

March 1, 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, Branwen MacDonald, Sarah Peterson

Welcome/Introductions:

- Marisa thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting.
- Minutes from the January 4th meeting were accepted.

President's Report:

- **Succession Planning:** Marisa gave a reminder that both the President's and Secretary's terms are up at the end of the current school year. She asked for someone to come forward, especially for the President's position. If no one from the Executive Committee is interested, someone from outside the Committee will be President. This will result in a steep learning curve. Marisa encouraged anyone who may be interested to reach out to her.
- **Nominating Committee:** Marisa requested that the people who are interested in being on the Nominating Committee (Eric, Margery, and possibly Kristin) put out a public plea for non-Exec. Committee participants. The job entails: receiving names of interested people, reaching out with questionnaires, and selecting candidates for the slate. The Communications Committee will put something out for interested parties to email Secretary@peekskillpto.org by early May.
- **Parent Groups:** Thank you to the volunteers who will moderate the virtual parent group discussions this week, and next. The meetings start at 7 pm and the dates for each school are listed on the PTO website. There will be follow-up meetings after the first one so that we can address what the community needs are and how to meet them.
- **Flower Power Fundraiser:** The PTO will receive 50% of the profits from this virtual fundraiser. There is a \$6 flat rate shipping fee and all plants/seeds will ship directly to the buyer's address. The sale will be open from April 5th to the 18th. There will be a specified link for our sale that can be shared with anyone. People must use that link for the PTO to get sale credit. This information will go into the March Newsletter. A suggestion was made to send/create a separate mailing/posting for each fundraiser.
- Marisa inquired about interest in the Radical Readers program. This is a 6 week-long virtual book club that utilizes HS students to act as mentors for each book club. Mr. Arthur will identify students to train as mentors. The book club members are grouped by 5-6 students of the same age range (3rd-8th grade). Participants will include students within the tristate area, not just Peekskill. The next book club will start in mid-April. Eric will mention it to the NAACP as they may be interested.

Treasurer's Report:

- \$90 was spent on operating costs since the last meeting.
- \$50 was received from our Amazon Smile account.

Online Book Fair Update:

- Isabel is still waiting for the virtual author confirmations. The Book Fair will take place from April 22nd to May 2nd. It will include the entire Main Street catalog, not only Elementary School level books. Mia will follow up with the authors also.

Superintendent's Update:

- Dr. Mauricio shared the next steps to more in-person learning. They will keep the virtual option as quite a few parents prefer full-virtual learning.
- A lot of time has been spent reading the CDC guidelines (and updates). They still recommend 6 feet distancing and masks. U.S Dept. of Education released a hard book with guidelines.

- Next, with Union leadership, they will begin having committees of teachers and parents.
- A parent survey will be released this week regarding in-person/virtual learning among other things.
- Dr. Mauricio continues to attend weekly meetings with county leaders and Superintendents.
- A recommendation regarding a timeline for increased in-person learning will be made to the BOE for approval. Then the timeline can be implemented.
- The timeline was discussed in more detail. A question was asked regarding whether there would only be one meeting where parent input could be given. Dr. Mauricio advised that he was not sure how many meetings would be required and he would meet as many times as warranted.
- The District was able to secure 200 vaccine spots for Peekskill staff.

BOE Update: No update

PEF Update: No update

Committee Reports:

- **Advocacy:** Eric spoke at the Senate Forum about fully funding our schools. At another meeting, Senator Harkham agreed to support 4 out of 6 bills. He didn't support the other 2 bills as he was unsure about one bill's constitutionality, and the progressive tier wants to increase the rate of taxation at 300k and he thinks it should be \$500k for the other bill in question. Margery met with Congressman Jones and he was supportive of the information presented. He is working with Senator Warren on taxing the wealthy at a Federal level. He asked to let him know of any of the grants that we apply for so he is aware of the money allocated to his district. Representatives suggested directing letters from the community directly to the Governor with a cc to Senators. Sen. Harkham asked to see what we needed above the budget. "Invest in our NY" (www.investinourny.org) has the actual package of bills. If all bills are passed it will increase the state budget by \$50 billion. Meghan will share info with the Community Coalition.
- **Class Parents:** Uriah Hill will have a show and tell in 2 weeks. Sarah is having a meeting planning a social Zoom for Woodside students. She is waiting for a response to her email from Crystal at Oakside.
- **Communications:** Kristin asked that we utilize the communications email to keep them in the loop. Facebook engagement, likes, and followers went up. Out of 3000 emails sent out, 1000 were opened.
- **Enrichment:** Mia is working on the coordination of authors and also the March Saturday Academy. She will advise when there are updates.

New Business:

- None.

Old Business:

- Marisa mentioned succession planning again, as this is a very important issue. She reiterated that we need people to revolve positions for sustainability purposes.

Adjournment: 8: 10 pm

- The next meeting will be held on May 3rd, at 6:30 pm
- Reminder: BOE Forum will be May 10th, 2 seats are up for election