

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

Submission Date: June 8, 2020

Month & Year: June, 2020

Committee: Advocacy

**Highlights of events/processes that worked well this year:**

This year, the Advocacy Committee worked in collaboration with the PCSD Administration and Board of Education on a cohesive plan for funding advocacy throughout the fall. We used the “Triangle Message” strategy to develop a single message, which formed the basis of all of our communication with local stakeholders, legislators, the governor’s office, etc.

It was very helpful to have Maria Olivier-Flores join our committee this year. She brings the perspective of parents with whom she meets, who may not have expressed their concerns directly to us.

We collected more than 300 letters from the community to send to our legislators which focused on the message: “Without equitable state funding, Peekskill will need to continue to do *more* with *a lot* less than our neighbors to educate and empower our children to reach their full potentials.”

Letters from PCSD staff/faculty and students were scheduled to be collected in early March; this did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We visited legislators in-district this year, rather than traveling to Albany for Education Advocacy Day. This gave us more time to meet with them and their staff – and we met directly with the legislators. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, our advocacy efforts were interrupted, and the results remain to be seen, as NYS has redirected massive spending to respond to the pandemic. We will be watching to find out what the results of this spending will mean for next school year, and will adjust our advocacy as needed.

Thank you to Laura Belfiore, Isabel Pipolo and Kristin Jarvis for helping us get the word out about our advocacy efforts this year.

The Board of Education Candidate Forum was postponed from its original date of May 11, 2020, due to the delayed election, and was held virtually on June 1, 2020. It was very successful in making the candidates’ positions on important issues available to the public.

Currently, Eric and Margery are serving on the PCSD Academic Re-Entry Committee, to offer recommendations to the district as plans are put in place for the 2020-21 school year. We are exploring 3 scenarios to determine how best to support students: in a completely virtual environment; in a fully opened on site school; or with a hybrid model that includes both virtual learning and some on site schooling.

As of 6/5/17

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

Given the realities of the state budget after the emergency spending needed to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, we expect that our advocacy efforts next year will need many more people involved, to ensure that our children do not unfairly carry the burden of even deeper cuts to their state aid. As the governor, legislature and state education department make information available, we will need to respond as quickly and assertively as possible.

In early spring, we opened a conversation with representatives of the local organization, Peekskill Walks, to discuss ways we could improve the experience of walking to school for students throughout the city. This conversation has been suspended; we will pick it back up again when possible.

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

Yes

**Proposed itemized committee budget for upcoming school year:**

Remain the same as this year, please.

**Any other pertinent information necessary for planning:**

None.

Submitted by: \_\_Margery Rossi & Eric Reveda\_\_

As of 6/5/17