

11/8/21 PTO Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

6:30 – 8:30 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions

- A. Thank you all for volunteering
- B. Eric motioned and Margery seconded approval of minutes. Approved.

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

- A. Health and Safety: Vaccine pop-up sites for kids 5-11 in Westchester County. SunRiver Healthcare starting asap. Laura will share information for vaccine locations.
- B. Student Planned walk-out. 600 walked out. Keep kids safe. Emergency responders called. Police Dept for traffic safety. Jenna Farris helped inform. Listened to kids, but there was a personnel issue. Safe and Quick demonstration. Kids back to school. Subsequent Public Board Meeting to discuss. New Head Coach to be brought on. Poor media event.
- C. STEAM Opening - Positive media moment. New 12 will be invited. December opening planned. Local dignitaries will be invited.
 - From Margery: Invite Jennifer Turner - she has a student now at PHS and she works for IBM - she is the connection for us to the Boys/Girls Go TechKnow program
 - From Meghan: Invite Jennifer Turner is/was active with the local Girl Scouts, and organized the STEAM program she hosted here in town annually.
- D. ESL / ENL Teachers will be hired to fill student needs. Federal Funding will support us through the influx. Robin has been keeping money in the reserves for this. Replenished with federal funding.
- E. ARC Initiative - letters to families to identify kids' reading levels. Books online for kids. American Reading Center: K, 2, 4 launched at next grade level this year. All inclusive literacy program that provides family resources (English and Spanish). Prof. development and coaching for teachers. Leveled reading available in classrooms. Science based reading program. ** More information coming **
- F. Academic Math data - beyond state assessments, to drive programming for students
- G. Principals - move forward with Parent Liaisons for schools. Principals will come to the January meeting. October monthly meeting with principals - ready for next phase work.
- H. Drop in Debt coming (Torpy Field, Family Resource Center, STEAM centers funded by last drop). Planned renovation and capital improvement work. Innovative projects too.

Exciting renovations and building additions. Project with LED lighting. Identify gaps in square footage for students.

- I. **Recommendation:** revise calendaring, school-level calendars missing key events.
- J. Covid - we will keep masking. How are parents notified: if in an exposure circle (within 3 feet, 15 minutes or more) parents involved are notified. *** Communication will refresh parents on the rules ***

III. **President's Report**

- A. Summary of September and October events / thank participants
 - MADD Walk (thank walkers, \$650 raised)
 - General Meeting: Record attendance; Zoom upgrade for February-June (cost of \$25) to allow for larger attendance at public zooms
 - Trunk or Treat: Thank you Jamie and Team and the district a collaborative event
- B. Saturday Academy committee planning meetings
 - November: Social Emotional Learning and being Thankful. November 20. Circus Style Event in the MS Auditorium, zoo and arts and crafts projects. Thankfulness of diverse cultures and Advocacy Committee Partnership.
 - December: Winter Wonderland, decorate doorways. Adventure Bound Game Show Host vendor participating.
 - Mia Suggestions: PTO pay for Dec. enrichment programming for the district. Neet to attend to the budget (\$800 approx fee). Discuss with Maria.
- C. Reminder about new meeting date for January exec meeting (1/10/22);
 - Invite building principals to our next Board meeting; this would be an opportunity to get feedback about parental involvement in each building.

IV. **Other Updates (15 minutes)**

- A. BOE update from Branwen
 - Promised Full Foundation Aid Funding. Federal aid coming and State aid promised.
 - Staffing review since new students have enrolled since August 2021. Sen Harkam, David and advocacy about surge of new students
 - Rapidly increasing enrollment - short term, classes are large, buildings are full, students have needs.
 - Diversity hiring initiative and relying on data. Hiring for a Director of Data and Accountability.
 - Long Term Plan: Robin and Carmine provide updates. Eventually we will need building space. Good financial stewardship. Right pace. On top of it.
- B. PEF update from Meghan

- Fundraising for STEAM and Oakside. Business-focused fundraiser in the fall and Community fundraiser in the Spring.
- Non-parent involvement - share to get folks involved with PEF
- You can send anyone to the PEF Website at www.thepeekskillededucationfoundation.org or they can email the foundation directly to hello@thepeekskillededucationfoundation.org

C. SEPTO update from Randi

- CORRECTION: Previous Septo provided emails; emails bounced as not valid email addresses, zero responses. Concerns about participation
- Isabel created a new account with resources and information: septo@peekskillpto.org
- Meeting Date: Wednesday November 17 (meet and greet with staff), Communications Committee will help publicize (comm@peekskillpto.org)

V. **Treasurer's Report / Fundraising**

A. \$2,600 on Fundraisers. \$1,500 on Direct Appeal [see October document]

B. Report out about future concessions [Halle - missed this]

C. Picture Retake Days still need volunteers

- Wednesday 11/10 @ Woodside - Susan Hernandez can help
- Friday 11/19 @PKMS
- Sign up sheet @ pictures.peekskillpto.org

D. Discussion of Popcorn Fundraiser - Mia presents

- Double Good company, model is 50% profit and 50% goes to company, minimum order is approx \$25, 4 day pop-up store.
- Essential Workers honored nationally (can't do local)
- How/when to implement. Participant based, so incentivize kids (win bike, ipad)
 1. How: Volunteers: Mia, Kristin, Jen to scope. Get Principals on board.
 2. When: December as a christmas gift win the incentive
- Would kids get excited? Jamie - not sure what would incentivize kids, Spins Hudson, get local business to donate ... Incentive Principals.
- **Good messaging** around where the \$\$\$ is going, what used for. Mobile access.

E. Spring book fair

- Isabel historically a lead on the book fair, labor and time intensive, step back, can't be present during school hours.
- Book Fair Committee. History with vendor, pretty turnkey
- Partnership with Field Library Book Shop??

F. Spirit gear Order - Isabel will get quotes and prep targeted re-order

VI. Committee Reports

A. Special Events/Enrichment (Jamie)

- Trunk or Treat - spent \$500 on candy and trinkets - repackage for concession sales
- Not participating in the next Saturday Academy, work with Maria to help vision and **set participation boundaries for December.**
- Meeting next week 11/15 at 7pm - COM will promote on social.

B. Advocacy (Margery and Eric)

- Waiting for money to come in and spent in ways to help kids
- AQE - alliance for quality education, happy to see Cuomo gone
- NAACP - education committee, second monday each month, town hall to be scheduled. Their advocacy issue is critical race theory. Amy Perlow and Adrianna Frega.
- Safe Routes to School Coalition. Thursday morning observations / site visits at the schools and neighborhood over 6 weeks. Invited Principals to join. Data added to Google Folder. Find consistencies and patterns across the district to coordinate with city, county and state to make progress.
 1. School Zone: legal definition, we do not meet the criteria around each of our school buildings. Different regulations inside the school zone (police enforcement and signage).
 2. What is realistic to take on with the goal of solving the problem and enrolling the community into the advocacy training.
 3. Parent Google Form survey for each student as additional data. QR code.
 4. District is engaging with DPW to address issues.
 5. Peekskill Walks is a great ally with this work. They represent the community.

C. Communications (10 minutes)

- Jen and Heather - no major updates, no paper fliers for the direct appeal
- Let us know how we can help - committee of 7 people and 2 active translators

VII. New Business

A. We need a parent center liaison - send information to Coms to find a volunteer.

B. What is protocol for parent participation at schools (read a book to class)

VIII. Old Business

A. Parent Liaison update: Admin are meeting as per David. Have parents engaging by January (goal).

IX. Adjournment

Please meet with your committees to prepare your report for the general meeting DATE

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10th @ 6:30pm