

3/6/2017 Peekskill CSD PTO Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Present: Isabel Pipolo, Jen Carbaugh, Branwen MacDonald, Mia Shervington, Robert Brownell, Ro Sibrizzi, Nancy Flaherty, Ha Wallace, Margery Rossi, Denise Lopez, Trish O'Sullivan, Dr. Fine, Marisa O'Leary

2/6/17 Minutes:

Minutes from the 2/6/17 meeting were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

- Thank you all for your continued hard work, it is appreciated
- In an effort to ensure continuity in leadership, officers' terms are staggered; Denise (President) and Marisa (Secretary) will be stepping down from their positions at the end of the school year- election will take place at the June General PTO meeting

Treasurer's Report:

- Great success with the picture days- we raised over \$1,000 more than was projected; Woodside and Uriah Hill will have Spring picture days as well
- PTO has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for a concert, featuring Svet from America's Got Talent, that The Emerald Peek Nursing and Rehab Center is organizing at the Paramount to benefit the Peekskill CSD Performing Arts Department

SEPTO:

- Basketball clinic will take place on March 25th - currently trying to recruit high school basketball player volunteers as well as players; there have been some challenges with getting information out to the out-of-district students; **Ro will send Isabel all of the event details to include in the PTO's e-newsletter**
- Special Olympics Time Trials will take place in Peekskill on April 22nd, Peekskill will have a team this year; Special Olympics could possibly be held in either Brewster or at West Point
- Please feel free to share Ro and Nancy's contact information should anyone be interested in speaking with SEPTO or learning more about the organization

Superintendent's Report:

- Senator Murphy signed onto letter supporting fully phasing in State Foundation Aid over 3 years; advocacy committee working to organize a call-in day to Senator Murphy's office to thank him and encourage him to remain strong on the issue
- Girls basketball game incident- detailed investigation into this complex matter has taken place, both children and parents are being held accountable for actions that resulted in an unsafe environment- learning experience and our response will hopefully serve as a model to other districts
- Screenagers (documentary about how technology affects children's development)- PTO has been able to acquire a license to screen the film at no cost (thank you Mia!), we were also selected to participate in the launch of a new program backed by a grant from Melinda Gates where we will be issued \$400 to be used toward refreshments and/or childcare (only 25 schools in the nation have been chosen to participate); we will screen 1 time for students and 1 time for parents (have to screen within 7-10 days of receiving the film; **parent screening can take place in the Ford Auditorium on Saturday, April 1st from 4-6:00 pm- it was suggested that the social worker from Margaret's Place lead group discussion after screening; Dr. Fine will speak with Mr. Lewis and Ms. Simon about offering student screening to LEAP students**)

Transitioning of Officers:

- Nominating Committee must be established- will include a Chairperson and minimum of 2 members
- **Nominating Committee should be named and presented at the April Executive Committee meeting**
- Announce at the May General PTO meeting that the committee is accepting nominations for President and Secretary
- Slate will be presented at the June meeting and a vote will take place
- **Voting structure will be decided by the Nominating Committee**

2017-2018 Structure/Role:

- Dr. Fine & Marisa emailed building principals to solicit their input on how our meeting structure and how the PTO can best serve their respective schools- only Mr. Arthur responded (suggested that meeting locations be rotated throughout the district, offer social presentations on issues such as raising healthy children, positive ways to communicate with your child, how do I assist my child with homework, I suspect my child may be using drugs, how to support my child without being overbearing, healthy eating, internet safety and immigration, also suggested offering parent workshops, consider student presenters, invite local politicians and community-based organization to speak, honor student achievements and combine PTO meetings with other events)
- **Assignments to follow up with principals in person: UH- Denise, Woodside- Jen, Oakside- Branwen, Hillcrest (Mary Foster)- Bob, PKMS- Trish, PHS- Margery; please be prepared to report out on these meetings at the April 3rd Exec com meeting**
- Suggested that we focus on bringing PTO General meetings back to PTO business

- Suggested that we identify fundraisers that will be implemented & funds from which will be divided equitably across district- if individual schools then want to raise additional funds can do so, but must “own” the fundraiser

Advocacy Efforts:

- May 1st at 7 pm BOE candidate forum will take place at Ford Auditorium- Trish will host and Bob & Denise will serve as timers
- Call-In Event- Branwen looking into best day to call Senator Murphy’s office to thank him for his support re: Foundation Aid and encourage him to remain strong in this effort; Denise will reach out to the President of PFA to request their support with the call-in; Branwen will get with the date (before March 13th) & script and asked that we solicit at least 2-3 other people to call as well
- Resurgence of a possible Charter School- Assumption missed the February application deadline therefore must likely will be submitting proposal in July; community outreach has been identified as an area in need of improvement for them in the past (this is their 4th time applying, Branwen FOILED previous documents related to previous applications/determinations); we all need to educate our friends & neighbors and a special push must be made to educate local business owners
- Need more positive reviews on Greatschools.org- everyone was tasked with posting a review, also suggested that we have laptops at the General PTO meetings where people can sit and post positive reviews
- Positive media postings in general needed- Laura Belfiore would like parents to write positive reviews on district social media; everyone was encouraged to tag the district in any positive school-related social media posts
- Look into what PTO can do to raise awareness around House Bill 610 (which proposed defunding special education, free lunch, etc.)

Spring Fundraiser:

- Dutch Mill Bulb Fundraiser catalogs will be dropped off at schools this week
- Art to Remember Fundraiser will take place at Woodside; Marisa asked Vernita & Indiana to reach out to Dawn Hoagland to discuss logistics

New Business:

- Eileen Alvarez, PKMS Science Teacher & advisor for the National Junior Honor Society, submitted letter on group’s behalf requesting assistance (approx.. \$150-\$200) for refreshments induction ceremony on April 25th from 7-8 pm.- was approved. Denise will reach out to Yolanda to see if she can staff and also to clarify if she is in charge of 8th grade dance or Margery
- Staff Appreciation- it was decided that the PTO will once again offer lunch ½ turkey sandwiches & ½ vegetarian to accommodate the feedback we received last year), would like to engage the class parents to assist in making desserts, and/or assisting with serving lunch

- PTO will staff the kindergarten screening, June 10th from 9 am – 12 pm at Woodside, to conduct outreach to incoming parents
- It was agreed that the PTO will sponsor an immigration forum for community members (will entail a “know your rights” discussion, immigration law vs. policy, etc.)
- Follow up discussion needed on single point of contact for volunteers, or if anyone expresses an interest in volunteering

Old Business:

- Neither PTO & SEPTO have received their respective portion of proceeds raised from the 5K, Marisa will follow up with PEF
- It’s unclear if Spring book fairs have actually been booked with the elementary schools, Marisa will follow up with Rich Sullivan
- PTO would like to sell concessions at the Music in Our Schools Month Concert, Denise will reach out to Crystal Hernandez to coordinate

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Marisa O’Leary, Secretary

Peekskill CSD PTO