

## June 7, 2021, PTO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

### Virtual Meeting 6:30 pm

**Present:** Randi Alberino, Marisa O'Leary, Isabel Pipolo, Halle Chizmadia, Kristin Jarvis, Eric Rekada, David Mauricio, Mia Shervington, Heather Amabile, Ro Sibrizzi, Margery Rossi, Vernita L. Mosley, Branwen MacDonald, Sarah Peterson, Jen Carbaugh

#### Welcome/Introductions:

- Marisa thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting.
- Minutes from the May 3rd meeting were accepted.

#### President's Report:

- **Graduation:** Mr. Arthur has invited the PTO officers to attend the Graduation Ceremony. He would like to make this an annual tradition going forward to emphasize the partnership of the PTO and the district.
- **Saturday Academy:** The final Saturday Academy of the school year will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Jen and Halle will staff the PTO tables. They will focus on Spirit Gear and will have our website visible with a QR code. Nell volunteered to pick up the Spirit Gear at Uriah Hill. Jen will reach out to Carmen and Nell to retrieve inventory. Halle will bring the cash box and square reader to the event. Dr. Mauricio confirmed that there is storage space at the Parent Resource Center that has been allocated for the PTO's use.
- **Last General Meeting:** The last meeting is on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Officer Elections will take place at this meeting. The Nominations Committee is meeting tomorrow with the 2 new committee members. Marisa will create a break-out room for the nominees during the vote. Parents will be asked for feedback about the year and what they would like to see in the future. Committee Chairs will talk about their work this year. The new Middle School Principals would like to come and introduce themselves.
- **Thank you:** Marisa thanked everyone for their work and expressed how grateful she is for having worked with an amazing team these past years. Dr. Mauricio expressed his thanks to Marisa for her leadership these past 4 years. She also expressed thanks to Randi for her job as Secretary for the past 4 years.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Halle will email the board information regarding the school picture contracts for next year as she is still waiting for a proposal. Money raised from fundraisers is as follows: Flower Power, \$1230.00; School Photos, \$6800.00; Book Fair is still pending; Amazon Smile, \$50.00. In total, approximately \$8,000.00 was raised so far. Isabel will share the amount raised from the Book Fair when she receives it. There is about \$10,600.00 in the bank account, which is what the PTO will start with next year.

#### Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Mauricio thanked the PTO for the fundraisers; he is happy his bulbs are starting to bloom.
- Masks: The Governor has not changed mask requirements for schools yet. Dr. Mauricio asked for parent feedback. The only possibility for change at the moment is that he will consider mask-wearing optional when outdoors only. Indoors will still require masks.
- Dr. Mauricio shared a clip with the BOE relating to the use of federal funds. The clip is on the district website.
- Construction updates: Work is underway at the STEAM center at PHS and will start at Hillcrest this summer. A/C will be installed at the elementary buildings.
- The boys' baseball team made it to the finals and the girls' softball team won the championships!
- The next BOE meeting will be held in person and a presentation of the review of the year will be shared. Great things were accomplished, despite the pandemic. Dr. Mauricio expressed thanks to all of the parents.
- Dr. Mauricio asked if the PTO had an opinion regarding marijuana dispensaries/consumption cafes in Peekskill. He advised he would share with the Board. He said there is a public survey shared on the City Council's Facebook page and to make sure our opinion is heard.

### **BOE Update:**

- Branwen now has a seat on the WPSBA (Westchester Putnam School Board Association). An outline was presented at the BOE meeting of the allocation of funds. She was impressed with the target plan for hiring more staff in the district. Dr. Mauricio mentioned that there is a Juneteenth Celebration at Depew Park on June 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. There will be a walk at 1 pm and the PTO is invited to walk with the district. Please wear your Peekskill Pride gear.

### **PEF Update:** Not Present

### **SEPTO:**

- Ro announced that Randi has accepted the position of President of SEPTO starting in the fall. Rosie is the other Board member.
- The PTO thanked Ro and Nancy for their hard work and dedication for all of the years that they served.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Advocacy:** There are new volunteers for the committee. Plans for advocacy training are in the works. Since Foundation Aid has been fully funded, the committee is thinking about what role they will have in the future. There needs to be ongoing pressure about how the money is spent. There should be parent input.
- **Class Parents:** Sarah is stepping down as Chair. The program works best where the school has teachers in place for communications as it is very difficult to get responses from principals. There needs to be a buy-in across the board for success, which is not happening. Marisa suggested a parent advisory group at each building where parents help make decisions at their respective building. Dr. Mauricio will discuss this at the retreat and will advise the feedback he receives.
- **Communications:** Discussions were had as to whether targeted emails, as opposed to newsletters, were a better way to reach parents. Also, whether to continue with the digital format or to go back to paper flyers. A hybrid model was discussed- using paper for big events. Dr. Mauricio raised the point that we cannot forget the hard-to-reach families who don't have electronic access. We discussed sending notifications via text or the app since most people have a smartphone. Dr. Mauricio will ask Laura to advise how many people the texts and app reach. The possibility of a survey to see what people preferred was also discussed. The Committee will discuss this issue in future meetings.
- **Enrichment:** Mia is stepping down as Chair. There were no events this year as the virtual events were extremely expensive. The budget will be revisited. We are looking for a Chair/Co-chairs for this committee. There is a need for more volunteers in general as well.

### **New Business:**

- Staff appreciation: Officers will research a small trinket to give all staff to show our appreciation for their hard work this year. Dr. Mauricio will get the number of staff and get back to Marisa.
- Marisa will send an outline for the format of the final general meeting of the school year.

### **Old Business:**

- Dr. Mauricio will reach out to Laura to make sure the Executive Committee meetings are on the calendar for the next school year.

### **Adjournment:** 8: 02 pm

- Date/s of Summer Planning Meeting/s TBA