

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee Report Form

Submission Date March 1, 2021 _____ Month & Year 3/2021 _____

Committee Advocacy _____

Items Requiring a Vote:

(None)

Items Requiring Discussion:

Advocacy letter/petition w/out PCSD?

Items for Information Only:

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

- Tuesday, 2/16, 5 - 8 pm - Eric Rekada, Amy Perlow from PNAACP spoke in support of fully funding schools
- Adriana Frega of PEF submitted written testimony, as did (possibly) at least four students with support from Dr. Daniels

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 attended an IONY coalition meeting with Senator Harckham's legislative aide, Sarah Perez on Monday 2/15 at 11 am and a second with Senator Harckham on 2/22 to ask the Senator to sign on to these bills. He agreed to support 4 of 6 bills.

Meeting with Congressman Mondaire Jones (NY's 17th congressional district) was held on Monday, 3/1 at 11am. Margery attended that meeting along with members of the BOE & PCSD administration to represent the PTO. Purpose of the meeting was 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. We made sure he understood that what has been happening at the state level is that when federal funds are allocated to education, state funds are cut, effectively replacing state funds, not increasing school funding at all. We asked that any federal funding that is allocated to schools include a provision that would prevent this practice.

We also asked Congressman Jones to encourage his state level colleagues to support the IONY bills.

The Congressman requested that when PCSD submits grants at the federal level, that we alert his office, so that he can monitor where funds are allocated within his district. He also expressed interest and willingness to accept our invitation to attend Saturday Academy when it resumes in-person.

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/moderator.)

Submitted by: Eric Rekada & Margery Rossi

As of 10/1/15