

May 3, 2021, PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting 6:30 pm

Present: Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Isabel Pipolo, Halle Chizmadia, Kristin Jarvis, Eric Rekeda, David Mauricio, Mia Shervington, Heather Amabile, Ro Sibrizzi, Meghan Sheldon-Brungard, Margery Rossi, Vernita L. Mosley, Nancy Flaherty

Welcome/Introductions:

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

President's Report:

- **Fundraisers:** Flower Power: \$1229 in sales so far, we earn 50% of all sales, the site will remain active until May 10th. Book Fair: \$2000 in sales so far, we earn 20% of all sales, the sale will be extended until May 7th.
- **Picture Days:** The first day of picture taking, at Oakside, was successful until 2:30 when it started raining.
- **Staff Appreciation:** The PTO placed signs at each school building including the District building on Sunday so that staff would see them upon their arrival on Monday. The Communications Committee has shared posts on PTO social media and will continue to do so all week. Posts are asking for the community to contribute anecdotes and pictures thanking teachers. Dr. Mauricio will ask Laura to share the pictures she has with Communications so that they can be posted.
- **Nominating Committee:** We need to advertise the need for parents to serve on the Nominations Committee. Anyone interested must let us know by May 14th. The Communications Committee will send out the recruiting email by May 6th. The election will take place at the PTO meeting on June 10th.
- **Parent Groups:** Marisa thanked everyone for their involvement in the Parent Peer groups. The participation was low so we will not have any more groups this year. We will revisit this in the fall.

Treasurer's Report:

- \$90 was spent on operating costs since the last meeting.
- \$50 was received in a direct donation.
- \$200 was spent on Teacher Appreciation. We will spend more at the end of the year depending on how well the fundraisers do.

Superintendent's Update:

- Dr. Mauricio thanked the PTO for the lawn signs for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- A presentation was shared with data on student's needs concerning Peekskill's Promise. There are specific areas where the Federal Funding must be allocated. 20% has to be used for summer learning and After School programs. There are approximately 350 students who will be eligible for Summer School this year.
- Dr. Mauricio asked for PTO input on three areas; after-school programs which would center on social facilitation, and the social/emotional well-being of students, as well as meeting the needs of three different tiers of learners during the school day. Some of the suggestions included: Destination Imagination, Rising Stars (which will require district and teacher support to be successful), hiring a teacher to teach cultural dances to students (for physical activity), tabletop gaming (i.e. Pokémon, board games, etc.), also a School Store was suggested. A school-wide yoga program was suggested, not just for kids who are lucky enough to have gym on Fridays (where yoga is currently offered). The need for adequate playgrounds at our schools, which are currently lacking, was also brought up. For PKMS students, a suggestion was made for "Free Fridays", which would entail a time set aside for socialization between students. Comments were made that the needs of children with different learning styles must be addressed. Some suggestions were to hire more Teaching Assistants, a "Readers Theatre" where groups of children read plays out loud, and integrated groups for kids-for all kids, not just a select group (MBK). A "Model UN" type of program was

suggested. Also, culturally responsive science and social studies fairs, that were required so all students would participate.

BOE Update: Not present

PEF Update:

- PEF is working on a fall event for scholarship fundraising. They are looking for volunteers to help.

SEPTO:

- Not much going on this year other than a few virtual meetings. Nancy and Ro are aging out as both of their children are graduating. They need to pass leadership on to capable people. SEPTO is a special organization. Randi has agreed to take a leadership role. Ro asked for recommendations from PTO. Ro will send a blurb for the Communications Committee to add to the recruitment newsletter.

Committee Reports:

- **Advocacy:** The BOE Forum is Monday, May 10th. 2 incumbents are running unopposed. The committee is asking for questions from the public until May 7th at 5 pm. There are some questions in Google Drive that were unasked from last year. The budget vote is May 18th. Signs can be put out. If you need stickers to change the date on your sign, contact Eric or Margery. Margery will be aging out of the PTO in June of 2022. She is asking for someone to step into the advocacy role. She also suggested a possible way to help people become more comfortable with advocacy is to practice on a project with a lower bar. She suggested helping Peekskill Walks in their trying to establish a safe route for kids to walk to school. This could include a community survey on social media about what streets children normally use to get to school. Working on this could help teach the skills of advocacy at a lower level of government. Margery will reach out to Peekskill Walks to start this in the fall.
- **Class Parents:** There has been no progress at Woodside and Oakside with regards to Class Parents. Hopefully, there will be more going on next year. How can the PTO provide support at the schools? This program has not taken root after many years of the PTO trying.
- **Communications:** Teacher Appreciation Week is here. Heather will be posting anecdotes and pictures on our social media. She is asking for content from the public about their students' teachers. Our social media engagement went up by 26%. Post reach went up 13%. We now have 557 followers with 10 new on Twitter.
- **Enrichment:** Mia shared that Peekskill is getting good feedback in the Real Estate market. Since there are no upcoming events, it is ok to reallocate the Enrichment budget to other areas that need funding.

New Business:

- Our last meeting is on June 7th. Marisa asked all Committee Chairs to report at that meeting whether or not they want to continue in their role so that we can discuss it at the June 10th PTO meeting.
- We will discuss using funds raised or reallocated for staff at the end of the year.
- Marisa asked Dr. Mauricio to please let all parents know about changes in administration in the district. He advised he will do that.
- There were questions about graduation. Dr. Mauricio advised that there will be graduations and prom. How those take place will depend on Covid rules etc.

Old Business: none

Adjournment: 8: 22 pm

- The next meeting will be held on June 7th, at 6:30 pm
- Reminders: BOE Forum will be May 10th, 2 seats are up for election; Budget vote is May 18th; Sign up for a volunteer slot for picture days.