



**HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL
PTSA/SEPTA Parent Meeting**
Title 1 - Parent Engagement

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025
8:30 a.m.
HHS Auditorium**

Minutes

- [Regents / Final Exam Schedule](#)
- **Cell Phone & Portable Mobile Device Ban Plans**
 - Mr. Clayman shared [the slides](#) that he presented at an optional town hall style meeting for students.
 - Explained that this is not based on an arbitrary/people don't like phone thing and it's impinging on students' autonomy. The governor's decision is based on research showing that phones distract from learning.
 - Research shows that phone free environments do not compromise student safety.
 - Research also shows that there are negative mental health impacts of students sharing large amounts of time on phones.
 - 90% of teens use phones "excessively," meaning 3 or more hours per day, which doubles their risk of mental health impacts.
 - Law impacts all internet enabled personal devices including smart watches and personal laptops.
 - Schools have discretion about how to implement policies that comply with the law and the law requires schools to give parents a way to contact their kids during the day.

- Current HHS policy does not adhere to the law.
- Mr. Clayman is seeking feedback on possible options:
 - Yondr Pouches - pouches that lock with a magnetic lock that students lock as they enter the building
 - DIY pouches - Students hand over their phones as they enter the school that would be locked up for the day
 - Honor system - i.e., put it away and keep it away
- Mr. Clayman explained that other Rivertowns are handling this in a range of ways. He has received feedback from families that there is support in HOH for a phone-free environment and so we are focused on figuring out how to do it properly. He isn't aware of any Rivertowns high schools planning to use Yondr pouches but has received feedback from other schools that have used them that they have been successful and students have grown to appreciate them.
- Next steps are a meeting including HHS and FMS administrators with district leaderships and BOE members and ultimately the BOE will decide on the policy. FMS wants to do Yondr pouches and is figuring out how to do it financially.
- Please complete the survey at the end of the slides and provide feedback.

- **PTSA Announcements**

- At an general meeting on April __, a quorum of the membership of the PTSA voted to support the 2025-26 School Budget and all three propositions of the Capital Bond.
- The Color Run was a great success! We're looking forward to repeating the event next year and hope to increase participation by HHS students.
- Join us for the PTSA's Annual Meeting on June 2 when we'll briefly review what we've accomplished this year and vote on the slate of 2025-26 Executive Committee members
- The PTSA still is recruiting Executive Committee members for fundraising and events/hospitality positions. Please reach out if you are interested.

- SEPTA Announcements
 - Please join us at a SEPTA Parents' Night Out at Uncle Leftys on Tuesday, June 10th at 7:30pm. Whether you want to swap stories, share resources, or just enjoy a well-earned break with people who get it, we'd love to see you there.
 - Our final general meeting of the year is on June 18th. We will be voting on our new slate of officers – time and location TBD