

**Peekskill CSD PTO  
Committee Annual End-of-Year Evaluation Form**

Submission Date: 6/13/19

Month & Year: June 2019

Committee: Advocacy

Highlights of events/processes that worked well this year:

**\$2.4 million increase in Foundation Aid as a result of Advocacy work!!!**

Saturday Academy was a great platform to engage parents/community members  
Much improved partnerships with PCSD, PEF, AQE and NAACP for advocacy  
Built relationships with legislators and local elected officials;  
Senators Harckham, Mayer, Jackson & Stewart-Cousins all visited PSCD  
and were very impressed with our advocacy efforts  
(Harckham even bought a PTO sweatshirt!)  
We are recognized as organized & effective  
Letter writing campaign done in partnership with community, parents,  
district staff & students - first time for such a comprehensive approach  
Our trip to Albany for Education Advocacy Day (2/11/19) was an effective partnership  
between PCSD Board of Ed, staff, PTO, PEF and a student; well prepared & organized

**BOE Candidate Forum**

LOWV declined to moderate due to a lack of competition for the seats  
but we felt that what we did worked well.

**Parent Center**

Developed relationship with our new Family & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Celebrated Grand Re-Opening

**Budget Vote**

Budget passed with 79% approval; lawn signs helpful

Areas in need of improvement & suggestions on how to make improvements:

**Parent/Family Engagement**

Tenets 5 & 6 - What are the long-term vision steps to make community schools  
a reality?  
Grow the Parent Center Workshop offerings to make it a hub for families  
How should we coordinate meetings of this committee with  
the Community Engagement (Tenet 6) committee meetings?

**Saturday Academy Volunteers**

How can we broaden the vision for volunteers to make it sustainable?  
What is the long term role for PTO members?  
How might PCSD include middle & high school students *and their families*  
into the vision for Saturday Academy in the future?

As of 6/5/17

Should this committee continue next year in its current form? Why or why not? If not, what changes are recommended?

Yes, although more committee members would mean that we could do more.

We'd like to capitalize on processes we established this year with a calendar of activities for what needs to be done each month. We will work on this project over the summer. Having anticipated activities clearly laid out over the course of the whole year may make it easier for others to join in committee activities. We live in hope.

We expect to have 4 Advocacy Committee meetings next year; balanced with the Tenet 6 Meetings. Much of what we do as a committee can be accomplished by way of phone and email. Few meetings are necessary.

Proposed itemized committee budget for upcoming school year:

**We request that our \$500 budget remain the same for next year.**

We anticipate the following expenses, some of which are fixed, some unclear:

League Of Women Voters Moderator - BOE Forum	\$75
Education Advocacy Day Trip to Albany	\$75
Replacement Lawn Signs	
Printing - advocacy letters	

Any other pertinent information necessary for planning:

**Questions we discussed:**

A healthy democracy requires competition for elected positions. Do we have a role to play in encouraging candidates to run for BOE seats?

Voter turnout for Budget & BOE Candidate voting was extremely low. What is the message of such a low turnout? How might we encourage more voters to exercise their right to vote for the school budget and board?

Submitted by: Margery Rossi, Eric Rekada & Maria Olivier-Flores

Margery Rossi 5/29/19 8:21 PM

**Comment:** +molivierflores@peekskillschools.org +rekeda@gmail.com

I recommend that we schedule PTO Advocacy meetings in October/November, January, March and May like this year. October/November to plan out Foundation Aid advocacy as needed. January & March to handle ongoing business. May to do end-of-year evaluation and planning for following year. If that works for you, we can just pick dates and get them to Alma to include in the calendar.

Also - Maria - you could then plan your Tenet 6 meetings also.

\_Assigned to Maria OlivierFlores\_