

3/7/16 PTO Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

Present: Denise Lopez, Margery Rossi, Ha Wallace, Robert Brownell, Vernita Mosley, Liz Lazo, Mia Shervington, Branwen MacDonald, Jennifer Fowler (*Oakside*), Colleen Hardiman (*Woodside*), Luz Gonzalez (*Woodside*), John Wells (*Uriah Hill*), Maria Stratigeas (*Uriah Hill*), Al Ferony (*Hillcrest*), Crystal Hernandez (*Hillcrest*), Naima Smith Moore (*PKMS*), Griselda Reyes (*PHS*), Josephine Williams (*PHS*), Marisa O’Leary

Minutes:

Branwen made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2/1/16 Executive Committee meeting, and it was seconded by Isabel. Minutes accepted unanimously.

President’s Report:

- Candy bar sales are going on at every school- Denise has Woodside’s bars
- Harlem Wizards game will take place on May 20th- flash sale on tickets (only for Peekskill students) will take place on 4/23- first 100 tickets will sell for \$10 each

Treasurer’s Report:

- \$2,955 made in Performing Arts Department gear sales
- Recently received \$6,000 Lifetouch Pictures commission check (this is \$2,000 less than we had projected but other fundraisers have made up for that loss in anticipated funds)
- No other planned expenses other than Cultural Enrichment & Field Trip costs
- Amazon Smile needs to be used more- currently have only earned \$24.36 (this could be because the percentage earned per purchase is very minimal)
****It was suggested that a flyer advertising Amazon Smile, Stop & Shop A+ Rewards & Box Tops programs be created and distributed at Kindergarten registration & screening as well as through the registrar’s office**

**Please see attached income statement and balance sheet

SEPTO’s Report:

- Basketball clinic will take place on April 30th from 12:00 – 1:30 pm at the PKMS gym. Program open to all k – 12 Peekskill students with an IEP or 504 plan. Flyer is available on website.

- April 5th- Sheryl R. Frishman, Esq. will be speaking on *Preparing For the Future When You Have a Loved One With Special Needs* at 7:00 pm in the high school library

Committee Reports:

Advocacy:

- Please click on the Support and Advocate for Our District link on district website & Peekskill Community for Schools Facebook page- this will assist with advocacy efforts to reinstate \$16 million dollars previously promised but not disbursed to the Gap Elimination Adjustment as well \$22 million lost in Foundation aid
****Isabel will add the link to the PTO website and Facebook page**

Communications:

- Email Isabel with any website updates
- Trying to determine best way to reach prospective parents
-PTO info will be included in packet mailed home over the summer to kindergarten & 1st grade parents, should also be available at kindergarten registration & screening, and district registrar, Francisco Medina (ext. 246 at Uriah Hill number), should have the information in both English and Spanish to include in school registration packet

Cultural Enrichment & Advocacy:

- Committee would like to see increase in number of authors/illustrators in schools- who should contact be made with at school to help coordinate?
 -Uriah Hill- Director
 -Woodside- Librarian
 -Oakside- Librarian
 -Hillcrest- Principal
 -PKMS- Librarian
 -PHS- English Department, Mr. Nube

**Please see attached committee report

Finance:

**Please see attached report

Fundraising:

- Harlem Wizards Game will take place on May 20th at PHS, doors open at 6:00 pm, game starts at 6:30 pm. April 20th- Wizards will be coming to Woodside, Oakside, Hillcrest & PKMS for 20 minute- meet & greets with the students to build enthusiasm/interest for the

game. Due to their limited time at each school they would ideally like all students together in one place for assemblies. Wizards will be providing a promotional DVD that can be looped on public access channel & Dr. Hyacinthe has agreed to play it on closed circuit at the high school. Tickets can be purchased online, but there is a .99 surcharge for doing so. Court side plus packages will be available for \$35- includes court-side seating, 10 minute meet & greet with Wizards, signed photo, mid-court interaction & \$15 discount on jerseys (maximum of 50 court-side tickets available). **We need a team- must give Wizards our list of players by March 20th- need 25 people (approximately 4 people per school- can be staff or parents).** We can build on event- have marching band perform, national anthem sung (Crystal volunteered to sing), etc. **Also looking for event sponsors (names/logos can be added to the back of t-shirts, as well as staff to donate tickets for students who cannot afford to attend.** Kohls will be sending 5 volunteers to help with game, which qualifies us for their \$500 grant.

- Stop & Shop A+ rewards- we have made \$804 thus far
- Committee met with Lifetouch, Class Act & Irvin Simon re: 2016-2017 district contract. Class Act selected- we will receive 25% of gross sales, and a \$1,000 signing fee for our 2-year contract. Company has more staff to assist, bilingual photographers & offers a sibling discount (full price for first 2 children, additional child free). Cannot order online, as this would result in higher prices. Contract will be signed this week and then Gary from Class Act will call schools to schedule their picture days (high school has their own photographer with the yearbook- photographs will be taken on 3rd day of school).

Volunteering:

- Compiling list of district-wide volunteer tasks, then creating online sign-up sheets
- Woodside TA has volunteered to help develop a pilot class parent program (other districts recruit class parents over the summer & offer training)

**Discussion about the need to clearly define role of a class parent. Parents would like a class contact list to facilitate communication with other parents. In other districts class parent is responsible for distributing PTO information to other parents in class. Need to think about activities that parents can be involved with that do not require them to be at school.

Building Reports:

Uriah Hill:

- Working with the Cultural Enrichment & Field Trip Committee to bring enrichment programs into school
- Candy bars have been selling
- Pre-K registration taking place in April

Woodside:

Please see attached report

Oakside:

- Pennies for Patients (funds support children with lymphoma & leukemia)
- Oakside's Got Talent, this Friday, 3/11 at 6:00 pm
- Reading is Our Super Power program going very well- amazing professional development provided by teachers
- New guidance counselor- doing a great job with classroom visits and PBIS assemblies

Hillcrest:

- Snowball was a big hit!
- Successful Black History month celebration- 2 grade-level assemblies (1 class put together a play)
- PBIS system has been boosted by new guidance counselor
- This Thursday, 3/10 at 7:00 pm is the 4th grade band concert
- Getting ready for state testing
- Music In Our Schools Month K – 12 concert- March 29th at PKMS. 450 of 520 tickets have been sold to date. Will live stream show. Art exhibit will be up by the main entrance. **Parking is an issue- Crystal will follow up with Dr. Fine & Mr. Lewis to develop a plan (possibly get a bus to shuttle attendees).**
**funds raised from concert and performing arts gear sales will be used to support the 2016-2017 goal of offering a music-based Cultural Enrichment performance at each school

PKMS:

- March 30th grade 7 ICT Class going on field trip to UN
- Boys and Girls Who Rock/Living Legacy Awards- March 31st at 7:00 pm
 1. **Scholarship Award:** Gloria Blackman, Thomas Doughlin, Bridget Holloman
 2. **Service Award:** Hon. Reginald Johnson, Patrick Buckiewicz
 3. **Business Award:** Sunny Cover- Peekskill Coffeehouse
 4. **Arts Award:** Wilfredo Morel, Andre Rainey
 5. **STEM Award:** Ed Jones, Janice Reid
 6. **Trailblazer Award:** James Taylor
 7. **Partners & Supporters Award:** Sylvia Adams, Daryl Francis, Z-Recording Studios
 8. **PKMS Boys and Girls Who Rock:** Stefon Dabbs, Malachi McDonald, Kendall Cousins, Tania Flores Candia, Keosha Smith, Miranda Santos, Azaria Johnson, Mariam Osei Poku, William Ustick

**drama class will be presenting, steppers will be performing & staff has a special surprise for everyone

- Twilight Event (6th graders) will happen after state tests

High School:

- Hudson Valley Shakespeare Collaboration- Freshman Academy students collaborating with a group of HVSF teaching artists in a series of weekly workshops- students will participate in creative exercises to prepare for production of *A Mid-Summer's Night Dream*
- This week a series of World Language celebrations- students will watch international films, sample diverse foods, participate in cultural dances & wear traditional costumes
- National Honor Society/National Mathematics Honor Society installation ceremony on March 16th
- April 29th- Operation Prom at Westchester County Center (Macy's has donated over 3,000 new dresses)
- On 3rd box of chocolates!
- Environmental Awareness/Gardening/4-H Club- purpose is to develop students' awareness of how human decision and activities have had a profound effect on the physical & living environment; develop students' sense of responsibility- civic pride in their community; to develop a better understanding of the importance of sustainability as a way of life and how this impacts the environmental- positively or negatively
 1. Requesting PTO financial assistance with the purchase of 2 cherry trees for Arbor Day Celebration (Mrs. Williams will provide an estimate for the cost), as vision is to one day have the walk-way to the high school line with cherry trees
 2. Also requesting funding for Environmental Club's participation in STARR (State Teen Action Representative Retreat) program & Cornell Career Expo- Marisa advised these programs should be processed through BOCES coser

Superintendent's Report:

N/A- Dr. Fine in Albany

Old Business:

- PTO-sponsored dance policy: if school is requesting assistance with refreshments, decorations and beverages, a \$5/student fee required; if school is requesting assistance with only decorations and water, a \$2/student fee required.

- Family Fun Day- tabled, Isabel will email volunteer & task details from 2015 event, and then vote will take place
- Purchase of digital translation system- seems like a good idea to better engage Spanish-speaking parents, but questions regarding where it would be kept, who is qualified to interpret (Marisa will ask Dr. Fine if any faculty are), need for input from district's sound person. Further discussion tabled until June.

New Business:

- Post on Peekskill Community Network Facebook page about PKMS students littering on Elm Street properties. PKMS & PHS already addressing character education & civics, and will continue to do (use this specific example as well as defiantly walking in streets where cars are driving)
- April Executive Committee meeting need to discuss format for the moderator at the BOE Candidate Forum

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting is April 4th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marisa O'Leary, PTO Secretary