

4/24/17 PTO Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

Present: Denise Lopez, Vernita Mosley, Robert Brownell, Trish O'Sullivan, Mia Shervington, Branwen MacDonald, Isabel Pipolo, Liz Lazo, Dr. Licopoli, Marisa O'Leary

Minutes:

Minutes from 3/6/17 meeting were unanimously accepted.

President's Report:

- Thank you for all of your continued hard work
- Recommending that the Cultural Enrichment & Field Trip committee evolve into a Community Schools Committee next year (focus on school-specific needs of students and families)- will present the idea at Thursday's (4/28) CE & FT committee meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Profit/Loss and Income Statements posted in google docs

- Correction on dates of Oakside book fair- will take place the week of May 22nd

SEPTO:

No report

Committee Reports:

Monthly reports posted in google docs

Advocacy: Budget vote lawn signs should go up on May 2nd, Isabel will put removable vote date stickers on signs before distributing at the BOE Candidate forum

Communications: Working on weekly newsletters and managing website & FB page

Cultural Enrichment & Field Trips: Committee created a guide of NYS enrichment programs/field trips that can be accessed by our district since we're Title I, NY Times Business Section Art Director & political cartoonist Minh Uong spoke with the high school Advanced Art students today- great lecture, author Jade Doskow spoke to Woodside students last week, author Pat Schories will be speaking with the UH students on 4/26 and illustrator Jerry Pinkney will be speaking with Oakside students in May.

Fundraising: \$1300 profit was made from the Dutch Mill Bulbs fundraiser. Bulbs that were not picked up were delivered to schools for distribution. \$1038 was earned this year through the Stop & Shop Rewards program- need push again next year to enroll people in the program. Stop & Shop would be open to student volunteers setting up a table at the store to sign people up.

Graduation Photos- Liz arranged for a Dining to Donate event at the Vue Restaurant (Inn on the Hudson) on May 10th from 1-9:00 pm. Portion of the proceeds will be donated to the PTO. Will be advertised thru social media since district cannot promote a business. It was suggested that PTO pay to have the FB post boosted for better exposure. Liz has also designed a flyer asking parents/students to donate \$5 toward the graduation photos.

Special Events: Screenagers documentary was screened to students at PKMS & PHS in addition to the community. Mia is serving as a point of contact for the program as Peekskill is a flagship district for the Melinda Gates project. Part of the feedback she has provided is that the advertising imagery needs to be more diverse and the flyer needs to provide more information about the documentary. All of the \$400 we received for promotion & snacks has been exhausted. Committee is currently conducting a book drive to help build UH's library- collection boxes are in the schools thru May 26th. Committee will reconvene in June to discuss planning for next year- would definitely like to hold Trunk or Treat event again.

Superintendent's Report:

13 Reasons Why is a television series which portrays a fictional story, based on a 2007 novel, that contains very mature subject matter- including images of suicide & rape. Many young adults are watching it, and concerns have been raised regarding glamorizing the idea of suicide, portrayals of school staff not being caring or responsive, graphic scenes about rape, bullying, car accidents, fights, alcoholism and suicide. Dr. Licopoli will be sending out a letter to parents advising of the series and its content, and encourage parents to watch it with their children if they know they are watching it. **Suggested that there may be a need for a student forum to further address the issue.**

Old Business:

- PTO Nominations Committee- consists of Bob Brownell, Margery Rossi & Jen Carbaugh. Denise nominated Marisa for President- motion seconded by Isabel. Any other nominations for President or Secretary can be submitted to Margery at vp@peekskillpto.org
- Volunteer recruitment process still needs to be streamlined. Suggested that school-specific volunteer sign-up sheets be at all Back to School Night events.

New Business:

- Senior Citizens Brunch: will take place on 4/29 in PHS library at 12:00 pm, Whitson's is donating the bagels, spreads & muffin and a request has made that they provide a fruit platter (PTO will pay for), PTO will bring paper goods, coffee, juice, etc. Marisa, Mia & Isabel will be volunteering.
- Teacher Appreciation Day- *discussion tabled to email conversation*
- *May Executive Committee meeting- suggested that it be held on May 10th at 6:30 pm at the Vue Restaurant (in support of the fundraiser being held that night)- Marisa will survey members and get back*
- *Denise suggested that by-laws be amended to reflect that a teacher who is not also a district parent cannot serve as PTO President & that the Treasurer be an appointed position and not be filled by a teacher*
- *Dr. Licopoli suggested that the Teacher Union President be invited to sit on PTO Executive Committee*
- BOE Candidate Forum- possibly 3 or 4 candidates running- petitions are due by 5:00 pm on 4/26- Debra McLeod will provide us with candidates' names once they have been confirmed, forum will take place from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on May 1st, Lisa Cohen from the League of Women Voters will moderate the forum, candidates will draw lots to see who go first, Denise & Bob will serve as time keepers (Denise will make requested color-coded folders), 3x5 index cards & pens/pencils will be provided by PTO for attendants wishing to ask questions, candidates & those wishing to ask a question should arrive by 6:30 pm. Discussion ensued regarding questions for candidates. Marisa will email candidates to advise them of the forum.
- The Emerald Peek is organizing a concert with Svet, world renowned Violinist who performed on America's Got Talent, at the Paramount on May 30th. If enough funds are raised, Peekskill Performing Arts Department will receive \$2,000- of which the PTO will be given \$500 for serving as the fiscal agent. District is unable to promote purchase of tickets therefore assistance is needed. *Tickets are \$5 each- anyone interested in purchasing one/some can contact Marisa.*

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will *tentatively* take place at the Vue Restaurant at 6:30 pm on May 10th. Meeting Adjourned at 9:03 pm.