



**Peirce School PTO
Executive Committee Meeting
12/4/2019
Minutes**

Present:

Karen Hartley (Principal)
Claire Johnson (Co-president)
Kradi Petkov (Co-president)
Katie Young (Co-vp)
Megan Fitzpatrick (Co-vp)
John Griffin (Treasurer)
Sarah Barton (Secretary)
Hazel Davis (DIG)

- **Principal's update (Karen Hartley)**

- Fifth grade science camp is next week. The PTO will meet the cost of partial scholarships for families who need help to cover the camp tuition.
- Principal Hartley sent an email to families asking for donations of winter gear to keep at school for children who want to play in the snow at recess. This was also brought up as a concern by teacher rep Tara Lamont. PTO members present agreed to begin an initiative to start a winter closet where children who come to school without the necessary snow gear can borrow it for recess. Students who need snowpants, etc. for home as well can be directed to school social worker Hannah Borden, who can connect families to the appropriate resources.
- Krasi asked for an update on the state of the laminator. Principal Hartley reported that quotes have been solicited, and the laminator either had been ordered that day or would be the next day (she was unsure which). A replacement part had been considered but not ordered.

- Claire asked if kindergarten teachers would like Peirce t-shirts for the incoming class. Principal Hartley assumes yes. The incoming kindergarten parent orientation has been scheduled for June 2nd, 2020, which would be a good time to distribute shirts. Melanie Jarboe of the PTO welcome committee will coordinate.
- Claire asked if adding themes like “crazy hat day” to the Spirit Friday lineup would be too disruptive in the classroom. Karen replied that it would be fine.
- Megan noted that this month the resources usually allocated to the parent coffee will instead be used for a teacher appreciation initiative, and the PTO will deliver a drink of choice to each teacher in their room on the day of evening conferences.
- **Finances (John Griffin, Krasi Petkov)**
 - Budget update - John and Krasi presented the budget numbers for the year to date. Income categories are in flux and need to be reorganized (e.g.. paypal contributions to the read-a-thon were listed under annual fund).
 - Read-a-thon net earnings are approximately \$6,500. School picture and spiritwear income have not been counted yet.
 - Total income to date stands at \$19,711, of a \$36,000 budget goal.
 - Year-to-date spending is approx. \$7,000.
 - The PTO bank balance currently stands at nearly \$20,000, so we are on solid financial footing, especially considering the \$7,000 starting balance and the PTO reserve money market fund. However, we need to be mindful of the remaining financial obligations in the budget before allocating funds to new expenses like a poster maker.
 - Krasi will consult with enrichment chair Lisa da Silva to learn how much of the enrichment budget of \$8,500 is spoken for. Any extra funds could be used for all-school assemblies or additional enrichment. It was agreed that data separating enrichment spending by grade-level would help ensure funds are distributed equitably.
 - The goal of the PTO should be to spend all of the funds in the same school year they are raised.
 - After three years of service, John is stepping down as treasurer. He will transfer the checkbook, tax documents, etc. to Krasi who will manage them until a new treasurer is appointed. The PTO executive committee thanked John for his valuable contribution to the PTO.
- **DIG (Hazel Davis)**
 - Hazel Davis requested funds for a slate of anti-racism programming by Wee the People, a Boston-based organization that runs literature-based programs around starting discussions about race with children. Ideally, DIG would like three presentations, one for students k-2, one for older students 3-5, and one for parents.
 - Principal Hartley has been in touch with Wee the People, who would not provide a fee scale without knowing our budget first. The PTO agreed to offer a budget of

\$1000 to start, and see what happens. Principal Hartley emailed the offer to Wee the People.

- The DIG, based on conversations with teachers, is also interested in finding programming related to gender identity. The Our Whole Lives program might have something appropriate.
- Saadia Faruqi, author of Meet Yasmin, is scheduled to visit Peirce in March, with the contract coming out next week. Peirce will split the cost of the visit with Dallin (each school will have a half day with Faruqi). Peirce's share of the cost is \$700 and will be funded by the PTO.

- **Communications**

- Claire Johnson presented an update on the school directory. Emily Almas is ready to send the directory to the printer, and Claire would like to explore the possibility of selling sponsorship space on the covers to local preschools. Great Expectations has expressed interest. Claire will pursue sponsorship for the remainder of the week, but it was agreed that expeditious publication of the directory is a priority, and so it should be printed ASAP, with or without sponsorship to cover the \$300 printing costs. The PTO will consider an alternative system for compiling the directory next year.
- Claire Johnson asked if Principal Hartley has a calendar that includes dates such as report card deadlines, etc. Principal Hartley said there are several different calendars, and that she compiled a list of dates weekly and emails them to teachers. She will also send this email to the PTO newsletter email address so that relevant dates can be added to the Newsletter/website calendar.
- Allison Norton will take the Read-a-Thon off the front page of the website, and instead highlight parent-teacher conferences. It was agreed that Allison can choose an updated design for the website.
- Principal Hartley noted that the school advisory council is working on updating the Peirce PRIDE mnemonic to reflect a focus on inclusion, and can be put on the website when ready.

- **Volunteers**

- The Peirce Pride bank needs a new parent coordinator, as Amy Cooper is now homeschooling and no longer has a child at Peirce. Principal Hartley will email fourth grade parents to see if any parents are interested as their children will be the bankers next year,
- A replacement for John as treasurer will need to be found in the new year.