

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee/Building Report Form

Submission Date: 12/5/2016

Month & Year: December 2016

Committee/Building: Peekskill High School

Items Requiring a Vote:

N/A

Items Requiring Discussion:

- None

Items for Information Only:

- On Saturday, December 3, Peekskill High School hosted its first FTC Robotics Competition. There were 13 teams from around the tristate area that competed in this event. It was a fantastic showcase of the creative minds of our children and the wonderful support they receive from their parents. PHS has two robotic teams and one of our teams was allowed to compete in the competition. Many of the teams we competed against have had robotics teams for the past 8 years and have developed funding networks to sustain their robotics program. The PHS Robotics team is in its third year and we were able to beat-out 4 other teams in the event. Hosting the FTC Robotics Competition has been a longstanding dream of Mr. Carlo Vidrini, PHS Robotics Teacher. ***"If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done." - Thomas Jefferson*** There were many hands that were directly involved in bring this dream to fruition. I wish to offer special thanks to the following staff members: *Mr. Vidrini, for making this dream come to fruition. To achieve this accomplishment, there were many hands that were involved and they include the following staff members: Mr. Vidrini, Mrs. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, Mr. Picou, Mrs. Moore, Dr. Daniels, Mrs. Kellam, Mr. Crisci, Mr. Vanca (the entire custodial staff) Ms. Belfiore, Mr. Cukaj, Ms. Obenauer, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Pete Peterson, Mr. Santiago, Dr. Fine, Mr. Callahan, Mrs. Zimmerman, Dr. Mosey, Dr. Campolongo, Dr. Ferris, Ms. Santarelli, Ms. Torp, Ms. Jones, Ms. Mannion, Ms. Clark, Ms. McDonald, Mr. Turner, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Moran, Mr. Willis, Ms. Dabbs, and Mr. Donnie Smith.* This was truly a team effort. The event was successful and we received many praises for running a well-organized competition.
- Because of the coordination and combine efforts of Mr. George Goess and Mrs. Angela Byrnes we had a successful second Blood Drive in November. This was our second blood drive for the 2016-17 school year. We had a total of 87 donations, which means that we potentially saved 261 lives. Special thanks to all of the students and members of the faculty who donated.
- Mr. John O'Donnell, Social Studies Teacher, will be retiring at the end of the month after 30 plus years of service to the City School District of Peekskill. Although I have only known him for a short time, I appreciate his guidance, counsel and commitment to children. ***"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great***

teacher inspires.” By William A. Ward Thank you for your service to our children and inspiring minds.

- We welcomed Mrs. Amy Torres, School Counselor, in October. She is assigned as the counselor in the Freshmen Academy. Mrs. Torres primary responsibly is to support the needs and goals of all 9th graders. We thankful for her commitment to children and their families and her willingness to collaborate with teachers and administration.
- **On Saturday, November 19th**, our extraordinary students participated in a special musical event in Mamaroneck and gave us MUCH to be proud of as members of the Peekskill High School community. As a result of their great talent, they have been invited to participate in other upcoming musical events. Please find time to acknowledge our talented students. It is equally important to recognize how fortunate we are as a school community to have gifted teachers like Mr. Terry Sandler, Mr. Larry DelCasale, Mr. John Hahn, Mrs. Elizabeth Tabone and Mrs. Heather Brown guiding and nurturing our students. Special thanks to Ms. Laura Belfiore for her commitment to the Peekskill High School Drama Club. Special thanks to ALL the staff members who came out to support our students. Dr. Fine, we appreciate you! ***“The influence of teachers extends beyond the classroom, well into the future. It is they who shape and enrich the minds of the young, who touch their hearts and souls. It is they who shape a nation’s future.”***
- **On Saturday, December 10th**, Peekskill High School and the NAACP will c-sponsor a financial workshop for the Peekskill community – *Financial Choices that Matter*. This event starts at 3pm and will be held in the library at PHS. Refreshments will be provided (*Tenet 6*).
- On **December 13th**, we will hold our first Principal Luncheon (*pizza and wings*) for Honor Roll recipients.
- On **December 15th**, Peekskill High School Winter Concert is will start promptly at 7PM in the auditorium.
- On **December 20th**, the School Leadership Team of Peekskill High School will make its presentation to the Board of Education at 7:00 pm in the PHS library.
- For the 2016-17 school year, our school-wide focus will be the five tenets outlined in the School Comprehensive Improvement Plan. This plan will drive ALL of our decisions. This means that the time allocated for professional development and faculty meetings will be used to support our work with the five tenets. It is expected that we know these tenets well and be able to articulate them with fluidity. It is the administration and department chairs’ collective responsibility to be the vehicles to provide you with the information.
 - **Tenet 2: School Leader Practice and Decisions**
 - **Tenet 3: Curriculum Development and Support**
 - **Tenet 4: Teacher Practice and Decision**
 - **Tenet 5: Student Social and Emotional Development and Health**
 - **Tenet 6: Family and Community Engagement**

Submitted by: Rodney Arthur, Principal