

**At the meeting, we discussed the 4 key priorities for the PTSO this school year. Our first goal is to improve communication between the school and the community. Can you offer any suggestions on how we can serve as a more effective conduit for school news? 21 responses**

- Make it interact so you can get questions answered. No response last year which was our first so lost interest in knowing what is going on.
- emails work best for our family- going to a website to look doesn't usually happen
- I think our newsletter that we do now does a great job!
- email newsletter
- Maybe create a facebook page for each grade level?
- Is it possible to send a monthly PTSO update in an email? Webpage? I bet snail mail would be pricey... Just a thought.
- Do you participate in the PFMS Times?
- I realize this is archaic but could we get an old fashioned newsletter? I get too many emails as it is and worry that I'm missing important information. Even if the newsletter is emailed (instead of printed and mailed), as long as its in PDF, I can print it and read it when I have time. An email with links to articles is NOT what I am suggesting (Although other people might prefer that) I don't like reading news on my devices.
- Email works for me, with back up on a webpage that we can bookmark and consult as needed. Thanks.
- Start a WhatsApp group
- Is there a newsletter? Since it's PTSO, can info be shared with teachers as well? It might be easier to get info from the school to community if there were some kind of google doc or form that teachers could use to give you the information they would like to share with the PTSO in advance of the meetings
- I think we get so many emails from the school I don't see how more from another source is going to help.
- Know you can't please everyone or reach everyone! I think social media is helpful and maybe school-wide e-mails Dr. Wiser can send out.
- Have the school district use SCASD or PFMS in their email addresses. We get lots of different emails from different people. Some go to SPAM some go unread because we don't recognize the name.
- If there is a PTO / Parent Facebook group for PFMS I don't know about it. That's how I get 99% of my school news for PFE
- Make sure the website, Facebook page, etc are up to date
- Would be great to hear about ongoing clubs (virtual or in person) available to PFMS students
- Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram
- put up information on the school website about events and activities that PTSO is doing. right now I really have no idea how to know what is going on. Perhaps it is already there. In that case it might be a matter of informing others. I also rely on facebook but do not think I belong to any middle school pages. promoting that might be good as well.

- we received a lot of communication from the school in July and August but that seems to have come to an abrupt end once remote learning started. not sure if that's by design or not. currently, most communication comes from district administration and classroom teachers.
- emailed newsletter

**Our 2nd goal is to generate more interest in the PTSO meetings as a means to increase community knowledge. How might we encourage more parent involvement?**<sup>21</sup> responses

- No ideas, we work all day and are in our extra curricular at 5:30 pm so we will never be able to attend and I'm not attending on weekends. I trust the school and the leadership, if I didn't I would make more of a priority to be involved. If we were in a different stage in life we would be able to be more involved. I'll read the emails and respond when needed, that is what we have to offer currently.
- Give a clear agenda ahead of time so people know what they are coming to discuss
- Actually, remote meetings might work better for some families than in person, but I think the 5:30 time slot is tough for remote. That was better when it was in person.
- Not sure, they either want to be involved or they don't.
- Maybe the above with communication will help. Can you offer incentives of some sort? It is so hard right now with all that is going on. Tough position for all
- Maybe if you gave away a gift card or something else at each meeting.
- Distribute agendas and meeting materials a week before the meetings; keep the meetings ontime (start / end ontime); don't allow overbearing people to dominate meetings.
- Specific asks for volunteers on occasion-specific basis? EG We need 8 parents to work for 1.5 hrs each on Sat Oct. X to do Y.
- I'm new to the district so don't have an opinion yet.
- I think that allowing attendance to be remote will help- it's a lot easier to attend the meetings from home when you have a family...
- The best way to get people more involved is to have direct, specific request in a more immediate time frame. I've been involved with PTA's for elementary, middle and high school - sometimes more than one at a time. Since I moved to PA, I just do sports booster clubs. This survey got me because it was direct, specific and I could do it right away. The only way we ever got people to PTA meetings was if we had it before a student program/performance.
- Just be transparent about the role PTSO plays in providing services/items to the school community. I always like hearing what PTSO provides and how helpful it is to our school. People take for granted that everything is just provided but I know how valuable these organizations are and how hard volunteers work.
- Wanted to attend the meeting but only found out about it that day. Might be my fault but I didn't recall any other advertisements.
- I actually like online meetings. Much more likely to attend meetings from home camera off at the end of a long day. If there is a website or Facebook page, having the bylaws,

officers, and recurring events like fundraisers somewhere easily accessible is helpful so that new people can see at a glance what's going on and how things work, what committees are open, when elections are, etc. I was active in our PTA in Virginia but after moving here tried and failed to get involved at PFE PTO because it was cliquey with too much reliance on institutional memory.

- It's very difficult to be involved when school isn't in person. What is there to be involved in?
- There needs to be an incentive to attend. Maybe somehow the students earn a reward of some kind if their parent(s) attend
- I am not sure what role PTSO has aside from fundraising for school activities. Perhaps knowing the value of what you do aside from that. As a parent I shy away from PTSO because of the fundraising .
- once we're out of remote learning i think people can consider other involvement in more things.
- Specific task requests with sign up geniuses, emailed out
- I wonder if the PTO could put out a list of jobs/positions/volunteer opportunity rather than a general call for membership/help. Maybe trying to get to a specific event or need would generate more involvement

**Our 3rd priority is to serve as a cheering section for our teachers and staff. Please share any ideas you might have to show our PFMS teachers and staff how much we support their efforts.** 20 responses

- A thank you board, where we can give shout-out to them.
- Unless your kids has that teacher you don't know them. Send out monthly highlights of what the teachers are doing that is unique to them.
- Specific notes or emails go along way in making teachers feel better- general "good job" emails or notes are nice, but not as uplifting.
- I don't feel that I need that as a teacher.
- thank you cards from students
- Being a teacher in the district, what might really help is the occasional surprise of a free meal (even a coupon for a free pizza).
- PTSO is already fabulous in showing appreciation. The gift cards were so kind. The breakfasts, etc are also so received. Anything along those lines is always welcomed. Remotely might be a bit different. Thanks for all you do!
- In the current times that we are in, maybe something monthly just to say, "We care about you."
- Wish lists from the teachers that we can fulfill.
- I'm new to the district so don't have an opinion yet.
- Teachers really enjoy hearing specifics that are going well from students and families
- Fund mini-grants for special supplies for their classrooms.
- Ask them directly what is most helpful for them and see if we can fill any needs--could be physical items, funding, or just kind words and encouragement.

- That is so nice of you all, thank you!
- Share the news on all social media accounts. Just a simple note in the Bistro goes a long way.
- This is such a great idea. Hard to think what you can get a teen to do in order to show appreciation. How would the teachers like to be shown appreciation would be good to know as well? My mind always goes to food. :)
- Parents should continue to reach out to teachers directly to thank them for their efforts with personal stories on how their child was helped or encouraged during this tough time by a teacher.
- Can you hire a school masseuse? LOL (I'm a teacher)
- could we consider matching up clubs and teams with working with the PTO on appreciation events- make banners, bring in coffee and donuts, etc. Perhaps if students start this off, we can pull in their parents to give support

**Finally, and maybe most importantly, we want to help with supporting student wellness with a focus on social and emotional health. Please share any ideas you may have about how we can ensure our students have access to social opportunities (within health and safety guidelines) or how we can improve access to emotional and/or mental health resources.** [25 responses](#)

- Morning meetings with SEL themes, and mindfulness moments/minute breaks throughout their day.
- Post kids names in the newspaper for honor roll I'm not sure if all grades did this, if only 8th grade and if it has been each year or if this is new - keep math and English throughout the year vs cramming it into 1 semester.
- Set up interest group Google Meets after school. Not everyone is in sports but that gets all the attention. Parents and teachers have hobbies. Now that activity time is removed but kids still need to find common interests and stress relief. Bird watching club, Lego club, knitting, reading, trivia, etc.
- Students could make appointments with counselors for Zoom sessions, postcards sent to students from teachers about the good work they are doing or some other positive, socially distanced movie night? or art activity? or singing?
- I have no idea, but a student's mental health is what I'm most concerned about with COVID.
- school-wide encouragement to see a friend this week or get on a walk this week and then encouraging to beat the school's record for involvement
- How about neighborhood bike rides?
- I think that working with the guidance counselors will be your best bet to see what is already in place and how we can support those efforts.
- More mask breaks
- Offer after school activities - soccer, painting, cooking...doesn't matter - just give the students an opportunity to be with their peers in person. even if its outside and its

cold....tell them to dress warmly. Bring someone from Shavers Creek to give a demo (bring an owl or something) - take a walk through circleville park and point out all of the "nature". Have a volleyball game, offer tennis, do laps around the school building, kick ball in the field by the park, capture the flag, anything to get the students together. Rent the skating rink (can we have more than 25 people in the rink ? not sure).

- It's hard for everyone but I think the parents and teachers should stay as positive as possible and help the students understand that this is a hard time but we will get through it.
- ?
- Social gaming groups - discord channels - the kids are already doing this kind of stuff but some may feel left out.
- I would suggest working with the Jana Marie Foundation, which does a TON of work around mental health and wellness with youth and others as well as suicide prevention. Promotion of orgs or clubs that you know practice the precautions should be good or just encouraging ways to still socialize and be safe.
- Partner with the Jana Marie Foundation on mental health awareness training for faculty, staff, and students. Help them realize how to recognize issues as we head into winter with remote school.
- The 5th grade class last year (this year's 6th graders) did not get their bouncy slide party at the end of the year because of Covid. As soon as it's safe to do so (even next summer) I hope we could work with PFE PTO to make that happen, retroactively!
- Making parents and students aware of clubs kids can participate in
- School needs to be in person. Our children are really struggling with not understanding how they can be involved in sports and see hoards of people in the community all the time yet school isn't safe?
- My boys PTSO at their school does a monthly family trivia night on Kahoot. They have done Disney Trivia, Nursery Rhymes Trivia, Marvel Trivia, Star Wars Trivia, etc.. for social events. Sending out messages on Social Media for mental and emotional health and where to find help would be beneficial
- Not that my child needs to do more online games but maybe organizing some online games for kids to log into if they can for fun and socializing? Maybe have some extra credit social activities for certain classes. Even if the activities are not directly related to current learning?
- the kids and parents have no clear idea what the rules are for returning to in-person school. any level of honest, clear communication would go a long way toward improving the well being of the kids.
- Perhaps some activities (carnival at school, movie night, etc.) and Parent Chaperone Volunteers!
- Go back to in school classes

**During the 2nd half of our meetings, one of our administrators and grade-level and exploratory teachers share what's going on with teams, classrooms and the student body. As a parent, what kind of information would you like to hear about concerning our school community and classrooms as a whole?** 15 responses

- What are they doing outside what is required to interest the students. Life isn't all grades and they need life skills like sewing and basic bike repair.
- What can I be doing as a parent to help my children academically and/or socially-- maybe guest speakers on wellness topics (quick 10-15 minutes)? Problem-solving issues that are happening within the school.
- I'm not a parent.
- Grade level information would be great :)
- What are the schools doing to promote emotional stabilization for the staff and students?
- Whats the purpose of the teams? How are students managing overall (I have one data point - my child) How do teachers know if students are not paying attention on zoom? and how is that being managed?
- I am curious what teachers would like parents to do more to support their work, especially in terms of remote learning. Are there things teachers need to teach from home? Things they wish we'd get our kids to do more (eg do kids seems sleepy/bored...do teachers wish we would get them outside more in the breaks), etc.
- I would like to start hearing what changes if any are being considered assuming we are on remote learning for the year.
- I am not a parent of a middle school child yet, but I'd be interested to hear about special activities, etc.. the normal curriculum sounds kind of boring and redundant to me, but I am a teacher.
- I'm nor particular--whatever updates they feel are important to our school community.
- I'd like to know what is coming up in the future in terms of curriculum, major topics, etc.
- The mental and emotional health status of students from the teachers perspective while they are remote. Are they participating, learning, etc. I think as the year goes on it will get harder and harder for kids the longer they are remote.
- What fun things are happening in the classroom and as an entire school (Fun Days, Carnivals, etc..
- I would like to continue to hear about what is going on within the classes, etc.
- not sure