

1/20/16 Peekskill CSD PTO General Meeting

Minutes

Present: Vernita Mosley, Robert Brownell, Rosa Carlos, John Wells, Rosa Yanza, Al Feron, Ha Wallace, Mary Foster, Racquel Lucas, Rosa Quizhpi, Manuel Arevalo, Digna Zhagui, Sonia Lopez de Romero, Julia Matute, Olga Guzman, Erica Martin, Ken Martin, Mia Shervington, Christopher Malanson, Lise Prawn, Denise Lopez, Dr. Fine, Marisa O'Leary, Assistant District Attorney Laura Forbes

**Attendees list includes names of individuals who signed in

Presidents Report:

PTO is reformatting our general meetings- will now feature guest speakers on areas on interest to parents & staff. February meeting will focus on the district's open house month & will feature a musical performance by students. Altaris will be presenting at the March meeting- which will feature an overview of the district's safety plan.

If you have not received your Yankee Candle Fundraiser items, please contact us to make arrangements to do so. Running a district-wide fundraiser has proven to be challenging.

Guest Presentation: Assistant District Attorney Laura Forbes (Internet Safety):

The District Attorney's Office is the chief law enforcement agency for Westchester, and has branch offices throughout the county. The office handles every type of criminal case.

ADA Forbes is in the Investigations Division, and assigned to the High Technology Crimes Unit.

Online Exploitation of Children:

- No such term as "cyber-bullying" in penal law
- If a child, or adult, has a false social networking profile set up on them- this is legally considered forgery. Person responsible for creating the profile could be charged with a D Felony which can carry a 7-year state prison sentence
- Harassing behavior online- considered aggravated harassment if actor communicates knowing that the person will fear for his/her own personal safety, or that of his/her family and/or property
- Email hacking or using a false email address- also considered forgery and actor could be charged with a D Felony

- Terrorist threats- law enforcement must act on it- adults can be charged with D Violent Felony, which could result in a prison sentence
- SWATting- occurs a lot in the gaming community- targets those who “livestream” their game play over the internet to fans & in-game rivals- if gamer is able to ascertain the personal information of a rival, by locating their IP & residential address, he/she will call in a dangerous threat to law enforcement & watch as the “livestreamer’s” house is forcibly entered by police- considered D Violent Felony
- Upskirting- people use camera phones to take unsolicited “salacious” photos- unconsidered unlawful surveillance

Applications that are especially problematic:

- **Kik**- app for mobile device that allows online messaging with friends and relatives, doesn’t require other person’s cell number for use- just username
- **Oovoo**- video messaging app (kids using in lieu of Facetime), kids under the age of 11 are not permitted to use, 3rd party can cut into conversation, also has the capability of only one-sided conversation (predator can say his webcam is broken, but give others verbal instruction on what he would like them to do)
- **Facebook**- not as popular amongst youth because so many adults use as well; however aggressive posting, threats and fake profiles continue to be issues- parents should be aware that kids may have a separate profile that parents aren’t aware of
- **Yik Yak**- similar to a bulletin board services- can see postings of people in a 1.5 radius, kids often think it’s anonymous, but it’s really not
- **Twitter**- can be used to upload videos through vine (false profiles, harassing videos)
- **Spring.ma/Askfm**- used to set up profiles & people can answer other poster’s questions and/or post comments
- **Instagram**- doesn’t require a real email address for use- a lot of scams happen because of this
- **Random Chatting Apps- Omegle, Chat Roulette, Stranger Meet Up**- used to post a profile, looking for similarly situated people
- **Tumblr**- random bulletin board service- DA’s office seeing it used to post child pornography
- **Youtube**- used to post harassing or threatening statements about others
- **Snap Chat**- app where kids think they can post photo it is then automatically destroyed after a short period of time- image can be screen-shot or someone else can take a pic of the image before it is “destroyed”
- **Periscope**- can be used to upload live feeds on social media sites- allowing people from around the world to watch & communicate
- **Slap Cam**- website- person will walk up to someone, slap them while videoing it, and then upload it

- **Gaming-** Can have open conversations- people not always who they are presenting themselves as

How to Protect Your Kids:

- Talk to them!!
- Secure your devices- no phones after a certain time, look at your child's device, keep data plan low, no need for a tablet with a data plan- consider just wi-fi, secure computer- keep it where you can see it, if child has a smart phone be the keeper of the Apple ID or google password that way he/she cannot download an app, if child has a social networking page have an agreement with them that you can follow them- be sure to review all of your child's "friends" & followers
- Tell kids that their summer employment, college admission, college financial aid & future employment can all be affected by social media posts
- If you see a problem- do not delete accounts- call the police department (DA's office has a very good working relationship with the Peekskill police), and provide them with as much documented details/information as possible- screen names, capture screen shots/conversations- can also report information to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (missingkids.org)

Respectfully Submitted,

Marisa O'Leary

PTO Secretary