

## **January 06, 2020, PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**BOE Conference Room, School Administration Bldg. 6:30 pm**

**Present:** Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Sarah Peterson, Vernita L. Mosley, Heather Amabile, Kristin Jarvis, David Mauricio, Branwen MacDonald, Adriana Frega, Isabel Pipolo, Sandra Walton, Mia Shervington, Eric Rekada, Margery Rossi, Jenn Carbaugh (via phone)

### **Welcome/Introductions**

### **Acceptance of meeting minutes from Septemeber 9, 2019**

### **President's Report:**

- There were 22 events in Sep/Oct 2019. Thank you for all of your hard work and help.
- Concessions update: We will not be selling concessions and the basketball tournament as previously planned as Mr. Arthur has already approved PHS people to sell items. Mr. Arthur advised we could sell beverages as a compromise but there is too much work/logistics involved for PTO and not worth our effort. Dr. Mauricio offered to see if we can sell all items exclusively at least on one day of the tournament.
- The robotics competition is this Saturday. They are still looking for judges. PTO will sell swag.
- Book Fairs: We will not host a book fair at Uriah Hill and will instead hold one at the April Saturday Academy. Isabel will coordinate with schools to set up dates for their book fairs.
- Art to Remember: the artwork is already being worked on by students.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Report on Google Drive
- Profits from school pictures were less at PKMS and Oakside this fall than they were last year.
- We will try to get the word out that Art to Remember is a fundraiser and maybe more orders will be placed.
- For the remainder of the school year, all enrichment activities (whenever possible) must be booked through BOCES so as to use up the funds that are sitting in the account. Dr. Mauricio advised that BOCES also has printing services in case we could use the money that way.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

- Dr. Mauricio volunteered to remind Principals about using their PTO funds.
- There will be an announcement at the BOE meeting regarding the new after school program at the middle school. It will be funded by a 1.5 million dollar grant that will be similar to the former LEAP program. There will be enrichment and academic activities to reach all students. There will also be busing to central locations in Peekskill.
- There will be a conversational Spanish class starting Jan 22 for 8 weeks at PHS for parents. Please sign up early as there is limited space.
- Dr. Mauricio will be attending advocacy meetings with local legislators regarding money for PCSD. 25 students will be attending meetings with Westchester representatives.
- An into letter regarding Class Parents will be sent to the teachers to explain what class parents are and why they need one in hopes that more teachers will be involved in the program.
- There was a discussion of whether or not Class Parents should be fingerprinted. Alternatives are being investigated, such as a background check package through a security firm for \$13 per person. We also discussed differentiating between "visitors" and "volunteers" and how often they would be in the building/classroom. Class Parents would be there most frequently. The goal is to keep our students safe while still welcoming parents into the schools.

### **BOE update:**

- The Board is looking closely at curriculum, homework and recess policies. They are looking for feedback and suggestions from parents.

**SEPTO:** Not present

**PEF:**

- The wine tasting event was successful. They are investigating whether they can do a spring and a fall event as opposed to just 1 event.
- They have received 2 grant applications: one from Oakside and one from PHS
- They are giving \$500 to each building for culturally responsive literature.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Advocacy:** Report on Google Drive. They are refining their message about fully funding schools. They have letters for the public to sign that will end up in the hands of legislators regarding the funding of our schools.
- **Class Parents:** Thank you to Marisa and Dr. Mauricio for the letter to teachers and parents explaining the Class Parent Program. The letter will be signed by Dr. Mauricio, the PTO President and President of the Teacher's Union to show support of the program. Discussed adding a blurb on Superintendent's Briefing about Class Parents. A discussion was also had regarding communication between Principals/teachers and parents about the program. Marisa suggested that we have a separate meeting with building reps to discuss. Marisa will invite Principals to our March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to do problem-solving. Dr. Mauricio will talk to Principals between now and then to see what issues/suggestions they have regarding the Class Parent program.
- **Communications:** Report on Google Drive. Congratulations to Isabel for her contributions to the District's Public Relations initiatives award recognitions.
- **Liaison to Parent Resource Center/Parent, Family & Community Engagement:** Report in Google Drive. The Saturday Academy has been successful: over 2500 attendees so far this year. It is now possible to register online for classes offered at the Parent Center. There is a link on the PCSD Partnership page. Food was provided to families in need in Nov/Dec. They want to get the word out to benefit the community. The Parent Survey was more successful due to outreach.
- **Enrichment/Events:** Report on Google Drive. There were 43 responses from exit tickets at the last Saturday Academy. Some parents expressed that they would be willing to pay for after-school enrichment opportunities. A discussion about more streamlining between vendors/planners and participants was had. Mia requested help and support in finding authors for the April Saturday Academy.

**New Business:**

- General meeting on Feb 13th: The meeting will consist of an update from Committees, Dr. Mauricio speaking and then celebration/activities for Black History Month.
- Succession Planning: VP and Treasurer positions will both be available next year. The VP must be a current Executive Committee member. We would like to urgently find parents of younger children to move up the ranks of the PTO.
- A suggestion was made to offer ASL and finance 101 to our students. Also, congratulations on the award-winning essays written by Peekskill students on the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King.

**Old Business:**

- none

**Adjournment:** 8:40pm

Next meeting March 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Admin Building