committee Chairs:
 - i. Conversations with College Freshmen-Barbara Russell-Willett
 - ii. Substance Awareness Night- Liz Morley currently chairs, but is looking for someone to replace her. Anyone interested?
 - iii. Book Awards-Sue Burghouwt
 - iv. Senior Project-JoAnn Santos (looking for a co-chair)
 - v. Faculty & Staff Appreciation Breakfast-Susan Lewis and Doranne Borges

Other New Business:

- a. PHSO Bylaws- Although PHSO is non-profit, the organization does not file under Portsmouth Unites as the revenue is below 10K, bylaws should exist for the organization. A set of bylaws will be put together and voted on at a future PHSO meeting.
- b. PHSO discussed the importance of the good works done by the School Improvement Team (SIT) and is hoping to have parents attend. The PHSO will post meeting times and dates with contact information for anyone who is interested. Anne Burns will get the information and send to Linda Ujifusa to put on our website.
- c. *As discussed at the Parent/Athlete meeting on August 12th*, the Portsmouth High School Athletic Boosters are graciously providing an opportunity for each of our athletes/students to take a quick and easy online cognitive test FREE of charge. The test will be a pro-active step in establishing and documenting a cognitive baseline that will greatly benefit doctors as they evaluate an athlete's ability to return to action in the unfortunate event that they suffer a head injury for any reason. The test can be found at www.concussionassessment.com. Click on the Brain Scan Image on the bottom right corner of the page to access and begin the test. Please fill out the information and follow the instructions. The test can be completed in approximately 15 minutes and should be taken in a quiet environment that will allow you to concentrate without distractions.
- d. Please NOTE that any Portsmouth High School Student can take the test (not just athletes). Head injuries are not exclusive to participation in athletics and can happen at any time. The website is very informative and explains the importance of establishing a baseline prior to an injury.
- e. Thank you in advance for your attention to this request and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

7. Remaining PHSO Meetings for 2009-2010, PHS Faculty Lounge-Door #13, 6:30 p.m.
 - a. Tuesday, November 17, 2009
 - b. Wednesday, January 20, 2010
 - c. Wednesday, March 17, 2010
 - d. Wednesday, May 19, 2010

8. Georgette Wilson Adjourned the Meeting with thanks to all participants for a successful meeting.