

Hbo
Peekskill CSD PTO
Committee Report Form

Submission Date_ June 7, 2021_____Month & Year__ 7/2021_____

Committee _Advocacy_____

A

Items Requiring a Vote:

(None)

Items Requiring Discussion:

I

Peekskill won \$\$\$ in federal and state aid. What should our spending priorities be? PCSD must report by July 1st of this year after discussion with parents, community. Additional funds may:.

- Fund summer school
- Lower class sizes
- Hire more reading teachers at Woodside and Oakside
- Improve playground equipment district wide
- Address goals of Peekskill's Promise

Margery attended a discussion of goals with PNAACP's Education Committee (Adriana Frega and Amy Perlow)

Advocacy 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>

Submitted by: Eric Rekada & Margery Rossi

As of 10/1/15