

Pembroke Community Middle School
School Council Meeting
MINUTES
October 2, 2024
10:45-11:40 a.m.
PCMS Library

Members:

Helen McElroy, Parent	Catie Ruggiero, Staff
Andrea Doton, Parent/Secretary	TBD, PCMS Student (G7)
Caryn Flashman, Parent	TBD, PCMS Student (G7)
Joanne McClune, Community Rep	Beckett Hawkes, PCMS Student (G8)
Courtney Keller, Staff	Maddie Rejewski, PCMS Student (G8)
Michelle Alfano, Staff	Donna McGarrigle, Chair/Principal

Introductions/Building updates

- ❖ All members present except Caryn Drake, Helen McElroy, and Joanne McClune.
- ❖ Danielle McLean (G8 school counselor) returning in early November.
- ❖ Joanne Earner (School Nurse) retiring in November. Valerie Phillips (currently the Bryantville School Nurse) has been hired as the PCMS School Nurse. Valerie will likely shadow Joanne before she retires.
- ❖ Review of May 2024 minutes
 - Maddie Rejewski made a motion to approve the minutes; Andrea Doton seconded the motion.

Discuss purpose of school councils:

- ❖ Document distributed: Massachusetts School Council handbook
- ❖ A school council is a “representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members and, at the secondary level, students, required to be established by each school pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C.”
- ❖ School councils were established based on the idea that teachers, parents, and community members may become more committed to improving the school if they are offered opportunities to serve on the school council or their interests are represented on a school council that works to shape the policies and procedures of the school.
- ❖ Public meetings: all school council meetings are public meetings that consist of an agenda and publicly posted meeting minutes and meeting dates. There is no requirement at the middle school level to

have current students as members of the school council; however, PCMS has traditionally had students and the principal, parents, and staff strongly believe that student input is vital. PCMS Title One status PCMS is a Title One school, which means that it receives federal funding that is designed to help students meet state academic standards. The amount of federal funding is based on the number of low income students in the district.

- ❖ PCMS uses this funding for literacy and math support.
- ❖ Student support/identification procedure: Grade 6 teachers identify potential incoming 7th grade students in need of math and/or literacy support, and Grade 7 teachers identify potential incoming 8th grade students in need of math and/or literacy support. However, students can be provided Title One support at any time of the year (not just at the beginning of the school year).
- ❖ Dr. McGarrigle maintains extensive data for the Title One program and drafts an end of the year report determining which supports are successful and others that may need improvement.
- ❖ PHS is not a Title One school. PHS has strategy courses that provide general education support and meet similar requirements of Title One programs.

MyCAP (My Career and Academic Plan): A college/career initiative to support students.

- ❖ In the past few years, PCMS has been awarded approximately \$70-80,000 worth of grants from the Department of Education.
- ❖ PCMS recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Department of Education. Of the \$25,000, \$8,000 is allocated for field based experiences.
 - o Field based experiences:
 - January 2025 Math field trips planned to Gillette Stadium for grade 7 (January 27) and grade 8 (January 8). Focus is on statistics and data.
 - Potential March 2025 field trip to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute (free for all students).
 - Last week Dr. McGarrigle applied to attend an Edward M. Kennedy Institute session on Artificial Intelligence. Awaiting response.
 - Edward M. Kennedy Institute also offers zoom sessions, but Dr. McGarrigle and students prefer in person sessions.

- Dr. McGarrigle encourages grade level field trips and small group field trips. For example, students in Fundamentals of Art had a field trip designed to help students understand how art applies to life. Mr. Hovey suggested a field trip for music students to Berklee College of Music.
- In addition to field based experiences, part of the \$8,000 assists the Grade 6 teachers with career readiness lessons. Those teachers who decide to participate are compensated for lesson planning related to career readiness.
- Dr. McGarrigle is also reviewing some of the Grade 8 electives.
 - The science department is hoping to develop an engineering elective in 8th grade to encourage more students to pursue the engineering pathway program at PHS.
 - The Sports Science elective may be moving from 8th grade to 7th grade.

Unified Conference (teams from PCMS & HES)

- ❖ Ms. Ashley Cross (from HES), Ms. Erica Swift, Mr. Bobby Finn, and Mr. Matthew Vincenzi will attend the Unified Conference in October.
- ❖ HES will collaborate with PCMS on unified sports.

Assemblies

- ❖ November 7: David Flood (9:30-10:30 in auditorium/cafeteria)
 - The Substance Strategy: A Plan for Improving Self-Esteem and Preventing Drug and Alcohol Abuse
 - 7th and 8th grade students will attend together
- ❖ November 15: Assistant DA
 - Cyber Sense: Reviews the importance of being informed about internet safety
 - This is a grade level assembly

PCMS Student Representatives/process discussion

- ❖ Should current 8th grade students continue on the school council or should new students be appointed each year?
 - Several council members voiced support for the consistency of having the same students for two years.
 - Dr. McGarrigle agreed that was one lens with merit but also floated a different rationale to support changing student council membership every year to allow for leadership opportunities for other students.

- o Staff members noted that experience on school council fosters leadership skills and provides student government experience. Last year both school council representatives ran for class president at PHS.

Student Council: First Meeting Friday, October 4

- ❖ Students will identify challenges of transitioning to middle school. Oftentimes the transition from elementary to middle school can be more challenging than the transition from middle school to high school in some ways. In middle school, students must change classes, understand the expectations from multiple teachers, and regularly navigate Powerschool and Google classroom.
- ❖ One suggestion to ease the transition from elementary to middle school was to ask the technology department to archive the prior year’s Google classroom.
- ❖ Another goal is to increase standardization from 7th to 8th grade and implement uniform systems across both grades.
- ❖ Dr. McGarrigle will ask students to identify fun, school-appropriate stem-based activities to purchase for the library.

**PCMS College & Career Lesson Schedule: 24.25
MyCAP (My Career & Academic Plan)**

PCMS College & Career Lesson Schedule: 24.25										
	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025
G7	21st MyCAP overview & goals	ELA T1 Elective	STEM LAB 7	MATH 7 Band 7	PE7 T2 Elective	Science 7	LC/Title I T3 Elective	SocSt7	G7 21st/ T4 Elective	World Language 7
G8	21st MyCAP overview & goals	ELA T1 Elective	STEM LAB 8	Science 8 Band 8	PE8 T2 Elective	Math 8	LC/Title I T3 Elective	SocSt8	G8 21st/ T4 Elective	World Language 8

- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
- ❖ Next Meeting: November 6, 2024 at PCMS Library