

2/6/17 PTO Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

Present: Rachel Rice, Trish O'Sullivan, Jenna Ferris, Jamal Lewis, Robert Brownell, Dr. Fine, Mia Shervington, Colleen Hardiman, Carmen Vargas, Isabel Pipolo, Liz Lazo, Ha Wallace, Jen Carbaugh, Denise Lopez, Marisa O'Leary

Meeting Minutes:

January 9, 2017 meeting minutes unanimously accepted

President's Report:

- Thank you everyone for your continued hard work
- Attended all committee meetings, with the exception of Communications, CE & FT and Special Events have the most members & are most successfully delegating tasks
- Currently reaching out to someone to inquire if she would be willing to Co-Chair Special Events, will report back when she's heard back

Treasurer's Report:

- Profit and Loss and statement and balance sheet submitted
- Class Act Photo profits from Woodside, Oakside, Hillcrest & PKMS total \$8600 (approx.)
- Expenditures for UH Parent Workshop were approved (once all funds have been exhausted we can revisit budget to see if more funds can be provided)

SEPTO's Report:

A SEPTO representation was not present therefore a report was not given

New Business:

- **General Meeting Presentations:** February will continue as district open house, March will feature cyber-bullying & internet safety, April will feature a budget & educational planning presentation with opportunity for parent Q&A/school-based discussions, May will feature information on social/emotional supports in schools as well as info on signs of anxiety in children/how best to support, and June will be dedicated to year-end evaluation, officer elections and building-based discussions

- **2017-2018 CE & FT Funding:** District has analyzed the budget, and will be able to absorb the \$25,000 that the PTO has provided to it the past 2 years to support CE & FT- all opportunities currently offered will be kept in place- takes fundraising pressure off of the PTO & will also eliminate the need to ask for \$10/student contribution per trip. CE & FT Committee will most likely morph into Special Events as many schools are not accessing the services offered by the committee.
- **PTO's Role:** Since PTO will not be fundraising to support CE & FT next year, need to rethink our role in the district. Ideas proposed: support academics, PBIS initiatives, parent workshops, community-based interactive social opportunities- need to have tangible outputs so that parents/staff have clear understanding of what PTO supports- suggested to advertise all PTO-sponsored events on schools' websites as well as PTO's- PTO website can include bullets or pie charts on school-specific expenditures
- **Suggested Future Presentation Topic:** Signs that your child may be using drugs, prevention ideas
- **Woodside Greenhouse:** Still waiting on SED approval, hoping that we can begin groundbreaking this summer, need to have a large community opening to thank contributors to the project, Dr. Fine has been in touch with Rotary to share status of project

Superintendent's Report:

- District proposing a resolution to BOE tomorrow (2/7) night which highlights that we are a welcome community of learners to ensure that all students, regardless of immigration status, feel welcome/included/safe- families are fearful of deportation, parents at UH have shared their concerns with Carmen (including plan in the event that they are deported and cannot pick child(ren) up from school), anyone with concerns re: family security should be referred to the building principal to ensure appropriate follow up takes place
- Lots of activities happened in Peekskill last week: Cultural Competence Town Hall event at the Youth Bureau, Student Art Show at HVCCA, First Tech Challenge- 1 student placed in the competition, students participated in Westchester Youth Conference
- Father John Higgins recently mentioned during one of his masses that Assumption is exploring submitting charter school proposal- Dr. Fine meeting with him on Thursday (2/9) to discuss facts; district currently collecting all data needed the last time we opposed charter school proposal
- Dr. Fine met with private school parents- information sharing re: services, programs & transportation ideas

Building Reports:

Uriah Hill- beginning stages of planning an indoor carnival, tentative date is Saturday, April 29th from 1-3:00 pm (Peekskill Basics kick-off and PHS drama production/senior citizens brunch also taking place that day)

Woodside- Snowball Dance will take place on Feb. 17th- 7 or 8 parent volunteers are needed and would like PTO's help supplies for 4 gift baskets (2 filled with school supplies, 2 with books) to be raffled off- can use \$500 allocation for this- Therese Wood Chang will complete and submit financial assistance request form

Oakside- No report, Staci has been sick

Hillcrest- Field Trip to Madden (Colonial Times) will be taking place- time set up for PTO to count collected student field trip contributions, Marisa will email Rachel the PTO financial request form

PKMS- All information submitted in building report, please be sure to check calendar to prevent scheduling conflicts with events that are not listed on the district calendar

PHS- DCC will be at Summit this Friday to conduct onsite instant admission, Summit students will be going to see Raisin in the Sun in March, also working on a Women's Summit

Committee Reports:

Special Events: Would like to offer a free screening of the documentary Screenagers (discusses how smart phone use, online gaming & other time spent on technology can affect our children)- time frame should coincide with March General PTO meeting on cyber-bullying & internet safety- **Dr. Fine will look into whether the district can cover the \$650 licensing fee (for student & parent viewing) and report back**

Fundraising: Will be running a Dutch Hill Farms spring flower bulb catalogue sale end of February/early March- goal is for each school to raise \$1,000 (200 bulbs per school- PTO will receive approx. 50% of sales), will encourage people to purchase bulbs to be donated to school gardens, **will also possibly reach out to Josephine Williams, PHS Environmental Club/4-H Club advisor, to see if her club members will help promote the sale**

Advocacy: Setting up BOE candidate forum (including reaching out to League of Women Voters to request a moderator), starting Get Out & Vote efforts – **Isabel has machine to make small vinyl sign with budget vote date to put on lawn signs**, CFE Walk on March 4th- timing might be difficult for us to organize another walk- **Dr. Fine will follow up with Maria Bautista from AQE**

Finance: Faculty Appeal has only brought in \$355, having issues with bounced checks- it was decided that we should always encourage cash payments but we cannot refuse check payments

Communications: Please email Isabel updates for e-newsletter & social media, going to try to staff kindergarten screening days

Class Parent: Will be supporting UH carnival & Woodside snowball dance, will be organizing a brainstorming session for next year- also hope to speak at staff meetings to promote the program and encourage participation

*Isabel shared feedback from 2 class parents: they would like more guidance on what a class parent can do, suggest creating a class list that can help facilitate better communication among parents and have teachers identify projects. Jen clarified that all class parents participated in an orientation where ideas for projects were shared as well as templates for creating class lists, and has requested that class parents share progress with one another. She is available to field questions. This year has been a learning process- Class Parent program culture needs to be developed/fostered.

Cultural Enrichment & Field Trips: Dr. Fine and Robin Zimmerman will be coming to the May committee meeting so that members can share feedback on CE & FT planning process- needs to be better streamlined as there does not seem to be a single point of contact at each school- multiple people planning/booking programs/trips- leads to breakdown in communication re: processes

Old Business:

N/A

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next meeting will take place on March 6th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marisa O'Leary, PTO Secretary

2/7/17