

Porter Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda

November 21st, 2024

I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 6:34 on 11/21/2024

II. New Business

Ms. Adkins reviewed the positions and identified who would serve in the following roles:

- Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Stewart- Chairperson (Shared Role)
 - Mrs. Adkins- Vice Chairperson
 - Ms. Redd- Secretary
 - Ms. Dinarte- Superintendent Representative
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- Ms. Meres reviewed the survey results for the time and format of future meetings. Participants requested the following: meet by Zoom at 6:30 pm
 - Survey participants also recommended that the PAC receive the agenda ahead of time. That was done starting with the 11/21 meeting.
 - Ms. Meres reviewed the school's commitment to soliciting and parent / family input.
 - Mr. Wood noted that the school does take parent input seriously. In the future surveys will be leveraged in the future. For instance, for the multicultural event parents recommended we use the stage and other suggestions that we will try to implement.
 - A parent participant noted that the fashion show could use some organizing and perhaps add some dance opportunity. The participant suggested having an assigned volunteer to organize the fashion show. Mr. Wood noted that suggestions will be implemented next year.

Decision making discussion:

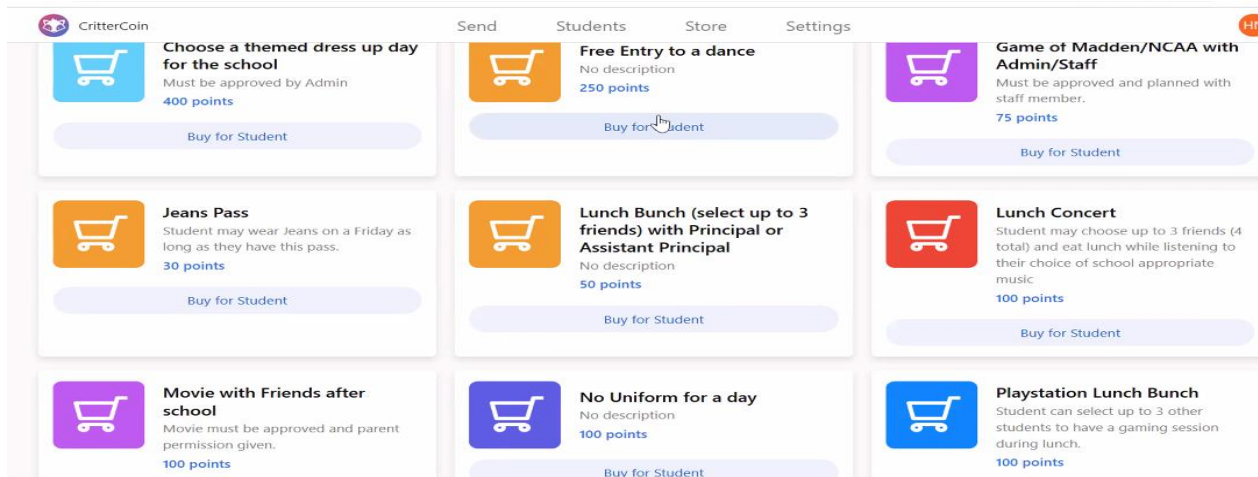
- Admin asked PAC members to evaluate the types of issues that parents want to have input on? For example, perhaps providing input into field trips.
- A parent participant asked if families can provide input on funding utilization and where to leverage resources. Mr. Wood explained that guidelines must be complied with but family input is definitely welcome. Participant asked for information on budget to provide that input and Mr. Wood agreed that he could provide budget information at a future date.

- Ms. Stewart reminded PAC members that the PTO welcomes family engagement.

House System

- Think of Harry Potter. Houses are set up within grade: Valor, Unity, Radiance and Endeavor. This is a way to foster constructive competition – cheer each other on. This is part of our positive reinforcement system. Star points work great for elementary, but not necessarily in Middle School. Student feedback indicated that they didn't feel like they were in Middle School and this might build solidarity.
- We want to give recognition to students. Each student will have a personal point system and the students will contribute to a house. The points will earn rewards and privileges for the House and individually.
- Students have been making commercials for the Houses. They are talking about it.
- PAC member suggested that admin consider offering volunteer opportunities or encouraging the Houses to have a service project for the year. In prior years PAC members noted that kids didn't feel like they had structured opportunities for their volunteer hours.
- Students do not choose their House. It's a random selection.
- If this goes well we have talked about incorporating into the Elementary and having sister houses.
- Students will have House meetings, but this will not interfere with academic opportunities.
- PAC participant suggested offering fun opportunities like scavenger hunts.
- The point of House points is to reward good behavior.
- Dr. Nicholson mentioned that Day of the Arts is coming up. When Middle School comes to Day of the Arts, we plan to have students sit with their Housemates to build a sense of community and belonging. There's a lot of excitement around the Houses.
- There will be 2 purchase days (for rewards) a month.
- PAC member asked if parents could sponsor a prize. Mr. Wood will inquire.
- Parent access is by fee and since this is kind of a pilot program for this year we did not opt to pay parent fees. That will be evaluated for next year once we determine if it will be successful.

- Mr. Wood shared a visual of what the House point award system looks like from the teacher's perspective and potential rewards:



Parent Handbook

- Draft in the works
 - PTO recently submitted information.

Porter's 2024- 2025 Application Process

- Application is open – Closes February 1st.
- Information nights are coming up
 - Superintendent Representative

Ms. Dinarte – SIAC Member

- County is most diverse in State and 10th in U.S.
- 91k students enrolled in county
- All schools are accredited
- Education cost is \$16,390 per pupil
- Information can be accessed here:
 - https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/accountability/data/school_data_profiles/dashboard
- Noted that Porter is the 4th ranked middle school in the State!

III. Counseling Department

- High School Specialty Programs
 - Specialty program applications are open. Please see Mr. Lockamey for questions.
- SEL Night: January 28th, 2024 at 6:00 pm

- This will be the third event. Planning is in process. We've done coping skills. This year we are focusing on anti-bullying and feeling safe in the school community.

IV. Upcoming Events

- Porter Information Nights
 - Tuesday, December 10th, 2024 at 6:30 pm
 - Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 at 6:30 pm

V. Open Chair Time (15 Minutes)

- The floor was opened for participant to raise questions.
- Parent member recommended the use of an electronic system to track volunteer hours instead of logging the numbers in an agenda. Consider connecting the hours to the Houses as a motivating tool
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- Volunteers will be needed for Day of the Arts. Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4AA8A72FA6FE3-50570149-20242025/>
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VI. Next Meeting:

- December 19th, 2024 at 6:30 pm on Zoom

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19.