

PTO Cultural Enrichment & Field Trip Committee

10/15/15 Meeting Minutes

Present: Heather Amabile (*Woodside parent*), Jen Carbaugh (*Woodside parent*), Paola Monsalve (*Woodside parent*), Caryl Bruno (*BOCES Liaison*), Vilma Lesmo (*PKMS parent*), Jean Dwyer (*Woodside Teacher*), Mia Shervington (*Woodside parent*), Belle Ritter (*Hillcrest & PKMS parent*), Barbie Altorfer (*Woodside parent*), Marisa O’Leary (*Woodside parent, Committee Chair*)

Explanation of NYS Reimbursement Program Process:

Caryl Bruno, volunteer BOCES Liaison, advised that the Peekskill CSD participates in a NYS reimbursement program for art & science enrichment programs and field trips, administered through Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. Through this Arts in Education service, the district is charged a 17% service fee but reimbursed, by credit the following year, 58% of the cost spent on such programs (excluding transportation). All programs/trips must be registered with BOCES to be eligible for reimbursement. A list of registered programs can be found at <http://pnwboces.org/artsined>.

A breakdown of programs offered in each school during the 2014-2015 school year.

Last year district programs totaled \$47, 089.10, resulting in an overall credit of \$27,311.68 for 2015-2016. The following is the breakdown of 2015-2016 credit by school:

- Uriah Hill- \$1,591.98
- Woodside- \$7,318.80
- Oakside- \$2,167.75
- Hillcrest- \$6,653.33
- PKMS- \$4,996.17
- High School- \$4,235.45

The following programs have already been booked & credit accessed for 2015-2016:

- Woodside- Barton Orchard, Dave Klotzle (Nature Walk)- \$3,840
- Oakside- Dave Klotzle- \$1100
- Hillcrest- The Science Barge, and Beczak- \$5,255

Additional Funding for Enrichment Programs & Field Trips:

Marisa advised that the district has allocated funding to supplement enrichment & field trip opportunities. In an effort to streamline planning, ensure equity among all schools & that all opportunities are curriculum aligned, faculty liaisons must submit enrichment/field trip request forms to the district business office for approval. Approval process will involve determination of district funds to supplement total cost. Each school also has its own budget and may have funds built in to cover such programs and/or transportation (this should be explored before submitting request to business office). All remaining balance must be paid through PTO fundraising and parent contribution (i.e. \$10 fee for field trips, but no child will be penalized for nonpayment).

Plans for 2015-2016:

Evaluation tool needs to be developed & implemented before changes can be made. Caryl has the BOCES evaluation form she will share with the group. **Jen & Barbie will work on this.

Each school needs a team to work with faculty to solicit input, explore options, assist in program evaluation and scheduling. **Woodside team: Jean, Raquel Lucas (not present) Jen, Paola & Heather, Oakside Team: Mia, Hillcrest Team: Belle. PKMS & PHS teams TBD.

Mia will follow up on opportunities offered through local colleges/universities & STEM level programming offered through Westchester Children's Museum.

Vilma will research programs offered through BOCES Arts in ED (all encouraged to do so as well).

Marisa will research free programs offered through NASA, Metro North, Westchester County-recycling program & Guiding Eyes. She will also inquire with district about possibility of booking enrichment programs that are not offered during school hours.

Future Meetings:

Committee will meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm at PKMS cafeteria. Next meeting is 11/19.