

As Penn looks forward to returning students to the classroom next week, we want to continue showing support to the amazing teachers & staff who are leading the way in educating our children. It has been a long road for us all and it is important that we continue to show patience & grace as things continue to evolve and change. Please continue to stay positive! We all play a vital part in the success of this transition, so please continue to mask up & social distance. Our next PTO meeting is on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom. If you'd like to be added to the invite list please message Penn PTO at [pennhspto@gmail.com](mailto:pennhspto@gmail.com)

### Stay Up-To-Date with the latest PTO News & Resources

- To be part of the PTO Zoom Meeting at least through our March 2021 meeting, please email [pennhspto@gmail.com](mailto:pennhspto@gmail.com) to be added to the meeting invite list.
- Follow us on Social Media
  - Pennhspto on Instagram
  - @pennhspto on Twitter
- Note: All events/dates are subject to change due to the changing circumstances/guidelines surrounding COVID-19.

### Meet PTO Secretary - Aubrey Saros

I'm a 2018 graduate of Penn & have been PTO Secretary for 3 years. This is an important opportunity for me to give back & provide feedback, as well as a different perspective on topics that affect students at Penn. Currently, I'm a Junior at Saint Mary's pursuing a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing), while also on a pre med track. My plan is to attend med school, with my end goal being to become a neonatal surgeon. I'm also co-captain of the dance team & was on the cheer team, as well.



### COVID Community Resources

- Beacon Covid Hotline
  - (855) 523-2225
  - Available 8a-8p
- St. Joseph Medical Covid Hotline
  - (574) 335-8560
- South Bend Clinic Hotline
  - (574) 307-6870
- Need Assistance Paying Your Mortgage?
  - (877) 438-4673
- Where Can I Find Childcare?
  - [Earlyedconnect.fssa.in.gov](http://Earlyedconnect.fssa.in.gov)
- NAMI: National Alliance for Mentally Ill
  - (800) 950-NAMI
  - Text NAMI to 741741

# SNOWBALL 2021 HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

This was a very difficult decision & we will be doing all we can to select a new date in the future. For any questions please email: [pennhspto@gmail.com](mailto:pennhspto@gmail.com).

# Penn PTO Corner



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## Teacher & Staff Appreciation Update

PTO continues to do our part in appreciating the work & efforts of our teachers, staff & administration. January's appreciation was cute packets of "EXTRA" gum with a special note attached. Friday, February 19th the PTO will be hosting a hot cocoa bar for the teachers, staff, & administration. We are working on our March plan, as well as brainstorming ideas for April. May's Teacher/staff appreciation week is also in the works. Want to help? Join our Zoom meeting invite by emailing [pennhspto@gmail.com](mailto:pennhspto@gmail.com). Our next meeting is Monday, March 1st at 5:30pm via Zoom.



**Note attached read:**  
"The difference between ordinary & "EXTRAordinary" is YOU! An EXTRA special thanks from the Penn PTO.

PHM Forum Meeting Minutes  
will now be provided monthly in our  
PTO Corner. Check it out!

## Meet PTO Secretary Aubrey Saros



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## 2020-2021 School Year

*\*Note our March meeting will be hosted via Zoom. This is a change from our initial plan. Please join us!*

- March 1st PTO Meeting 5:30pm
- April 12th PTO Meeting 5:30pm May 3rd-7th Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- May 10th PTO Meeting 5:30pm

*\*March meeting hosted via Zoom. Future meeting dates TBD whether via Zoom or in-person. Watch for updates!*

## Follow us on Social Media

- Pennhspto on Instagram  
@pennhspto on Twitter

**Contact us with Questions or Suggestions**

- [pennhspto@gmail.com](mailto:pennhspto@gmail.com)

# PHM Forum .... See what's happening.... Join us at our next meeting to find out more!

## **PHM Forum Meeting Minutes**

Virtual Meeting (ZOOM)

February 3, 2021

### **The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm**

Those in attendance were: Dr. Jerry Thacker, Lucha Ramey, Jen Hanyzewski, Karen Prymak-Oldick, Raenelle Hamilton, Lauren Dautel, Julie Zumbrun, Dana Sullivan, Julie Mattison, Cindy Sheperd and Laura Polian.

### **PHM State of the Schools Address from Dr. Jerry Thacker, Superintendent**

- Legislative Update
  - Our goal for this session is to receive 100% funding for virtual school. The Senate has passed a bill supporting it but there are others who are fighting it.
  - Another focus of this budget session is on teacher compensation.
  - Please continue to write postcards, letters, and emails to the representatives.
- We have more amazing teachers to celebrate!
  - Allison Christ in Penn's Exceptional Education Department was named South Bend Tribune's Amazing Teacher of the Month.
  - Jeremy Starkweather English teacher and Cross-Country assistant coach was named a Hometown Hero.
  - Crystal Ryan was named Art Educator of the Decade.
- Visual & Performing Arts Update
  - 20 Penn students were recently selected to participate in the 2021 Indiana All State Band. They were selected from over 500 students.
  - 22 Penn students earned Scholastic Art Awards (some received multiple awards)
    - 7 received Gold Key
    - 11 received Silver Key
    - 12 Honorable Mentions
- Athletics
  - Girls Basketball won the NIC Championship.
  - Girls Swimming won the NIC Championship.
  - Boys Swimming won the NIC Championship.
  - Wrestling has won Sectionals.
  - Penn Poms placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- February is Black History Month
  - 8 Figures will be highlighted this month as we value and celebrate diversity.

### **Presentation: Penn Unified Track-Speakers: Jeff Hart, Penn Athletic Director and Bennett Blazo, Unified Track Coach**

- Presentation Link  
[https://www.phmschools.org/sites/phmschools.org/files/we\\_are\\_unified\\_2.3.21.pdf](https://www.phmschools.org/sites/phmschools.org/files/we_are_unified_2.3.21.pdf)
- Video about Unified Track  
[https://youtu.be/pS\\_gDyRG\\_8I](https://youtu.be/pS_gDyRG_8I)
- First team was 26 kids and they competed in 2019.
- They were runners-up at sectionals and went on to compete at State.
- They placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 120 teams at State in their first year!
- In 2020, they had 59 kids on the Roster but were not able to compete due to Covid.
- 2021-First meeting "Call Out" will be February 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Business Meeting: Jennifer Hanyzewski, President**

- Old Business

- Approve the meeting minutes from January 6, 2021. Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Cindy Sheperd. Lauren Dautel seconded the motion. No opposition noted. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report
  - Balance remains \$624.47.
  - Due to changes within 1<sup>st</sup> Source, bank statement will now be electronic and we will no longer receive paper statements (to avoid monthly charges for paper statements). In order to accomplish this, an online business/non-profit profile was set up.
- New Business
  - Make sure you are spreading the word and information from Forum. This can be done with a quick synopsis of topics that affect your schools or by sharing the minutes when published with your PTO.
  - Families for Fair Funding
    - Dawn Bachtel ([dbachtel@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:dbachtel@phm.k12.in.us)) has forwarded packets of postcards to each of us at respective schools. Please pick them up (unless the school sends them home you're your child), and distribute them to other parents that are willing to help. (**Attachment-Representatives names and talking points**).
  - Be thinking about topics that you might like to hear more about for next year. We usually gather suggestions from members in May. (**Attachment: List of past Forum Topics**).
  - Next Meeting
    - March 3, 2021 via ZOOM
    - PHM Wellness Policy
    - Kevin McMillen, Lucas Fry & Jill Riggs
  - Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45pm by Laura Polian. Lauren Dautel seconded the motion. No opposition noted. Meeting adjourned.

For more information on previous topics (copies of older minutes), or to get involved with PHM Forum, please contact Penn's representative:  
Karen Prymak-Oldick at [kepdivm@gmail.com](mailto:kepdivm@gmail.com)