

Peekskill CSD PTO Committee Report Form

Submission Date: May 2, 2022

Month & Year: May 2022

Committee: Advocacy

Items Requiring a Vote: None.

Items Requiring Discussion: The **Board of Education Candidates Forum** was scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7pm in the administration building. The terms of Maria Pereira, Jillian Villon, and Michael Simpkins all expire in June 2022 but, unfortunately, only the latter two candidates (Ms. Villon and Mr. Simpkins) are seeking reelection and no other community member received 100 signatures by the Wednesday, 4/27 at 5 pm deadline to run for election. For this reason, we will not have a moderated forum, as the League of Women Voters will not send a moderator for an uncontested election. Instead, however, we will host a more informal “meet and greet” with Ms. Villon and Mr. Simpkins, the purpose of which is twofold:

1. A chance to meet the candidates, especially for our newer PTO members
2. An opportunity to ask questions of the candidates about our school district. To save time, we ask that these questions be submitted in advance rather than having them read in person at the “meet and greet.” (This is the [document](#) we are working from.)

Items for Information Only:

Safe Routes to School:

4/6/22 Peekskill Herald [article](#).

On Wednesday, 3/16/22, we met with Acting City Manager Matt Alexander and Chief of Police Leo Dylewski to follow up to our first meeting in January. Topics of discussion included:

- School Zones- update school zones around each building to be consistent with [NYS Law](#). This requires extensive reviews. Will likely be the longest project.
- Crosswalks- consistently maintain current crosswalks; increase number of crosswalks within school zones: volunteers have completed surveys around each school which we will provide at our meeting. This will assist city employees (and us) to track progress from this starting point. (Thanks, volunteers!)
- Signage- align School Zone signage to be consistent with NYS law around all school buildings: same; see above.
- Crossing Guards- fill open positions, with a minimum of one guard near each building during school arrival and dismissals: we were told in January that all 6 positions are filled. We have suggestions to improve effectiveness; ask for more positions to be included in next year’s budget.
- Police Enforcement- for traffic violations within school zones during arrival and dismissal times: This will be an ongoing discussion with PPD.
- Code Enforcement- for all property owners: we want to know what action was taken for snow removal violations this winter; establish a clear process for submitting violation information to the city going forward.

We are also working on implementing a Walking Bus program this spring. We hope to introduce the idea and offer a pedestrian safety activity at the May Saturday Academy, as part of our efforts to educate and advocate.

PTO Involvement Needed!

- Volunteers to map out Walking Bus routes and coordinate with neighbors.
- Assistance with activities at upcoming Saturday Academy events, especially the next one on May 21st, outdoors at Torpy Field.