

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee Report Form

Submission Date May 3, 2021 _____ Month & Year 5/2021 _____

Committee Advocacy _____

Items Requiring a Vote:

(None)

Items Requiring Discussion:

Communication to the Public Needed:

We have a bank of candidate questions from prior years for the BOE Forum, but are always looking for new ones from the public. Please email by Friday, May 7th at 5 pm to have your questions considered (we cannot guarantee all questions will be addressed by the candidates). The annual school budget vote and school board election is Tuesday, May 18th. Margery and Eric will once again help distribute, track, collect budget vote lawn signs. We need to communicate with folks about signing up to get a sign.

Transition Plan: Margery's son graduates in June 2022, at which point, she will no longer be a member of the PTO. We need to train someone else to step into the role she has held. Specifically, this person needs to have daytime availability for legislative advocacy meetings.

Suggestion for next year: in order to help train folks to do advocacy, select 1 or 2 "low bar" projects that will specifically teach the skills and offer opportunity to use them. E.g. - Partner with Peekskill Walks on a safe streets initiative to improve safety for students walking to school. This would appeal to families, community members and kids of all ages and would be difficult, on the surface, for people to oppose. We could teach advocacy skills such as: determining an appropriate goal; letter/petition writing; working with city government; appearing before city council; using media/social media; when to negotiate/ escalate; etc.. Peekskill Walks is willing to engage in conversation to explore such a partnership. This preliminary work will need to be done soon, if we hope to do this during the coming school year.

Once people understand the skills involved in advocacy work, they can apply them to other topics and increase their comfort with advocacy at other levels of government - county, state, federal and with other entities, such as corporations. Such a project could have long lasting effects to create a more informed and engaged electorate.

Items for Information Only:

Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) and others celebrate guarantee of fully funding Foundation Aid; \$4 billion aid increase statewide. This is HUGE!!!

<https://patch.com/new-york/peekskill/peekskill-csd-cheers-nys-historic-investment-education>

Peekskill also won \$\$\$ in federal and state aid. Congratulations! This will help us....

- Fund summer school
- Address goals of Peekskill's Promise

The advocacy committee will host the board of education candidates forum next Monday, May 10th.

- Both Allen Jenkins and Pamela Johnson are running unopposed, so the advocacy committee - not the League of Women Voters - will moderate. (Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Johnson will continue to serve the board from 2021-2024. Three candidates' terms expire in May 2022.)
- Forum will be held virtually via Zoom/Meet with PCSD hosting livestream on its website (this has to be confirmed).

Submitted by: Eric Reveda & Margery Rossi

As of 10/1/15