

2024-25 Percy Priest Elementary PTO General Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2024.

A regular meeting of the PPE PTO was held in the school library on September 17, 2024.

Jenny Alfrey opened the meeting by welcoming and encouraging everyone to attend the Topping Out ceremony on Friday.

Dr. Young kicked off discussions with Phone Free Schools

- Introduced the book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt.
- Dr. Young introduced parent Elizabeth Geldmark, who has initiated a proposed policy for Distraction Free PPE. No phones or smart watches from 8-3 (can be kept in backpacks).
- Opened the floor for thoughts and feedback on proposed policy. Great discussion!

Ms. Keiper-Berneman presented on the Grief Sensitive School Initiative

- PPE has been designated a Grief-Sensitive School
- 1 in 5 kids in TN experience a significant loss before graduating high school.
- If and when there is a loss, heavy lifting will be done by counselors to help students through these difficult times, but our entire staff is equipped to know what to do to help
- Program includes videos, handouts, lesson plans, and more to provide counselors and teachers with helpful resources
- The GSS initiative includes a small stipend. Free resources can be used by groups, such as girl scout troops and others

Parents Kelley Terrell and Jess Sellers presented on the new PPE C.A.R.E. group

- Parent support group for families with students with disabilities
- One major goal is providing connection and community with other families who have a student with a disability. Another goal is to raise awareness in our community generally.
 - o Empowering our children to understand how their brain works and to have open discussions
- Looking to have regular meetings to discuss all topics, support and share resources and to connect
 - o Lunch and Learn with guest speakers
- Also would be great to have some broader meetings to create a culture of empathy and removing the stigma -- where all are welcome and encouraged to participate so we can educate all of our parents and students
- Someone suggested reaching out to Friends Life
- Question posed: do we have an SEL curriculum that addresses this? This ties into October Navigator Day, which is Disability Awareness Month. Ms. Williams and Ms. Simmons are putting together resources for this!
- Information will be shared via the PTO newsletter

Adjourned at 7:12

Erin Kaiser
Secretary, PPE PTO Executive Board