

10/21/15 Peekskill CSD PTO General Meeting

Minutes

Present: Heather Amabile, Paola Monsalve, Trish O’Sullivan, Nancy Flaherty, Vernita Mosley, Jimmie Mosley, Alberto Velez, Toya Will, Randi Alberino, Kenica Suarez, Julia Matute, Favianna Huertas, Arianna Hurtado, Adriana Ariza, Gloria Minchala, Ro Sibrizzi, Ramon Fernandez, Robin Hayward, Colleen Bravato, Heather Norman, Ana Cruz, Margrethe Dasig, Indiana Davis, Richard Sullivan, Earline Harris, Therese Wood-Chen, Rosa Quizphi, Maria Figueroa, Colleen Hardiman, Victoria Malanson, Cassandra Hyacinthe, Jamal Lewis, Manuel Axiualo, Sonia Lopez de Romero, Yolanda Guardino, Justin Kontos, Belle Ritter, Jacqueline Liburd, Commita Matardo, Louis Taveras, Mia Shervington, Marisa O’Leary, Ha Wallace, Isabel Pipolo, Branwen MacDonald, Robert Brownell, Rita Rosa-Gomez, Denise Lopez, Sam Ali, Dr. Fine

**Attendees list includes names of individuals who signed in

Presidents Report:

Denise advised that the goal of creating one unified district PTO is to streamline our efforts in volunteering & fundraising. Work will be done through 7 functional committees- Advocacy, Communications, Cultural Enrichment & Field Trips, Finance, Fundraising, Special Events and Volunteer Coordination. We hope our new structure will help each school & all parents to have more involvement. Yankee Candle Fundraiser currently running has been extended until Tuesday, October 27th. All orders placed will be delivered before Christmas.

Treasurer’s Report:

Projected expenses for 2015-2016:

- Busing for field trips: \$5,465
- Enrichment programs & field trips: \$14,332
- PTO operating expenses: \$6,000
- Graduation gifts to students: \$2,500

Total Projected Expenses: \$28,297

Projected income for 2015-2016:

- Start-up funds from individual PTOs: \$10,000
- Net profits from district book fairs: \$3,200
- Lifetouch photos: \$9,000

- Direct appeals (parents & faculty): \$2,000
- Yankee Candle sales: \$8,000
- Donations from businesses thru ad sales & Kohl's Associates in Action: \$2,000
- Art to Remember sale: \$3,000
- Collections from students to offset Enrichment programs & field trips: \$7,000
- Other social events/fundraisers: TBD

SEPTO:

SEPTO (Special Education Parent-Teacher Organization) also holds monthly meetings. Last night was their annual Meet & Greet event. The following presentations will be taking place:

- November 10th an attorney will be speaking on transitioning into adulthood
- January 5th OPWDD (Office of persons with developmental disabilities) will be speaking about "front door process" and transitioning
- February 9th Behavior management (open to all)
- April 5th an attorney will be speaking on the guardianship process
- May 5th an Occupational Therapist from Westchester Institute for Human Technology will speaking about the use of technological devices to assist in communication
- June 7th is SEPTO's annual Differences Day at Hillcrest

All funds raised through SEPTO are used to cover guest speakers, provide grants to service providers (i.e. apps for children with disabilities, rocking chair for classroom, Hillcrest workshop to deal with sensory issues, etc.), 2 scholarships to students with IEPs or 504 plans who are continuing their education.

Please check the website for information.

Currently trying to arrange for a mimicking of the Backyard Sports Program.

Committee Reports:

Advocacy: Committee has yet to meet. General philosophy for committee is to band together as a group to advocate for issues that affect our schools, and to empower ourselves as a community. Would like to assist in voter registration, as well as getting more people out to vote.

Communications: New website has been created- www.peakskillpto.org. We also have a Facebook group- if you are a member of the group you can also post information. We now also have a Pinterest account- idea is to allow for information sharing on things like classroom projects. A Twitter account is coming soon. Currently working to build email contact list. This committee is responsible for the creation & distribution of all PTO flyers- need help with this.

Cultural Enrichment & Field Trips: Committee is currently reviewing all programs & trips offered last year to evaluate their value & decide whether or not they will be continued. Have

members who are working with faculty of all elementary schools but still need representation for PKMS & HS. Other members are working on researching local enrichment programs that can be brought to the district for free. Funding for these programs/trips comes from NYS reimbursement program thru BOCES (district is reimbursed 58% of amount spent on such programs), district funds, PTO funds & parent contribution. Next meeting will take place Nov. 19th at 6:30 pm at PKMS library.

Fundraising: Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in PKMS library. Goal of the committee is to streamline fundraising throughout the district. Yankee Candle sale has been extended to October 27th. This Saturday, October 24th Forno's Pizzeria will donate 10% of sales, between 11:00 am – 10:00 pm, to Peekskill if you mention our name when ordering. Halloween Dance happening on Friday, October 30th at PKMS from 7-9 pm for 6, 7 & 8th graders. Will be hosting age appropriate movie nights (can't charge admission to view movie but PTO can charge for refreshments). Also looking to hold a benefit concert in the PKMS auditorium. Passive fundraising will be taking place through the following programs:

- Stop & Shop A+ Rewards- for every \$1 you spend, your designated school earns 1 point, program only runs for 6 months- please register your rewards cards
- Target RedCard- 5% of purchases donated to designated school (card entitles owner to free shipping, additional 30 days to return purchases)
- Modell's- percentage of sale is donated back to school when discount coupon presented
- AC Moore & Michaels also offer similar programs
- Amazon Smile- you can elect to have .5% of total purchase donated to school

More information about these programs can be found on support.peekskillpto.org.

**Parent suggested that we reach out through Latino businesses (i.e. La Placita)

Box Tops- Box tops can be found on all General Mills products. Once you've collected 10, please send in to your child's school. PTO will be collecting now until March, as they can only be submitted twice a year. Money earned from box tops goes directly to district account, but it can be used to offset busing costs for field trips. Discussion ensued regarding whether collection should be tracked by individual or by classroom collection- tabled for next committee meeting.

**Parent inquired if PTO is tracking participation numbers in corporate programs (i.e. Amazon & Target) as these numbers could be used when applying for corporate grants.

Volunteer Coordination: Only way to make things happen is to have more people volunteer- not just during the day but also with evening and weekend events. Please come to a committee meeting (next meeting date & time will be posted on website) or email Isabel (communications@peekskillpto.org) your skills & talents that we can put to use. All interested in volunteering must complete a district parent volunteer application and submit to your child's principal. Once your application has been approved, you will need to have your license scanned

through the Raptor system each time you enter a school to volunteer. If you volunteer more than 10 times in one year, you are required to be finger-printed.

Dr. Fine's Presentation:

Tonight is a pioneer night. We're aligning our pre-k – 12 school system, and PTO. Committees mentioned are dedicated to all students, and will serve as a vehicle to target our passions and work. Please be mindful that this is a process.

District is committed to education & inspiring all students by providing an environment characterized by the spirit of excellence. Currently promoting the Attendance Matters Campaign, which is both a national & state initiative. District goal is to have a 100% graduation rate by 2020, 100% literacy at grade 3- accomplishing this through Growth mindset, alignment & expectations, lighthouse classrooms and school leadership teams.

District is expanding its use of social media & public communications. Peekskill videos can be accessed on the district website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marisa O'Leary

PTO Secretary