

June 10th, 2019, PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

BOE Conference Room, School Administration Bldg. 6:35 pm

Present: Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Mia Shervington, Margery Rossi, Meghan Sheldon-Brungard, Gregory N. Brescia, Kristin Jarvis, Isabel Pipolo, Vernita L. Mosley, Jen Carbaugh, Eric Rekada, Robert Brownell

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes Accepted

President's Report:

- **Staff Appreciation:** Each building was allotted \$300 that the PTO would spend on their staff. It was spent as follows: Uriah Hill-a love seat and two small chairs for their lounge; Woodside- a new table for their lounge; Oakside-funds put toward 10-minute massages for staff; Hillcrest-a new microwave and toaster oven; PKMS-staff t-shirts; PHS-a new microwave.
- **Reinvestment of funds raised:** Uriah Hill-\$1000 used to purchase gift bags for new incoming pre-k students; Woodside, Oakside, and Hillcrest all received \$1000 in supplies for art departments, \$500 for music, \$500 for technology, \$250 for physical education, and \$250 for recess items; PKMS-\$500 on Chromebooks for the Dream program, and \$500 for dinner for the MBK mentees and their mentors. Because a special request was made by the principal, an extension was granted until June 14th to advise what the remaining \$500 will be spent on; PHS-\$700 to Latino Culture Club, \$400 to Robotics Team, \$400 to Drama Club.
- **Streamlining of efforts within the district:** Enrichment money will go into events at Saturday Academy in order to tap into a bigger pool of participants and volunteer base. Special Events will put money into STEAM activities for all student age groups at Saturday Academy.
- **Parent Survey:** Only 3 people have participated in the survey thus far. Perhaps more will participate if it can be shared via the Peekskill CSD app. Laura has requested that we wait until the CSD survey is closed in order to avoid confusion between the two surveys. Paper surveys have been handed out at Woodside.
- **Juneteenth Parade:** Reminder to meet at 11:30 at Park Street AME Zion Church on June 16th. The parade starts at noon. Wear your Peekskill Pride red shirts.

Treasurer's Report:

- Report on google drive
- In general, fundraisers were more successful than originally budgeted, approximate amounts as follows: Direct appeal- \$1400 more; School photos- \$2000 more; Pride gear- \$2500 less; Book fairs- \$1500 more; Art to Remember- \$1600 more; Concessions- \$300 less. This is approximately \$2000 more funds raised than originally budgeted.
- A suggestion was made to include non-financial victories in the documents released to the public so that people are aware of how the hard work of the PTO has benefited Peekskill students, such as with class parents, enrichment and advocacy work.

2019-2020 Meeting Format/Schedule:

- The suggestion was made to only have one General PTO meeting (not including the BOE candidate forum, which would still take place) per year with bi-monthly Exec Comm. Meetings.
 - **Concerns were discussed.** Some teachers and building admins do attend the General meetings. The video recordings are shown on the public access channel but not at a predetermined scheduled time and unfortunately, they are not archived for access. Not

having a general meeting makes it seem that we are closed off to most of the district and making decisions without a chance for input from the community. **Suggestions were made.** Each Exec Committee member inviting someone who might be interested in being more heavily involved in the PTO to the Exec Comm. Meetings. Checking with each building for suggestions on how to reach out to more teachers as there are presently no teachers involved.

- **The decision was made** to have quarterly meetings. Dates as follows:
- **General Meetings:** Oct 10th, Kick-off meeting; Feb 13th, Black History Month event; May 11th, BOE Candidate Forum; Jun 11th, End of year evaluation and Elections
- **Exec. Committee Meetings:** Sep 9th, Nov 4th, Jan 6th, Mar 2nd, May 4th, and Jun 8th.

Summer Planning:

- PTO was invited to the district planning meeting. This will take place at the Staff Retreat on July 15th, time TBA (all day event).
- PTO summer planning meeting will be on July 8th from 10am-12N, location TBA.
- Marisa will advise if an additional August meeting will be required after the July meeting.
- **Committees should advise Marisa of their first meeting date by the end of this week so they can be added to the calendar. Later meeting dates can be TBA.**

Superintendent's Report: -not present

BOE update: - not present

PEF update:

- Working toward their annual meeting which will be held next month. Future meetings will be planned at that time.
- Still organizing structure: will be establishing committees, i.e. fundraising, grant, legal, event planning, etc.
- Will be setting donation and distribution guidelines with the goal being to use the money to help as many students as possible. Board will make decisions as to how money is distributed.

Committee Reports:

- **Advocacy:** We are very proud of the committee's hard work in helping to obtain **2.4 million dollars** in state aid for Peekskill. Margery questioned how many meetings advocacy would actually need as their work does not require many. They are waiting for a clear need to be shown by Maria Flores to determine Advocacy's role in regards to the Parent Center. Saturday Academy is more to be led by the district. With regards to Saturday Academy, we need ways to reach and engage PKMS and PHS students **and families**. There was an extremely low turnout for the BOE/school budget vote. Committee wants to figure out what that means and why people are apathetic. Does the PTO have a role in finding suitable candidates for the BOE?
- **Class Parents:** Approximately 10 new parents joined the committee. Two kindergarten parents will now chair the committee: Melaine Foster and Sarah Peterson. We welcome our new Chairs. **Marisa will share the google drive links and the Exec. Committee meeting dates with them.**
- **Communications:** Isabel and Kristin continue to work with Laura Belfiore. She has helped to develop beneficial relationships with district and administrators. It is a concern that there are few teachers that actively participate in the PTO. We need someone dedicated to handling the PTO social media accounts as Isabel cannot continue to do it. The Peekskill Parents and Teachers Facebook page will be dismantled due to low engagement and in an effort to streamline our social media accounts. Isabel will contact Ellen Gerace regarding getting student volunteers to make copies for the PTO.

- **Special Events:** Still having issues with lack of volunteers, Mia will coordinate with Maria Flores to do enrichment activities at Saturday Academy. Activities will be literacy based (authors), science-based (Mad Science), and Steam based (Lego Creators). The Adventure Bound game show should either be at the season kickoff or the end of the year. We will no longer be providing building level support for enrichment as we will be funding it at Saturday Academy.

New Business:

- Bullying: PTO can earmark money for anti-bullying programs etc., parent resources on steps to take if their child is being bullied/is bullying. As well as collaboration between the parents and the district.
Margery will follow up with Maria, re steps to take.
- The suggestion was made to start a concert attire donation closet.

Old Business:

- Nominations for PTO elections must be ready by Thursday. Blueprint for meeting format was discussed.

Adjournment: 8:31pm

Next meeting July 8th at 10 am (planning meeting for next year) location TBA