

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee/Building Report Form

Submission Date March 7, 2019 Month & Year March 2019

Committee Advocacy

Items Requiring a Vote:

None

Items Requiring Discussion:

None

Items for Information Only:

Margery and Eric joined a video conference call with Martin McDonald, NAACP/MBK and Maria Bautista, AQE, on 1/31/19. We discussed strategies for bringing attention to the PCSD's need for fair funding. We decided, in the course of that call, to purchase a banner that asks "What would you do with \$14 Million?" to display at upcoming events, with the hope of engaging people in conversation about their hopes for the school district if we were to receive full funding from the state. Martin agreed to design and order the banner; the PTO Advocacy committee agreed to pay \$111 for it. In between events, it is stored in the PTO closet in the Administration Building.

Foundation Aid - Isabel designed a one page flyer to explain to the public what Foundation Aid is. (Thanks, Isabel!) We used it during the last PTO meeting on 2/7/19 and at Saturday Academy on 2/9/19 to increase our advocacy efforts. Laura wrote a letter that was signed by more than 180 members of the community asking our state legislators to fairly fund Peekskill Schools.

Maria Bautista supplied postcards asking the legislators to fund #schoolsnotjails which we also asked community members to sign. Ms. Bautista invited NY State Senator Robert Jackson of Manhattan - co-founder of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity more than 25 years ago - to Peekskill Middle School for Saturday Academy to lend his expertise and support. Young men from the MBK Black Diamonds Academic Success program met Senator Jackson, learned how to tell their own stories, and joined our advocacy efforts to encourage the public to sign letters and postcards; they have continued their efforts at other community events as well. Thanks, boys!

On Monday, 2/11/19, Margery traveled with her son, Luke Torres-Rossi, representing the student body, and Adriana Frega, representing PEF, to join members of the PCSD BOE, Dr. Mauricio and Robin Zimmerman for an Education Advocacy Day in Albany. We delivered copies of the signed letters and spoke to staff members for the Chairs of the Education Committee in both the State Assembly and the Senate. We also met with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and delivered copies of our letters to her. Members of the BOE met with Senator Harckham later that week locally in the Hudson Valley and delivered copies of our letters to him, as well.

Margery attended the Core Team Planning Day on 2/14/19, representing the PTO, for a Mid-Year Check-in on the PCSD's progress in meeting goals in the continuous improvement plan.

Members of the Advocacy Day team and PTO Committee Chairs were recognized at the BOE meeting on 3/6/19 with certificates and standing ovations. It is a pleasure to serve with such a committed and talented group of volunteers!

Submitted by: Margery Rossi

**Please be sure to include a budget for any financial requests