



*Supporting Plant's Academic Excellence Since 1986!*

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Tuesday, November 09, 2021 9:30am  
Plant High School Media Center/ Zoom (Hybrid)

### **Welcome and Introduction – Alison Meyer**

- Welcome to first in-person General Membership meeting of the year.
- If Zoom participants have any questions, put them in the zoom chat and they will be read.
  - Flyers for Great American Teach In are on the sign in table. They are looking for volunteers to speak next Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jenise Gorman if interested- [jenise.gorman@hcps.net](mailto:jenise.gorman@hcps.net) Info will be added to all FB parent pages as well.
- Refreshments provided by the ESE program. Tip jar donations help fund participation in Special Olympics.

### **Membership Update – Janet Knust**

- Current membership list flyer has been distributed on the tables and is also available on the PAF website <https://www.phsacademicfoundation.com/membership>
- All donations go directly to funding Plant HS teacher grants.
- 125 member donations/ 33K raised this year to date. Thank you to all donors.

### **Business Partner Update –Mary Margaret Braddock**

- Thank you to all business partners. Special thanks to Summa Cum Laude partners Armstrong, Huntington, Mathnasium, Brightwater Advisory, and Burnett Law, Magna Cum Laude partners Steven Kanfer, MD, PA, University Consultants of America, Inc, and The James & Amy Shimberg Foundation, plus Cum Laude partners Braddock Metallurgical, Goodnight Orthodontics, Mobley Homes, Mockler Psychology, Bell Henderson Team, and Nelson Bosque, PA, MBA, Realtor.
- Business Partner Mathnasium is presenting today. Huntington will speak at the December meeting.
- Partner donations to date total \$17500K, equal 20% of total revenue for PAF
- If you have leads for business partners or are a business owner interested in becoming a partner, contact Mary Margaret or go to website.  
<https://www.phsacademicfoundation.com/business-partners>
- **Mathnasium Tutoring** – Shawna Stokes
  - Math tutoring for grades 1-12, including pre-calc
  - Mathnasium has been a PAF business partner for 6-7 years.
  - Tutoring sessions for Algebra 1 and higher-level math are 90 minutes
  - Students can attend tutoring 3x a week
  - Mathnasium starts with comprehensive assessment test for each student so as to meet students at their ability, then tutor accordingly.
  - Tutoring offered for SAT and ACT. These tests have a lot of middle grade math and students could benefit from a refresher on these topics.
  - High schoolers will be exposed to SAT and ACT questions during standard tutoring as well

- Mathnasium offers free trial for interested clients. Call or visit website for free trial or assessment
- They are located on Dale Mabry next to Pink Palm and Seedlings.
- Online tutoring also available.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Lexy Schwartz**

- Budget to Actual Report located on the back of the meeting agenda flyer.
- Total income YTD is 50K.
- Grants funded this year include 18K in technology, 2K training and competition fees, \$2500 in supplies, 3K for music equipment, and \$300 for books, dues, and licenses
- October was a strong month with \$3900 additional revenue

#### **PTSA Update- Damaris Allen**

- Teacher appreciation the focus of Plant PTSA
- Donations to PTSA fund monthly teacher appreciation gifts, breakfasts, etc to support teachers in this difficult teaching environment.
- PTSA Coffee Talks are limited to 100 attendees. Register online via Panther Press or PTSA website
- PTSA will report on the current ongoing legislative session. They are the oldest and largest child advocacy group in nation.
- Advocacy updates will be given in the Panther Press and on the PTSA website.

#### **November Faculty Grants- Alison Meyer**

- Requests totaling \$2760.62 were approved by the PAT board at the November Board meeting. These grants include funds for a laptop charging station, a Newline Interactive Flat Panel bundle, and Math classroom supplies.
- Your donations funded the Media Center Newline technology being used at this meeting today.
- In September, a grant was funded for the Law Studies Mock Trial Team to enter the Empire Galaxy Mock Trial. Circuit Judge Chris Nash, coach of the PHS Mock Trial team, is here to report:
  - Mock Trials are head-to-head competition for high school students to experience the entire trial process.
  - Most people on the team are not planning on being attorneys, but participate for public speaking experience
  - The PHS team has grown from 6 members to 25 members in a few short years.
  - There is only one competition in Hillsborough County and the team can only roster 8 members during that competition. Judge Nash is therefore looking for other mock trial opportunities so that all members can be involved and get experience.
  - He used the PAF grant to enroll the team in the Empire Galaxy Mock Trial, one of the two best known in the nation. It is an international competition.
  - Expectations going into the tournament were low, but the PHS team worked very hard and made an excellent showing. They tied the first round against an Alabama team, won the second round against a team from Hong Kong, lost the third round to Ohio's Centennial HS, and won over a California team during the fourth round. They placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall.
  - The experience boosted confidence and placed them on the mock trial map.
  - Question- Have you explored the Stetson Law School Mock Trial as a resource? Answer- No, but that is a good idea. He will look into that.

### Principal's Report- Mr. Bush

- Thanks to all Plant parent volunteers.
- District level personnel were here this morning doing classroom walk throughs, verifying students are being challenged and getting a good education. They want teachers to create opportunities for all students to respond in class discussions.
- There was a mentor meeting this morning. 75 mentors participate in the program. Volunteers meet with students at lunch to offer guidance and mentoring.
- Volunteering with PAF helps the school as a whole, not just your own child, and is for the greater good.
- There was a fun First Friday last week. Students enjoyed cotton candy and Halloween candy.
- PHS enrollment is currently 2521 students. We are 300-400 kids over capacity. Classes are very full.
- Discipline issues are low compared to other schools in county, though there are still some silly behaviors from Plant students.
- Progress reports were issued yesterday.
- Conference Night will be held virtually again on November 18<sup>th</sup>. If you request a meeting with a teacher, they are required to meet with you.
- Bathroom vandalism is an issue. Surprisingly, girls are doing this just as much or more than boys. Students have been caught and disciplined.
- Mr. Bush encourages students and parents to "see something say something."
- Administrators are constantly walking the building, checking bathrooms.
- The Newsome and Eastlake HS principal visited Plant and they were impressed by Plant students. We need to continue to enforce good values.
- Mr. Bush enforces the dress code of no hoods or hats. He also does not tolerate students sitting on desks or other furniture that are not seats. It is important to him to teach students respect, enforce rules, and that kindness matters.
- Safety is key and administrators try to be as visible as possible.
- Boundary meeting - As of now, established residents zoned for Plant will not be changed. An new developments such as the proposed development near Westshore Mall that will be zoned for other schools.
- Important Dates:
  - Thursday Nov 11 - Student and Teacher Holiday
  - Friday November 12 is school day. If parents decide to let their child miss this day, they should call the school to have it be an excused absence.
  - Wednesday November 17- Private School Preview for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at private schools that do not have a continuing high school (St. Johns, St. Marys, Christ the King, Beach Park Montessori.) There will be an information session in the gym with parents speaking, student testimonials. Tours of the campus will also be given. Guidance counselors will be there to answer curriculum questions. This is not for private schools with continuing high schools or other students from public schools not zoned for Plant (recruiting violation.)
  - Thanksgiving break is Nov 22-26.
  - Winter dance (postponed homecoming dance)- Dec 4 The dance is being organized by the student government. There will be activities that week including decorating doors, themed dress up days, possibly a panther prowl.
  - Volleyball Game Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00- Semi-final game. The last regional game was won against Venice HS in Sarasota County with a score of 3-0.
  - Swimming, Cross Country, and Girls Golf are all also going to state.
  - Cannons will be fired this week for all teams going to states.
- Mr. Bush is considering having parent walk throughs to see learning going on at Plant. Many teachers are using impressive technology with real-world applications in their classrooms.

- Question- How many people are allowed at graduation this year? Answer- No limit as of now. This senior class is large, so there will be a lot of people there. (Graduation is May 23 at 7:00)
- The Freshman class has 601 students.

➤ **Business portion of meeting is adjourned.**

**The next General Membership meeting is December 14. The Guest Speaker will be Mr. Thomas presenting AP information.**

## **Speaker– Plant High School Counselors**

Speakers: Mrs. Litwak, Mrs. Dycus, Mrs. Morter

- Counselors and faculty members will be participating in the Private School Preview.
- ACT Now is a program that teaches students coping skills. This will be the topic at the next PTSA coffee talk.
- Course Programming: After Thanksgiving, counselors will be visiting English classes to talk to students about programming and course selection, career clustering maps, projected recommended or possible classes for career clusters or professional studies.
  - Juniors- Tuesday November 30
  - Sophomores – Tuesday December 7
  - Freshmen- Wednesday December 8
- Course selection opens on December 1<sup>st</sup>, closing on December 15. Online system will be used to choose electives. English, math, and science considerations will be recorded online but final recommendations for the core classes will come from their current teachers directly.
- Encourage students to talk with teachers about course selection, options and placements.
- Counselors will upload schedules during winter break and share with students in January. Students will then meet with their counselor one on one to finalize schedule.
- Holistic college application process considered.
- Students will select all 7 classes for in-school Plant schedule. After they enroll in dual enrollment course, Plant schedule will be altered to reflect that.
- ACT Now presentation to students will occur after the course selection English class meetings.
- Question- How does a student get their transcript with class rank? Answer- Student should visit the school registrar Mrs. Cashon to request their transcript in person. Suggests getting a transcript in August and after winter break.
- Help with Profferfish is available in Room 101 during all lunches.
- Question- When will the college counselor Mrs. Mosely come back from maternity leave? Answer- After winter break
- Question- Do juniors meet with Mrs. Moseley? Answer- No, they meet with their counselor but meetings take place in Mrs. Moseley's college lab and they will pull her in if they have questions.
- Question- How are student/counselor meetings scheduled? Answer- The meetings are scheduled through English classes.
- Dual Enrollment
  - Paper work portal for dual enrollment opened yesterday, closes November 19.
  - The online application takes 10 days to 2 weeks to complete. There are several steps. Start early. If you are interested in dual enrollment for summer, go ahead and get started. You can start the process without committing to taking a class. Start steps to explore if its right to you.
  - See HCC website for dual enrollment for step by step process. It can be confusing and stressful if done last minute.
  - Students will do a multi-step authentication on their devices.
  - Question- If they are considering dual for next year, is it too early to start application process now? Answer- No it is not too early.
  - Question- Does application information expire after a certain amount of time? Answer- The PERT score expire after two years.
  - Question- Is HCC the only dual enrollment option? Answer- UF is an option if the class isn't offered at HCC (ie- high level math class)

- HCC Introductory classes that don't get graded can be done to see if dual enrollment is right for that student
- Dual enrollment is appropriate for some students and not others. It is not blanket suggested for all students. Pros of dual enrollment are that it allows a manageable, flexible schedule and you can get some college core classes out of the way. Some classes not offered at plant can be taken at HCC. Con-Some colleges expect AP classes, not dual enrollment because there is a standard curriculum nationally with AP.
- Application steps are confusing but empowering when accomplished.
- Student has to have a state 3.0 GPA to qualify for dual enrollment.
- Cannot take a picture of scores, need to download scores from college board or take the PERT exam.
- Get advisement from HCC directly. Offices open at student services on campus. Students should take ownership of the application process.
- Students can get necessary dual enrollment forms through Canvas.
- Question- If a student goes to college in Florida, will HCC grades become a part of the student's college transcript? Answer- Yes, if they attend state college in Florida. Reach out to other colleges to explore their policy on what courses they accept.
- Question- How do you get the dual enrollment process started? Answer- Go to HCC website. They have steps 1-2-3-4 outlined.