

Peekskill CSD PTO Executive Meeting
August 2, 2017

Present: Marisa O’Leary, Liz Lazo, Robert Brownell, Mia Shervington, Eric Rekstra, Yolanda Guardino, Ha Wallace, Denise Lopez, Margery Rossi

Motion to accept minutes from last meeting – MSA

PTO Meeting Schedule: *(Note that there were several changes due to conflicts with school events)*

Executive 9/18, 12/4 & 3/5

General Meetings:

10/12 – Meet the PTO!

11/9

1/4

2/1

3/1

4/12 – Literacy Night-Author Event/Book Fair

5/7 – Candidate Forum

6/14 – Officer Elections

Trunk or Treat 10/28

Wizards 1/12

PTO Volunteer Recognition Event 6/18

Planning for General Meetings

October – Meet the PTO

Need to push out information regarding events – need sign-up sheets!

Officer and committee chair introductions. Need to be enthusiastic!

Need to order and wear T-shirts/sweatshirts. If we place order, we need to pay up front.

We could then sell them at this meeting, homecoming, 5K, Alumni Night, etc..

\$6/each for t-shirts, \$10 each sweatshirt.

Set up a Name Game – to encourage people to interact and find out more about committees. See Liz Lazo for details and ideas for ice breakers.

Child care – envisioned as being in the gym behind auditorium. We will need to set up break-out groups only in the auditorium.

Child care/entertainment – Yolanda runs PKMS student government.

April Kellam runs HS student government.

There is also the Interact Club, Mirna Santos and National Honor Society.

Mia is working to book activities during the meetings to increase the draw to the meeting.

Dance party – KidsBop/Ipod/Speaker, popcorn and water

Spellbinders – library storytelling group – make it a PJ party!

Translator sets – We will still need someone to wear the headset and do simultaneous translation.

Janice Reid will follow up to get them to work. Stay tuned.

Need to be clear about what our funds are used for so people understand why it is important to be part of the PTO.

Make a slide show to run behind us at first meeting

Class Parents – flyer to go home at the beginning of school year.

Speak at Meet the Teacher night. Some parents will continue this year from last year.

Make up comprehensive contact list with officers, committee chairs, etc. – **Jen**

Back to School Nights – do we try to get to every school? Yes but not to stand up and speak.

Give out raffle tickets with flyer to every parent. **Denise** will donate \$25 gift certificate for Applebees. Write up bullet point list to ask each principal to read.

Athletics Department needs to sort out who gets to sell concessions and how sales will be handled equitably at games.

Marisa will contact Adam Lodewick about getting permission to sell our wares at Homecoming.

5K – PTO has been asked if we would sponsor the 5K on 10/21/17 and serve as fiscal agent.

PEF is not responding to our inquiries about their status. SEPTO and PTO have not received funds from last year. Mary has reached out to Jeff to find out if PEF is functioning at all.

General Meeting Format

Presentation Idea – New Year’s Resolution Health/Wellness Focus on Puberty – parents of girls/parents of boys

Town Hall Discussions – need to identify discussion points

How can parents *actually* be involved in your school? E.g. Woodside Carnival

Recess/Downtime – how to build play & Down Time, Mindfulness, Movement in the school day?

Testing – what is it for, when is it? What are the options for parents?

What do they mean in different grades? What are teachers doing to reduce stress?

Homework – learning styles, how much is appropriate –

what are the guidelines for different grades?

Study skills & organizational skills for age levels

Invite Charles Potter back. His presentation and book was excellent!

Communication/Accountability – how do we ensure that we are accountable to each other?

How do we ensure honesty about issues that arise, especially between committees?

Let’s be honest about what we can REALLY commit to. And if we re-think and decide later that it can’t happen – be honest and direct in communications!

We need to be mindful about how much we take on. Take what we can handle. Need to think carefully about how to involve others and we need to choose judiciously

We need a virtual “binder” to pass along each year with “How to” sheets for each activity we offer – with contact information, timeline – before, during and after the activity.

Each committee will be responsible for writing up activities and posting in Google drive.

All agreed to make this a priority.

Name point people for each school.

Committees need to ensure that there are minutes and reports for all meetings!

Class Parents – need to develop a budget and discuss with Ha.

Old Business

PTO Meeting Reminder stickers – Mary Foster is supportive as long as it is not mandatory and we use common sense on putting the stickers on kids so their clothes aren't ruined.

BOE Representative – Branwen reported that the Board needs to vote on designating a board rep.

If this does not come to pass, we will designate her as the PTO rep on the Board.

Red Cross Babysitting Course – cost prohibitive. Mia is seeking other options.

New Business

Book Fairs – we met with librarians at the end of the school year – they are willing to take on book fairs but administration is not supportive of them doing this during instructional time.

We cannot support them either – too many volunteers needed so we will only do one book fair in April during our literacy event.

Direct Appeal letter – needs to be updated. Reference what we support: Special events – Wizards; Spirit Wear; Speakers, refreshments, in-school enrichment activities, concessions, PBIS awards.

Suggestions for this year:

Return to providing a scholarship for HS senior. We'd need to see what parent club did in the past – criteria and selection process.

Water fountains – might be a draw for Direct Appeal – teachers might respond to this as well.

Offer a PTO 8th Grade – community service award

Banners – for use in parades

Mascot with costume

Next meeting: September 18, 6:30 PM in the BOE Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,

Margery Rossi PTO VP

for Randi Alberino, Secretary