

Peekskill CSD PTO Executive Committee

8/9/21 Minutes

Virtual Zoom

1. ATTENDANCE & INTRODUCTIONS: THANK YOU AND WELCOME

NOTE: parent name is listed with affiliation and grade for their child(ren)

Present: David Mauricio Superintendent of Schools - (K)

A. Special Events/Enrichment

- Joanne Bell –Help with either committee- (5th) & (2nd)
- Raine Diaz – Help with either committee- (3rd) & (baby)
- Susan Hernandez – Help with Either Committee- (1st) & (little one)
- Lanice Kind – Help with either committee- (3rd)
- Jamie Rossi – (4th) & (7th)
- Maria Flores- District Parent Coordinator- mom to grown boys in Ossining

B. Advocacy Committee:

- Eric Reveda- (4th) & (1st)
- Margery Rossi- (graduate 2020) & (12th)

C. Communications Committee:

- Jen Carbaugh- (6th), (4th) & (baby)
- Heather Amaibile- (6th) & (4th)
- Laura Belfiore- District Public Relations- (8th) in Wappingers Falls

D. Former:

- Randi Alberino – SEPTO President - former secretary- (7th) & (7th)
- Marisa O’Leary- former President- (7th)
- Mia Shervington- (7th)
- Vernita Mosely- former founder- (12th)

E. Officers

- Kristin Jarvis- President- (4th) & (3rd)
- Isabel Pipolo - Vice President - (7th)
- Halle Chizmadia- Treasurer-(3rd) & (3rd)
- Rachel Kimber- Secretary- (K) & (3 year old)

2. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT / COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT

- PTO Administration Update (slide deck)
- Admin openings had good application pools, extraordinary interest in PCSD
- Use of Social Media to attract PCSD attention
- For good PCSD branding
- Leadership pipeline NYS - President

A. Uriah Hill

1. Carmen Vargas Director (Director of PK to Principal)
2. New Pre-K classroom with govt funding

B. Woodside

1. Dr. M was first superintendent here a few years ago, he hired Rebecca as Principal, moving the district forward, Dr. Foster retired, Asst. Superintendent for Elementary Education needed, she was *data driven and fit*.
2. Suzannah Boyko is New Principal, special ed background and bilingual
3. Stacy Woodley moved from Oakside to Woodside as AP, (someone who knew our system and fits in at Woodside)
4. Carolyn Rogers – AP from Ossining to support while Stacy is recovering from medical leave.

C. Oakside

1. Crystal Hernandez- Principal former music teacher and Ap to Hillcrest- mom to 3 kids
2. Melissa Cruz- New AP from Port Chester CSD, bilingual

D. Hillcrest

1. CSI school – comprehensive school in need of improvement so it is a Turn-around school- needs strong leaders
2. Kerrienne Harrison- Principal, bilingual, from city
3. Orite Gately- AP, from Long Island

E. Middle School

1. LaJuan White- Principal- wanted to be in Westchester, Turnaround leader
2. Dr. William Torro, requested the move, PCSD pairs with a new admin, bilingual
3. Donald Peters, Peekskill return resident, new leader
4. Marisa, Mia, Jennifer – serve on Middle School leadership team, plug to connect

F. High School

1. Turnaround leadership is a lot of work, Mr. Arthur: positive tenure, tremendous work, leadership at the high school, going to Yonkers CSD
2. Conversations, notice given
3. Did not post for the principal role at this time of the year. Full search planned
4. For now we need a familiar administrator. Dr. Jenna Ferris, Director of Special Ed (top candidate for her role), she does not want to be principal of the HS, she can be interim, Mr. Arthur recommended her as for placement, well-known entity in the district

5. Naima Smith Moore – remains at HS, leads guidance department
6. Dr. Merica Neufville
7. Christian Zambrano
8. High School Leadership Team update
9. David Santiago Director of Security to HS
10. Dr. Daniels re-assigned to HS
11. Austin Goldberg Athletic Director, support at HS

All Administrators at the next Board Meeting- **CHECK ON THIS**

3. COVID PRECAUTIONS

In-person School Planned

- No Guidance from NYS, PCSD Plan
- 5-day a week schedule with contingency plans
- Mask is a national debate, PCSD plans to mask, indoor vac did not have to mask, update with full school is masked for indoor facilities
- Vaccination – thanks to the team for running vaccination sites
- Working with Hudson River (Sunriver) Healthcare, offer vaccinations to kids that hold kids back from going to school. IN-District, Mobile Unit at Parent Center
- Build in Covid vaccines to that event also
- Saturday Sept 21, September 28
- Testing – system where child is sick, test them in the school!!!!!!, surveillance testing, keep offering vaccination opportunities 75% of staff vaccinated if took survey

4. EVENTS UPDATE

- A. PTO Meet and Greet with new school Administrators: August 19 at 2:30pm
- B. Hillcrest Meet the Principal Night 6:30 same night as Town Hall
- C. Virtual Town Hall for Parents 7pm – recorded in English and Spanish
- D. Back to School Nights: Virtual -Hillcrest is SAME as our Execs Meeting 9/13
- E. Parent Ambassador Program
 1. Melissa Cruz (parent engagement skills, Oakside) admin representative
 2. Parents present for building-based team
 3. Recruitment is the big PTO goal for this year
- F. Every child is getting a Chromebook. Backorder from China. Hired students to help get books ready to go. IT team of HS students

5. ADVOCACY TRAINING AND PEEKSKILL WALKS

- A. Conor Greene and Margaret Steele
- B. Person on PW Board who is an expert traffic pattern designer
- C. Training on HOW to do advocacy work, spaces to use/practice the skills

- E. Official partnership with school district, PTO, Peekskill Walks
- F. Program to look at safe streets for kids walking to school
- G. How residents can advocate for safer streets
- H. Name folks who will help lead this effort – Dr. M has names in mind to lead effort
- I. What is the current status of PCSD work on this?

6. SCHOOL ALLOTMENTS

- A. \$500 to elementary, \$750 to secondary
- B. Schools can use it as they need, we don't plan the event
- C. They have to request reimbursement from PTO, not true petty cash
- D. PTO branded purchases, credit where credit is due
- E. Student and parents benefit from expenditure of funds
- F. Staff Appreciation
 - 1. In the Past: Luncheons for each building
 - 2. Gift for the building based on council of each building's principal (staff lounge, microwave, benefit the teachers)

7. COMMITTEE BUDGETS

- A. *Advocacy*: Needs Banner, moderator fees for BOE, trip to Albany, Donation to AQE for training. Request for \$200
- B. *Class Parents*: meet and greet- probably not happening
- C. *Communications*: paper, \$1000 (discussion of copier lease and operating costs)
- D. *Enrichment*: equitable source out for assembly programs, purchased books for teachers, literacy night, pay author fees, mobile science lab, Saturday Academy, Trunk or Treat, no in-person activities Covid year, Virtual author visit? \$3500????
 - Saturday Academy does not reach upper grades, commit to parallel event
 - OR robotics, drama, to get older kids engaged with younger kids
 - Reach out to Jamie directly
 - Embryology project at Uriah Hill, Rob's Poultry – already paid for incubators, support is inexpensive
 - What is the MISSION for enrichment – how to service it
 - Overarching mission of PTO: 2021-22 Recruitment, big events that recruit a lot of people
 - Benefit to ALL of the kids in the grade, don't highlight ONE particular program
- E. *Gifts*: Budget for gifts for memorials, secretary day, retiring teacher/administrator
- F. *Senior Photos*: PTOs annual gift, pics taken on graduation day \$2,000 for grad and prom photos in 2020-21

8. PTO OPERATING BUDGET

- A. Building Allocations – review and decide numbers
- B. Budget Committee – review and decide numbers

9. FUNDRAISING GOALS

- 1. Overview of 3 years: pre-Covid, partial-Covid, Covid years
- 2. Currently in the bank account: \$10,055
- 3. Check in with Robin Zimmerman about Stop and Shop, funds are sent to district and district keeps accounting, PCSD uses the funds in the account for PTO event
 - A. Designated Fundraisers: what will funds be used for?
 - 1. Direct Appeal – completely virtual in 2020-21
 - 2. School Photos – income (not gross sales), biggest fundraiser
 - 3. Spirit Gear – only at in-person events, no online store, ***Chromebook pick up?
 - 4. Book Fair April
 - 5. Art to Remember Spring
 - 6. Flower Power, Catalogue Sale Spring
 - 7. Concessions Fall
 - 8. Amazon Smile (not much cash in)
 - add as a footer to letters, make it stand out, bold, colors
 - Create video tutorial on how to add amazon smile (actually doesn't bring in that much \$)

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Partner with local businesses (Bucko shop can sell our PTO magnets?)
- B. Oakside and Hillcrest, October 4 Tips on a Successful School Night in person chance to sell
- C. **TABLE IT:** What is the Role of the Class Parent?– schedules of back to school nights
 - 1. Intent of class parent committee find parents to be room-moms, connect parents with schools and get them involved, the parents would also be involved with PTO, worked at Uriah Hill, did not work at Woodside
 - 2. Why continue role of class parent is NOT active in PTO – classrooms/teacher vary widely in class parent role – Sarah Peterson has been working on this, Lanice Kind has a relationship with the class parents, advocates in the school, process for class parents to liaise with PTO better
 - 3. Great class parent for class, that does not benefit the whole school
 - 4. School Leadership team – meet monthly with teachers, admin, parent, connected to executive committee

11. Old Business

- A. Meeting Schedule- Google Calendar

12. Adjournment

***** Next meeting September 13, 2021*****