

Mt. Lebanon High School PTSA General Meeting

16 September 2025, D-205

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm, President Marisa Hupe
Annually at the first PTSA meeting new faculty and staff are invited to be introduced and recognized:

Ms. Kaelynn Hillegass- Guidance approx names P thru S; Ms. Maura Doyle - social studies; Dr. Jennifer Morrissey - French; Ms. Lauren Hedderman - Health; Mr. Eric Daw - history; Mr. Vicent Bauters - Unit II Principal

Motion made by Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer to accept the May Minutes, seconded by Natalie Kukla

- II. Student Activities Report, Mrs. Tonkavich

Senior Boat Ride was great, boarding and processing went smoothly

Student Council elections are on the 22nd

Homecoming Court elections are underway

Student Activities Day is the 19th, there are now 92 Clubs represented (up from 70 last year).

Students sign up via QR code for as many Clubs as they may have interest

HoCo tickets going on sale, get dance Agreement via LeboID; theme HoCochella

Please encourage kids to look for Clubs, there are so many choices!

- III. Teacher Representative, no report, new faculty introductions at the start of meeting

- IV. Treasurer's Report: Heather Geisler

Current balance \$14,910.19; tax return submitted; incoming \$910 in donations; outgoing checks being signed \$140 welcome back breakfast, \$100 instrument fund, \$50 library donation, \$550 membership toolkit fee, Georgia Pogue, State and National dues

Looks good to begin to collect Wish List requests.

- V. Executive Committee Reports:

President, Marisa Hupe

Meeting with Dr. Davis:

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- boomerang project- link crew originated from this
 - Surveying the transitions for students between buildings, 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th
 - Special Ed tours (new this year)
 - Evacuation drills-controlled evacuation if something were to happen to the building and the building cannot be occupied, each grade assigned to safe location for all 4 years
 - Open house- teachers 10 minutes to talk about curriculum and expectations
 - Partnership with Pitt- 53 (observing, student teacher, full year intern) Pitt is trying a cohort model, placing 5 students into a location and they assign a professor to help facilitate the experience. Opportunity to recruit with an increase in retirement
 - Safe to Say- goes through Harrisburg, intended to report any safety concern at school. During school hours the school is immediately involved. Post school hours, if safe to say deems it a threat; they notify the school. Police are noticed as well. Officers will pass on any concern to social worker.
 - Gaggle-runs on backend of school system, email communication, flags and someone at the gaggle site reviews it, ai first then human pushes it to district. Group of 5 that will be called, go down the list of these 5 school administrators. School gets these notifications and then police will be notified. If student makes a violation of the school code, they need to be deemed safe by a medical professional to be allowed back in the school regardless if the police believe the threat was credible (no intent to act on it, but the student

said something that violated the schools code and it's the school protocol to receive a letter from a medical professional prior to returning to school)

- Mt. Lebanon foundation for education- its intent is to raise funds and provide teacher grants. 1 fall, 1 spring (10-12 thousand a year)
- Atlas-understanding by design, specific to courses
- 6-12 ELA, K-12 social studies, K-12 health and PE, Science curriculum reviews
- AI-RAIL (responsible AI in learning) adopted a program called Magic School-resource for teachers, intended to help teachers design lessons that are engaging and appropriate for kids, tailored to our culture and community. Trying to communicate with kids when it's appropriate or allowed to use AI: green (it's allowed), yellow (speak to teacher), red (no)
- We are an academic focused school with an athletic program. Understanding where you are as a learner, what you're interested in, where you'd like to go, and stop comparing...GROW-goals, reflect and review, optimize opportunities, well-being (Dr.Thompson's idea) currently a framework, will be represented in Dr. Thompson's presentation at curriculum night
- College and high school partnerships-dual enrollment with high school and college. Our instructor (master degree in the content area) would be endorsed by the university. University would issue college credit: Point Park. Taught at our school and receive college credit
- Establish profile of graduate- what does the profile of 2025 graduate look like. Will be used to establish learning profile of student and what they look like when they come out of our school (1of 3 school districts doing this)
- 77 enrolled in Parkway. Trend in 4 year college is sliding down a bit, but trades are increasing. Previously was 95-100 percent, now is 90-100 percent
- welcome back breakfast was on August 12 (catered by food services, totaling \$140) great turnout, received most of our faculty partnerships that day
- Health office supplies request. Items purchased: pretzels (ordered through food services), water bottles, cough drops
- Membership- in line with this time last year!

1st VP, Kristan Weir, report by Marisa Hupe

Membership stands at 265: 201 single, 64 students, 51 faculty partners

2nd VP, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer

Four requests have gone out for volunteers so far; Boat Ride was a great turn out, Link Night a little short, many spaces available for Homecoming volunteers, you can sign up for the first portion, or the whole event. Hopefully repeated requests for HoCo will bring volunteering to the forefront and when request goes out for Halloween Door Decorating contest, there will be an uptick.

3rd VP, Carol Rosetti, no report

4th VP, Principal Joel Thompson

We're off to a great start this school year!

I am happy to report that the beginning of the year has gone very well. Starting a week earlier seemed to help students get back into routines more quickly, and by September 1, it felt like school was already running smoothly.

To begin the year, students had an extended homeroom each day during the first week of classes. This time allowed them to meet with their homeroom teacher, review the student handbook, and go over important procedures. In addition, all students participated in a grade-level assembly. During these assemblies, students heard from the high school principals, nurse, SRO, counselors, and Student Activities Director about expectations, resources, and opportunities. We also introduced conversations about AI, its purpose, potential uses, and misuse.

We look forward to seeing our families at Open House on Thursday. This event is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your child's classes and meet the teachers and staff who work with them every day.

As I've shared previously, the Middle States Association has created a Responsible AI in Learning (RAIL) Endorsement. Last year, Mt. Lebanon became the first public high school in the world to earn this endorsement in AI Literacy, Ethics, and Safety. This year, we are continuing that work by participating in the Essential Learning Experience endorsement. While much of the groundwork was completed over the summer, teachers are continuing this fall with action research aimed at refining instructional practices to better prepare students for a future where AI is prevalent. This includes helping students develop AI literacy and skills that will benefit them beyond high school. Our RAIL team includes Stephanie Camarda, Josh Bilak, Kurt Voss-Hoynes, Chris Stengel, and me.

Early next week, families will receive a communication highlighting some of this work. This will include our new AI Traffic Light framework, our distinction between Academic Work and Work for Economic Output (to help students understand when AI use is appropriate), and updates from the English Department on adjustments to the writing process that prioritize and reward process over product.

Thursday, September 25-Financial Aid and College Admissions Evening Families are invited to attend an informative evening designed to help students and parents navigate the financial aid and college admissions process. Mr. Adam Manno, Senior Associate Director for Financial Aid at Washington & Jefferson College, will provide an overview of the financial aid process. Following his presentation, Mrs. Tara Leja, Mt. Lebanon High School Counselor, will offer insights into the college admissions process. She will define key terms, outline application steps, and share strategies for success, including tips for writing a strong college essay and details on resources available to students.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be recorded. A link to the recording will be shared shortly after the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, October 4: Band Festival

Tuesday, October 7: From 8am-12pm -
PSAT - Grades 10/11 - no cost to students; Digital format; So important that students bring their laptop fully charged and a charger with them
9th Grade Link Crew breakfast followed by an assembly.

Grade 12 - Work on Post-secondary plans (college applications, work applications, college or technical visits, meet with a military recruiter, etc.)....seniors do not report to school

Students in Grades 10/11 will be dismissed shortly after testing concludes, likely before 12:00 and 9th graders will be dismissed by 12:00.

Act 80 in-service during the afternoon.

Friday, October 10: Recognizing selected Great Alumni at an annual luncheon and at the football game. Homecoming game and the crowning of our homecoming royalty

Saturday, October 18: Homecoming Dance - hope your child can attend; This event will be held inside this year. It is annually a wonderful event that sees many students participate.

Secretary, Natalie Kukla

Any Board members or Chairs who share extensive information, please send me a copy, before or after the meeting, to help ensure I record as thoroughly as possible

Historian, Priya Sukumaran, no report

VI. Committee / Chair Reports

Class Chairs - all grade levels are filled

Newsletter

College Greeter

Reflections, Heather Giesler - details will be in newsletter soon, the deadline for submissions this year is November 5

Prom - OPEN position for 2 Prom Chairs

Senior Picnic - OPEN position

Technology, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer - please send any items to be posted as a pdf file

VII. School Resource Officer, Officer Bileck

VIII. Old Business

The Proposed Budget presented last May has sat for 30 days and requires a vote. Some changes were to combine DA and Pulse to one line item called Journalism funding; to add 4 \$1000 grants in addition to the teacher wish list, as well as a lowering of dues and a keeping of the Angel Fund at the current \$450 amount. Motion to approve the Budget by Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer, seconded by Natalie Kukla. The new 2025-2026 Budget is approved.

IX. New Business

Audit Report - the audit was completed by CPA Carrie Reighard. Summary of results verified that every 10th transaction was checked, all deposits and any amount over \$2K were reviewed.

PTSA Treasurer's books were found to be orderly, consistent, and compliant. Recommendation is to prepare a report of net assets each month.

Meeting adjourned 7:41pm

DRAFT Minutes, prepared by Natalie Kukla

Attendance: Marisa Hupe, Heather Geisler, Erin Blankley, Priya Sukumaran, Elizabeth Schwertfuehrer, Kaelynn Hillegass, Maura Doyle, Jennifer Morrissey, Lauren Hedderman, Eric Daw, Vince Bauters, Brittany Tonkavich, Joel Thompson, Jonathan Kelly, Natalie Kukla