

1/10/22 PTO Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

6:30 – 8:30 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions

- A. Margery motioned and Eric seconded approval of minutes.
- B. Correction. Septo revision from Randi.
- C. Approved

II. Superintendent's Report (10-15 minutes)

- A. Health and Safety: December 18 vaccinations, 154 Total. Second shots 120 peekskill students. Another vaccination clinic coming to Peekskill. Booster for 12+. Working with the County. PCR Testing Challenge: PCR testing date moved to Monday to analyze Tuesday. Took til Sunday to get results. All samples in pool with positive cases required re-testing.
- B. Culinary Program with Louie Lanza Foundation - sponsoring 15 students to be part of a culinary program outside of the HS. 3x week to WCC and Factoria with a chef hired by WCC. 125 hour program with certificate. Paid internship opportunity (work at Factoria).
- C. STEAM Lab opening - HVAC leak to be cleaned up and fixed up.
- D. Austin Goldberg - Girls Touch Football Team - Equity for students. 8-9 schools participating. Coaches and uniforms
- E. Foundation Aid - Assemblywoman Galef, commitments will be a reality, details from Gov office and Budget. PTO thanks for letter writing.
- F. Advocacy and Safe Routes Committee - thanks, meeting with Andy Stewart
- G. Challenges: "hanging by a thread" to keep schools open, created a 2-week remote option for elementary students (230 students opted in UH to Hillcrest), timely communication about whether to stay open and how long the decision holds, AND how to message, translate and distribute information. Learning: get the phone call out first. Staff quarantine calculation to re-open schools.
- H. Test to Stay starting next week: Rapid Covid Tests from governor - Test to Stay for close contacts, remain in schools as long as test 3 out of 5 days. Other school districts isolation shifting from 10 days to 5 days/mask/monitor NOT launched at PCSD. NYS, County, CDC guidelines are sometimes conflicted (advice, recommendations, requirement).
- I. Q&A:
 - Kristin: Who decides: Rebecca, Austin

- Margery: can we be helpful in getting information to people?
- Kristin: could you clarify staffing issues? Staff, spouse, child, exposure, personal. Teach from home is being allowed also.
- There is no funding incentive to open schools or implement remote learning.
- PCSD is available to help get PCR opt-in test if unwell; Rapid Test option is being looked into (Test to Stay policy) for students

III. President's Report

- A. Where the PTO has been: Saturday Academy and in the streets (Advocacy). STEAM opening and ribbon cutting.
- B. Grant Money for Playgrounds: Board of Ed, PEF, collaborative project
- C. Basketball game concessions: did 2 and closed for covid considerations.
- D. Spirit Gear sales - interest?
- E. Fundraisers
 - Popcorn Catalog Sale, bike donated as price incentive
 - Laura Perkins, Woodside Gardener, Plant sale in April / May
 - Book Fair discussion with Main St Books (in-person?), Spring event

IV. Other Updates (15 minutes)

- A. BOE update from Branwen
 - Covid touch base
 - Advocacy partnership on Foundation Aid Funding - funds being phased in and 10% additional students each year. Campaign to be visible to legislators. Letter from PTO (grateful for progress and commitment, snapshot of pride and struggles) and meeting follow up. Sen Harkam and STATE budget process nudges/light pressure.
- B. PEF update from Meghan
 - Planning for a community-wide event in the spring, business focus
 - PTO can help spread the word on membership
- C. SEPTO update from Randi
 - Meeting planned for January 18. Putnam independent living workshop on Advocacy 101
 - Library on Google for parents and teachers on accessibility and behaviors to help dot connection

- **MARCH 10** - self-advocacy meeting geared to 5th to HS students and parents, Putnam independent living workshop funded through state grants, PTO to co-sponsor

V. Committee Reports

A. Special Events/Enrichment (Jamie)

- December Saturday Academy: Book give away and Make/take craft. Remaining books to Yonkers with Gabriel.
- Hard to plan Saturday Academy as rules keep shifting, walk thru only
- Plant sale
- Outdoor teaching space / playgrounds
- FTC Robotics was postponed to **FEB 13**
- PCSD STEAM fair for elementary students - can PTO help **JUNE 11**
- **Meeting Date: First Monday of the month.**
- **Team Members: Joann, Barbie, Lanice, Mia**

B. Advocacy (Margery and Eric)

- PNAACP is going to host a "town hall" on 1/25/22 7:30 PM via zoom on the "critical race theory" debate. Details in our committee report https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RfVPNJh3gepjZkbFrVv2UAsFvkuhEbekSs_D9UN3sj4/edit#
- Safe Routes to School Coalition. Who: PTO, PCSD, Peekskill Walks. Research: Fall site visits at every school building (6 site visits in 6 weeks with coalition debrief). Met with city manager, Andy Stewart and Chief Delusky, last week. Mid-March is the next meeting. Next Task: walk and map signs at each school building. List of Priorities:
 1. Clear Consistent School Zones
 2. Clear Consistent Crosswalks
 3. More Crosswalks
 4. Signage to align with School Zone Law and be consistent
 5. More Crossing Guards (at least 1 at every school)
 6. Police and Code Enforcement (shoveling, bushes)
- Create Walking and Biking Bus Programs around the community - parent volunteers needed. Who could oversee the program (liability issues)?
- Committee Goals: Safe walking for kids, Teach advocacy related skills to students and families
- Opportunities to build the coalition: How can we do this to build the coalition and bring parents/students in (given covid restrictions and bandwidth)?
 1. Is the city receptive? Some parts more than others. Reasonable requests.
 2. Shared services meeting with School Board and City

3. Advocacy report School Board on agenda?

C. Communications (10 minutes)

- Jen - share content asap to get team started on graphics
- Heather manages social media
- Website support and Laura Belfiore partnership, feedback has been helpful
- January 20 upcoming meeting
- Working on Google slideshow for teaching tool for PTO

VI. Treasurer's Report / Fundraising

A. November and December update: expenses \$230 on ops and coms, revenue \$14,430 to date (reached fundraising goal for 2021-22!!!!)

VII. New Business

A. Spring 2022 Spending: Discussion to be continued at next meeting

B. February 10th General Meeting - Vernita & Jen will create Black History Presentation

Next Meeting:

General meeting, February 10th

Executive officers, March 7th @ 6:30 pm