

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee Report Form

Submission Date December 7, 2020 _____ Month & Year 12/2020 _____

Committee Advocacy _____

Items Requiring a Vote:

To make a donation of \$200-\$250 to AQE in gratitude for the training they provide in January (see below) .

Items Requiring Discussion:

Thank you, communications committee especially, for the great flyer PTO in regards to the 20% New York State education aid and our potential loss of \$9 million. The campaign remains our top priority.

Items for Information Only:

Pete Harkham (state senate) won reelection (after much delay) as did Sandy Galef (state assembly). The New York Legislature now has a Democratic “supermajority” and can override Governor Cuomo’s vetoes. This makes advocacy efforts this year critically important, as the legislature can make budget decisions that do not depend on the Governor’s approval.

On Thursday, 12/3, Margery, Marisa, and Eric met with Maria Bautista and Stevie Vargas from the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) to strategize about funding cuts to state aid. Maria and Stevie have offered to lead training for members of our school community on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, and a “How To” training on legislative advocacy, to help Peekskill earn the state aid it deserves. These will take place on two nights in January:

- 1. Thursday, 1/14/21, 6 - 8 pm: A history of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE), Foundation Aid, and a state education policy overview;**
- 2. Thursday, 1/21/21, 6 - 8 pm: Legislative and lobbying training, with an overview of the current politics of education in Albany.**

PTO, PCSD (including administrators and the BOE), PFA, PEF, NAACP, and other community members will be invited to these free trainings. Our goals in planning them are: to increase community awareness around state education aid; and to develop a dedicated and skilled advocacy team who can work together over time, to fight for what Peekskill students deserve, using a variety of lobbying and advocacy techniques.

Submitted by: Eric Reveda & Margery Rossi