

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee Report Form

Submission Date February 11, 2021 _____ Month & Year 2/2021 _____

Committee Advocacy _____

Items Requiring a Vote:

(None.)

Items Requiring Discussion:

Items for Information Only:

Upcoming New York Senate Budget Forums hosted by the Westchester State Senate Delegation:

- Thursday, 2/11, 2 - 5 pm
- Tuesday, 2/16, 5 - 8 pm (Eric Rekada, Amy Perlow from PNAACP are confirmed to speak).

Unfortunately, both days are already at capacity for live testimony. Written testimony can be emailed to

WestchesterDelegation@nysenate.gov. The events will be live streamed at

[Facebook.com/Andrea.StewartCousins](https://www.facebook.com/Andrea.StewartCousins) as well. Please consider writing a testimony and watching live - every ripple matters!

Invest in Our New York Act (IONY). Consists of six bills that tax high incomes, wealth, and corporations and the financial sector. More information here: <https://investinourny.org/>. Margery and Eric have been invited to attend an IONY/Senator Harckham meeting on Monday 2/15 at 11 am along with AQE and other coalition members.

PNAACP's education committee meets every second Monday of the month. State aid was a main topic on 2/8. Amy Perlow (chair) and Adriana Frega (co-chair) both pledged to support our fight for fair funding. Amy is registered to testify, while Adriana and other members will write and submit written testimony.

Meeting with Congressman Mondaire Jones (NY's 17th congressional district) on Friday, 2/19 at 11am. Margery will attend that meeting along with members of the BOE & PCSD administration to represent the PTO. Purpose of the meeting is to address the urgent need for federal funding to support schools with COVID related expenses and shortfalls in state funding and to support disproportionately harder hit districts to ensure equity.

Jim Striebich's article for the Peekskill Herald -

<https://peekskillherald.blog/2021/02/04/pandemic-wont-stop-peekskill-schools-renaissance/> - touches on the importance of advocacy for state aid in this time of COVID. Jim is interested in writing further on the subject, and will consult with us when and if the Herald is able to.

The advocacy committee will host the board of education candidates forum on Monday, May 10, 2021. (We expect this to be virtual as it was last year, when Paul Schwarz from the League of Women Voters served as host/mode.)

Submitted by: Eric Rekada & Margery Rossi