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# Pelham PTAC Meeting of the Association

Thursday, November 3rd, 2022

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## ATTENDEES:

### Board:

Annemarie Garcia, President

Melissa Labonte, Communications Chair

Allison Anderson, Community Engagement Co-Chair

Chanell Bradford-Smith, Community Engagement Co-Chair

Kristen Whalen, Secretary

### Members and Guests:

Dr. Cheryl Champ

Allison Frost

Jen Silvester

Adrienne Kiamie

Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane

Kim Espinosa

Monika Konieczna

Joanne Colon

Alex Wolff

Pilar Bartlett

Silmara Sucena

Jennie

David Sparano

Stephanie Otero

Kim Melloy

Leah Tahbaz

Nandini Anandu

Dawn Hartman-Bloise

Katie Caufield

Kate Carpenter

Paul Berti

Suany Aquino

Lisa Horten

Lynda Banfield

Marjut Herzog

Laura Caruso

Beth Ricci

**TOTAL: 32**

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## CALL TO ORDER - 8:50AM - Annemarie Garcia

### Superintendent's Report - Dr. Champ:

- ★ Very exciting - more "back to normal" than we've had
- ★ Awesome Halloween events
  - Biggest turnout at Haunted House
- ★ Winter Sports
  - Nov. 19th - JV/Varsity
  - Nov. 28th - Modified
  - Training of Captains
- ★ Field Use
  - Met w/ Mr. Hodge
  - Changes happen last minute
  - Never cancel a game to enable a practice
  - Massive Referee shortage
  - Bussing Issues
    - Lack of Drivers
    - Other Districts
  - Continue to monitor situation
  - Be more Proactive in Communications
- ★ Swastika found in Building
  - Shared by Mr. Berkowitz with students
    - Spoke with Counselors and Clubs and are prepared to provide support
  - Rabbi Reznick great partner throughout this process
  - State Education Department
    - New Requirement on Holocaust Education
  - Pelham has ALWAYS had these educational resources in place
    - Better and more thorough communication to newer families
    - Create an environment where all students feel included and safe
- ★ Black History Month
  - More Info coming
- ★ DEI Coordinator
  - Posted Internally - Unsuccessful
  - Need to expand search
  - Re-evaluate process and position
- ★ PMHS Vice Principal Search
  - Nov. 16th to submit candidate for approval
  - 100 Applicants
  - 8-10 went to committee for consideration
  - 3 to the Board for consideration
  - Anticipate a January 2nd start date

★ French - 9:01 AM

- French 2 and 3 not covered
- MS and HS both affected
- Not currently successful in finding a candidate
  - Dr. Bowman assisting in search
  - Very frustrating process due to teacher shortages
- 1 Teacher is covering 7 classes and over 17 Google Classrooms
  - Other teachers are pitching in to assist

★ Civics Partnership - 9:03 AM

- More needs for Students and Families
- Backpacking flyers from Civics outlining their mission
  - Good Neighbor Program
  - Help a Child
  - Holiday Meal Program
  - Raise awareness of Programs and Outreach

**Q: (Suany) - What are the structural considerations for the DEI Coordinator?**

**A: (Dr. Champ) - A consultant may be a possible consideration. But we then have to consider what the goals would be. Does BOCES have resources to assist building to do this work? Do we hire a P/T position, do we distribute the work to existing staff? Work is still moving forward.**

**(Suany) - Still worried about the bias if done internally, meaning wouldn't an outside hire provide a better perspective for change to occur?**

**Q: (Kim Espinosa) - What is the timeline and goal?**

**A: (Dr. Champ) - we would like to make a move ASAP. It is planned to be discussed at the next BoE meeting since there may be a change in direction. Will pick a direction in the next few weeks.**

**Q: (Jen Silvester) - Are you open to recommendations for candidates?**

**A: (Dr. C) - YES**

**Q: (Kim Melloy) - Do we have an update on the Playground install at Hutchinson?**

**A: (Dr. C) - We are looking at a redesign and repurchase. We needed to be able to drill down 3ft. and can only get down 2 ft. before hitting rock. We will need to utilize Juliannes for the remainder of the school year.**

**Q: (Kim) - Can the stairs from Lincoln Ave. be opened yet or is it contingent on the playground being finished? Need to alleviate foot traffic and cars through the Fifth St. area.**

**A: (Dr. C) - Structural issues on the stairs themselves must be remediated first. It is not dependent on the playground completion. Will check on a timeline.**

**Q: (David Sparano) - Do we have an update on the playground at Siwanoy?**

**A: (Dr. C) - We have to source parts and possibly redesign. There is a lack of replacements for the existing equipment. Master plan for playgrounds being developed. There is a consultant looking at remodeling at other 3 elementaries as well.**

**(Alex Wolff) - RFP has already been advertised.**

**Probably during next year, not culminating by next summer.**

**Q: (Stephanie Otero) - Is Julianne's included in that redesign?**

**A: (Allison) - Conversations and surveying done with JLP. One way or another Julianne's will happen.**

**Dr. Champ - Thank you to everyone for your patience on all of these topics. Please continue to advertise Re-Centering and Redirecting (to the appropriate people) at the building level. And encourage parents to work with the teachers and administrators.**

## **9:21AM Board of Education Report - Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane:**

- ★ Happy Halloween
- ★ Thanks to Colonial PTA for sharing their letter at the BoE Meeting
- ★ Reviewed DEI work happening
  - All staff engaged in this area on a daily basis both to educate and model
- ★ Thanks to Jackie DeAngelis for pitching in with the Math Department
- ★ PHOTOMATH App
  - Warning parents to check kids' devices
  - Impedes children actually learning
  - Take photo of math problem and it solves it
- ★ Additional Math support is coming
- ★ Natalie Marrero helping Dr.Champ with HR expertise
- ★ Staff morale
- ★ PTA Help - Direct to child's teacher/building level admins.
- ★ Friends of Pelham Sports
  - Gearing up for a new fundraising project
- ★ Board Coffee
  - French Classes
  - Quizzes/tests - too many?
  - School Calendar

- Professional Development days
- Parents identified teachers and principals that are doing a great job
- Thanks to the PTA Units

### 9:30 AM

**Q: (Suany) - Was it mentioned that there would be Math tutoring?**

**A: (Dr. C) - This is something being communicated by Mr. Berkowitz soon. No details just yet. It may be a possible drop-in program.**

**(Suany) - Hopefully this can be expanded to the lower grades**

**(Michael) - Looking for further necessity. Math department and Jackie D. discussing.**

**(Suany) - Any consideration for Summer School for All?**

**(Michael) - Agree we need to brainstorm as to what else can be done.**

### 9:32 AM - Dr. Champ departing

#### President's Report - Annemarie Garcia:

- ★ Voting on ByLaws at next meeting
- ★ Units must file taxes by November 15th
- ★ Spelling Bee
  - Dr. Thompson - Can Timeline be coordinated w/ SCRIPPS National Bee?
  - PTA Units getting it rolling
- ★ MTK Changes
  - Need to walk through steps on MTK site
  - Will be back in touch w/ Units

#### Minutes - Kristen Whalen:

- ★ Asked for a motion to vote on approving October Minutes
- ★ Motion made by Stephanie
- ★ Seconded by Annemarie
- ★ Vote
  - Yay - 20
  - Nay - 0
  - Abstain - 0
  - October Minutes Approved

#### Communications - Melissa Labonte:

- ★ Thanks to Units for continuing to share Comms - very important

## Community Engagement - Allison Anderson:

- ★ Positive feedback on Prof. Dev. Days
- ★ Thanks to Units for pushing info out
- ★ Ms. Sullivan - Author Visits
  - Reached out to programs to coordinate visits
  - Kate Caufield reaching out to elementaries

## 9:39 AM - Community Organizations

### Pelham Together - Laura Caruso:

- ★ Thank You to Everyone - Disconnect to Reconnect success
- ★ Project Happiness
  - Connect older and younger children
  - Promoting Mindfulness
  - New Spin - Delivery and sign ups next week
  - Kids know the timeline
  - Can only do 100 deliveries
  - Sun/Mon before Thanksgiving
- ★ HOP Award - Heart Of Pelham
  - Nominate teenager
  - 2 Highschoolers
  - Cash award
  - MS has HOP Jr. done w/in the MS
  - Adults need to nominate and elevate

### PEF (Pelham Education Foundation) - Lisa Horten:

- ★ Nothing new
- ★ Expecting grants coming in soon
- ★ Update at next meeting

### JLP (Junior League of Pelham) - Allison Anderson:

- ★ Reading Program @ Library
  - Monthly, next 11/16
  - 3:30 PM
  - 4 and Up plus a craft
  - Let elementaries know
- ★ Save The Date - Community Round Table
  - 11/29 Daronco Townhouse
  - Climate Resilience and Sustainability
  - Co-Chairs of Pelham Eliminates Plastic to speak
  - Welcome Community Members - Info out next week

## The following orgs not in attendance:

- ★ Pelham Recreation
- ★ Pelham Civics
- ★ Project Community

## 9:46 AM UNIT UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Joanne Colon
  - Thanks to all the Units for the SEPTA Memberships
  - Please encourage more memberships among Teachers and admins
- ★ Stephanie Otero
  - SEPTA meeting tonight 6PM at The MS Library
  - Pelham Girl Scouts - Friday wear Green

## Any New Business?

- ★ Marjut Herzog
  - Thank you Pelham Together and the Picture House for Screenagers
  - Panel was amazing
  - Emphasized coming together for connections
  - Tech Tuesdays - marvelous resource
- ★ Pelham Market this Sunday
  - 3 young entrepreneurs
  - Please attend and engage
- ★ Joanne
  - SEPTA provides awards for Seniors every year.
  - Board plans on being involved in the selection
  - Suany - What is the criteria?
  - In process of creating a new award for SEPTA champion. Will get back with criteria for both

## Annemarie - Is there any other business?

None

**Meeting Adjourned - 9:52 AM - Annemarie Garcia**