

## January 4, 2021, PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

### Virtual Meeting 6:30 pm

**Present:** Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Isabel Pipolo, Halle Chizmadia, Kristin Jarvis, Eric Reveda, David Mauricio, Mia Shervington, Heather Amabile, Jen Carbaugh, Meghan Sheldon-Brungard, Margery Rossi, Vernita L. Mosely, Sarah Peterson

#### Welcome/Introductions:

- Marisa wished everyone a happy New Year and thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting.
- Minutes from the December 7th meeting were accepted.

#### President's Report:

- Jen spoke to Class Act regarding school pictures. Outdoor pictures were an option. Dr. Mauricio would like to have the outdoor pictures in the spring. Each class will have 2 scheduled days to get photos taken. Hybrid students will have theirs taken during the day and virtual students will come after school. May would be a good month to do this.
- One school gave pushback on having to do the logistics since it is a PTO fundraiser. Dr. Mauricio advised he will speak to all building Principals to let them know he is supporting this event as PTO fundraisers benefit all students and schools.
- Mia suggested we get some tents to use in case of bad weather. **Marisa will reach out to local businesses with regards to the tents.** A point was made that there will have to be lighting in the tent.
- Marisa thanked people who signed up for the advocacy training on Jan 14, and 21<sup>st</sup>. She confirmed who will be attending the training.
- Marisa reiterated that we will not be doing the Art to Remember fundraiser this year but we will keep our relationship with them to do this fundraiser in the future.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Another \$600 was received in the direct appeal which brings the total to almost \$1400.00.
- \$70 was spent on operating expenses.
- Halle is still trying to get info on a new contract for the copiers. They have not billed us for the past 3 months.

#### February 11th General Meeting/Black History Month:

- Marisa brought up the subject of translation of the meeting. Upgrading her Zoom account would allow for a translator but would be logistically complicated. The translator would be utilized in a break out room and translate simultaneously. After much discussion, the simplest option would be to have the dialogue dubbed over in Spanish and send a link to the Spanish version to our Spanish speaking families. There were also suggestions made to translate any lyrics or poetry into Spanish and post a link in the chat to the documents.
- **Vernita will take the lead** in content/entertainment for this meeting. Some content suggestions were made, such as including something about the Harriet Tubman statue in downtown Peekskill and to use the speech that Mr. Arthur made at last year's graduation ceremony. Marisa will talk more with Vernita about ideas for the meeting.

### **Superintendent's Update:**

- Dr. Mauricio regularly has weekly or bi-weekly meetings with department leaders to keep the work of the Peekskill Promise moving forward.
- The Parent Center is almost ready to open. Once open, they will offer a technology boot camp for parents and will also be starting a GED program. Both of these will be in-person classes.
- Torpy Field construction is progressing and will open in the spring.
- Dr. Mauricio attends a weekly meeting with George Latimer regarding Covid. Peekskill City is currently at a 13.2% positivity rate.
- A return to hybrid learning is still planned for January 19<sup>th</sup>. This is subject to change depending on the positivity rate. Testing will start; this will determine when/if hybrid-learning can begin again.
- There is a plan to bring Kindergarten students into the building for in-person learning 5 days per week. When the ok is given, we are ready to start. Then both Pre-K and Kindergarten will have in-person learning 5 days a week.
- Survey Results: People appreciate open/consistent communication from the district. The district continues to follow the data to make the best decisions possible in a no-win situation.
- Vaccines: The state is behind in delivering vaccines. The first people to receive them will be medical personnel. Teachers will be in the next group along with EMT, Police, and Fire Fighters. The states need the Federal Government to help with logistics.
- State Testing: January Regents tests have been canceled. At this point, we are not sure if State Testing will take place. Dr. Mauricio does not think tests should be used for accountability purposes, only for diagnostic reasons.

**BOE Update:** Not Present

### **PEF Update:**

- PEF is planning during winter into spring. Meghan offered help if we need it.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Advocacy:** Thank you to Dr. Mauricio for his donation and to the anonymous donor who donated the money for the advocacy training on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Mauricio advised that money will be coming to NY State, he's not sure if any funding will be coming into the district. He thanked people who signed up to take the advocacy training as it is most important to get the funding to our district.
- **Class Parents:** Sarah met with parents from Uriah Hill to brainstorm. There will be a monthly social hour with the children. Google form surveys were sent out to parents. Teachers from Woodside made copies of the survey, so Sarah cannot track those results. She is getting the results from Oakside surveys and will share those with Heather.
- **Communications:** Last email engagement went up by 38%. No response from the district regarding whether the changes made to the graphic was ok to send out. The PTO graphic was ok to send. There was a discussion about how to get info out to reach more people.
- **Enrichment:** Mia followed up with the Wizards. Their virtual fundraiser is too expensive. Mia is meeting with Carmen and Maria this week regarding Saturday Academy.

### **New Business:**

- Dr. Mauricio was asked if our district was going to do any type of virtual concerts for the music students. He advised he will talk to the team about it. Suggestions were made for virtual art shows via video slide shows as well.

### Old Business:

- **Book Fair:** Main Street Books has been doing virtual book fairs. They send parents a code for the website, they order online and the books can be shipped to their home but there is a \$10 shipping fee. If they ship to one location in the district, shipping is free. Dr. Mauricio advised we can have the orders shipped to the Parent Resource Center. The orders come pre-packaged for each person, so pick-up should not be complicated. Main Street recommends running the fair for 10 days and end on a Sunday. Books can be delivered the following Thursday or Friday for pick up. Main Street also advised that they can arrange a free virtual author visit via live stream with a Q&A period. They suggested a grade-wide or building-wide read-aloud for that author. **Isabel will get a list of potential authors.** This might also work for a Literacy Event during a future Saturday Academy. There could be more than one author presentation. **Mia will talk to Maria and Carmen about this.** Main Street also recommended the option for people to round up their total at check-out to donate to the school libraries. Main Street will offer a 20% discount to Librarians on their purchases made with the donated funds.
- **Parent Survey:** only 1 response was received via social media. The survey was sent out again via email in Spanish and English, there were 29 responses, 20 of which were not PTO parents. 86% of the responders preferred the **peer discussion/support group** option. Marisa asked who would be comfortable facilitating the discussions, the results are as follows: **Marisa and Isabel - PKMS; Heather and Jen- Hillcrest; Nell, Kristin, and Erik- Woodside/Oakside; Halle-Oakside; Vernita-PHS.** Sarah will send a list of parents who expressed interest at Woodside once she gets the results from the Google survey form. A question was asked about a Spanish speaking group. Meghan will send the Spanish speaking FB page, “Peekskill Hispanic Community” to Heather to publicize there. **Marisa said she will check with someone who might be interested.** To foster connections and engagement between people, **we will also facilitate the read-alouds** for people who want to do that. **Jen said she will take the lead on setting up the FlipGrid** video for people to record their books. They can also send a video recorded on a different medium. The read-alouds will be posted during April and will be shown on the PTO website. A suggestion was made to have an individual FlipGrid for each building.

### Adjournment: 8: 30 pm

- The next meeting will be held on March 1st at 6:30 pm