

August 10, 2020, PTO Executive Committee Planning Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Present: Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Sarah Peterson, Eric Reveda, Kristin Jarvis, Adriana Frega, Mia Shervington, Jen Carbaugh, Heather Amabile, Sandra Walton, Margery Rossi, David Mauricio, Robin Zimmerman, Dan Callahan, Mary Foster, Laura Belfiore

Welcome/Introductions:

- Marisa thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting.

Superintendent's Update:

- Dr. Mauricio discussed options/considerations for the reopening of schools. The goal is to have people enter safely, with regards to both physical and social-emotional health. The following are some highlights; more detailed info will be available in the Town Hall on August 11th.
 - Temperatures will be taken upon arrival. Anyone with a temperature over 100° will be sent to a quarantine room and parents will be called to pick up the child.
 - Staff will be subject to a daily health questionnaire.
 - Students will be subject to periodical health screenings.
 - Social distancing measures of 6 feet will be followed; smaller rooms will have barriers to have 50% occupancy.
 - In the high school, desks will be covered in butcher paper which will be thrown out at the end of each class so that the desks will remain clean. In other schools, desks will be cleaned in between classes.
 - Aerobic activities as well as singing will require 12 feet of distance.
 - Classes will be held outside as much as possible
 - Hallways will have directional arrows. Staircases will be one-way.
 - The Westchester Co. Department of Health will be the lead contact tracer for the district. The district will also partner with community organizations such as Quest Laboratories, Hudson River HealthCare & Hudson Valley Hospital to provide testing.
 - The District will decide on closures as needed. Schools may close dependent on the situation. Multiple schools may need to close if siblings and family members are in multiple buildings.
 - All staff and students are required to wear masks all day except when eating or on a scheduled mask break (outside). Health exceptions can be made for a verified medical condition with Dr. Approval.
 - After the Town Hall, a survey will be sent out requiring a commitment from parents as to whether their child/ren will be starting in a fully virtual or hybrid model. This commitment will be for the first trimester.
 - With funds from BOCES, the district was able to purchase enough Chromebooks that we now have 1:1 per student, however high-speed Wi-Fi access remains an issue.
 - The District is looking into Wi-Fi hubs in all of the schools so that students can come at a scheduled time (sign-up will be required) with their Chromebook and sit in a socially distant set up at the school closest to their home. Hillcrest students will need to have someone over 16 years old to come with them. PKMS and PHS students can come alone.
 - 1200 mobile hotspots are estimated to be needed, the district purchased 400. A technology equity community coalition (comprised of PEF, NAACP, The Peekskill Coffee House, Chappy Manzer/Manzer's Landscaping & PTO) was created to help raise funds to meet this need. Any donations that come in thru the PTO will be funneled back into the district for the purchase of purchasing MiFi's.

Goals/Objectives for 2020 – 2021:

- The PTO was contacted by a citizen regarding activities for children throughout the community, in neighborhoods, organized by people in the community. PTO cannot sponsor these activities due to insurance regulations, but we can help publicize.
- “Destination Saturday Academy”: Possibly collaborating with Peekskill Recreation Dept. for activities. Planting trees throughout the city was suggested. **Margery will advise what Rec. Dept. says.**

PTO Structure:

- Committee work will be a team approach except for the Communications Committee.
- The Communications team will work as in previous years.
- Advocacy will be a huge undertaking this year. Margery and Erik will continue to be Co-Chairs and the rest of the Executive Committee will assist where needed. Advocacy and community building will require teamwork.

Election/Transition Plans for Treasurer & VP Positions:

- The Nominating Committee is Kristin, Margery, and Erik. Nominees will be posted on our site. There will be a write-in option as well.
- We will have people vote on the website and social media.
- Results will be announced at the general meeting in Oct.

Fundraising Plan:

- This year’s goal is \$5000, which will cover operating costs.
- We will have a virtual book fair in the spring with Main Street Books. Schedule TBA.
- Stop and Shop money is still going to the district. **Marisa will check to see if those funds can be used toward technology purchases via BOCES.**

2020 – 2021 Meeting Schedule:

- Executive Committee: Sep 14th, Dec 7th, Jan 4th, Mar 1st, May 3rd (BOE Forum), Jun 7th
- General Meetings: Oct 8th (kick-off and election results), Feb 11th (Black History), Jun 10th (Officer elections)

New Business:

- Fundraising by community people and organizations- the PTO is not involved in this.
- A suggestion was made to see if Optimum can provide city-wide free Wi-Fi service. Now is the time to take advantage of their poor optics due to the storm. Also to see if FIOS is willing to provide. The district would have to contact them.

Old Business:

- A reminder was given about Town Hall for August 11th.
- An inquiry was made as to the progress of the Parent Center building. **Marisa will ask and follow up.**
- Marisa asked any Executive Committee Members who are not planning to remain on the committee, to email her privately and let her know.

Adjournment: 8: 50 pm

- The next meeting will be held on Sept. 14th.