



Pelham PTAC - Meeting of the Association

Thursday, January 5, 2023

ATTENDEES:

PTAC BOARD:

Annemarie Garcia, President
Tiffany Herbert, Vice President
Melissa Labonte, Communications Chair
Allison Anderson, Community Engagement Co-Chair
Suzanne Snyder, Treasurer
Kristen Whalen, Secretary

ADMIN, MEMBERS, and GUESTS:

Dr. Cheryl Champ, Pelham Schools Superintendent
Dr. Kerri Titone, Assistant Principal PMHS
Dr. Alice Bowman, Asst. Superintendent Teaching & Learning
Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane, BoE President
Leah Tahbaz
Marjut Herzog
Pavlina Berti
Nandini Anandu
Sylvia Rowe
Lisa Horten
Monika Konieczna

Pilar Bartlett
Chiara Goodyear
Suany Aquino
Alex Wolff
Theresa
Dawn Bloise
Silmara Sucena

Katherine Rogers-Damme
Jeri Shelly
Adrienne Kiamie
Allison Frost
Laura Caruso
Joanne Colon
Stephanie Otero
Kim Melloy
Jennie Utsinger
Katie Caufield
Beth Ricci
Kim Espinosa **TOTAL:30**

8:47 AM - CALL TO ORDER - Annemarie Garcia

Welcome to All! Happy New Year! We'll jump right into the Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Champ:

- ★ Introduction of Dr. Kerri Titone, Assistant Principal for PMHS
 - 20+ years in education
 - Very happy to be here in Pelham
 - Hit the ground running
- ★ Board of Education and District Updates
 - Be on the lookout
- ★ Grant
 - Senator Alessandra Biaggi, former Pelican, sponsoring grant
 - Grant request for 1.3 Million
 - Focus on security/safety upgrades
 - Smart Board Funding/E-Rate Funding
 - Improve infrastructure
 - Alarming Doors
 - Upgrade swipe system
- ★ Facilities
 - SIWANOY -
 - Car drove up walkway from Pelhamdale
 - Mtng w/Manor PD on shoring up barriers
 - Playgrounds-
 - No movement on Hutch and Siwanoy
 - Pending pricing
 - Pending information
 - Mr. Condon to be meeting and surveying all playgrounds for redesigns and upgrades
 - Hopefully work to begin by summer
- ★ Black History Month Celebrations - Dr. Bowman:
 - February
 - NCTE AARI partnering
 - Incorporate focus on literacy, i.e Black authors
 - 2/1 Read a Louds K-12
 - Dr. Thompson collecting titles for Teachers to choose from
 - Subsequent days - Guest Readers in Buildings/Authors
 - 2/7 Tuesday - Storytime Middle School Library
 - HS and MS readers for elementary audience
- ★ DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion)
 - Dr. Bowman has been extremely helpful
 - RFP being done for consultant

- Rethinking structure of position

QUESTIONS?

Q-Chiara: Would it make sense to move Hutch's structure over to Siwanoy if it can't be used?

A-Dr. Champ: That's a good thought. The question is can that structure fit and function in the existing space? Also we wanted feedback regarding the design from the schools

9:06 AM - Annemarie - over to Dr. Michael

Board of Education - Dr. Michael Owen-Michaane:

- ★ HNY!
- ★ Board is currently reviewing yearly goals
 - Reexamine
 - Recommit
 - Recenter
- ★ Thank you to everyone for contributing feedback/thoughts on excellence in Pelham
 - EXCELLENCE = INDIVIDUAL success, direction, and growth
 - Highly differentiated instruction
 - Time Intensive
 - Continue to consider feedback while developing the new budget
- ★ Continuing the Strategic Plan
 - Implementing
 - Making progress
- ★ Good Stewards of Pelham Services
 - Increase BoE communication
 - Long Term Facilities Plan
- ★ Math Education
 - Thanks to all the teachers
 - Drop-in Math Tutoring at MS and HS (Adrienne Kiamieto post on FB)
 - Adrienne - 3:15-4:15 PM Mon/Tues/Thurs RM 250A
 - Open to 8-12 grades
- ★ Safety & Security
 - BoE Reviewing for upgrades
 - Thanks to our Monitors and security
- ★ Budget being worked on over the next few months

QUESTIONS?

Q - Chiara: Having been discussed on several platforms, can Parent Teacher conferences be revamped?

A - Michael: That is being looked at. Time constraints are being considered also.

Q - Chiara: Most Teachers in the Middle and High School do not schedule a conference if the student is performing well. Is that the normal procedure?

A - Dr. Champ: Messaging from the schools is not meant to discourage conferences. This has been done historically due to time constraints and the number of students. I agree that this needs to change. We do need better access and structure and would be great if we could find more time.

Q - Adrienne Kiamie: Can we potentially look at reinstating the delayed start days as opposed to half days for Professional Development Days? Potential for troublemaking and unstructured time on half days is much greater. Maybe more programming options for Middle schoolers in the afternoon. Also on half days, no Academy period available.

A - Dr. Champ: There are definitely Pros and Cons to both approaches. The early dismissal days have offered consistent professional development. We can consider and review.

- Michael: We can discuss prior to setting next year's calendar and schedule.

Q - Suany: While I appreciate the focus on Black History month programming, is it going far enough? Subject focus on Black history, influence, contributors and understanding behind the celebration that is Black History Month?

A - Dr. Champ: I certainly agree. Some may say we are moving too slow, others may see it as too much too fast. As a district, we are trying to meet all points. We want to embed this in the curriculum, this is a beginning. Approaching Diversity and Inclusion through a series of resources including Mirrors and Windows. Reflecting on oneself as well as gaining perspective on others experiences and realities. Hopefully, each time out we can expand and continue to embed this in our curriculum.

- Michael: Continually trying to create diversity and inclusion within the curriculum.

9:35 AM - Annemarie - PTAC

PTAC Business:

- ★ Unit Meeting
 - Thursday 1/12 @ 9AM
 - Annemarie to send out Zoom link and reminder
- ★ Open Positions - Tiffany:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Tiffany reaching out to Units for Nominating Committee
 - Would like reps from each unit
 - Flier will be coming out - keep a lookout
 - Elections - May 14th
- ★ MINUTES - Kristen:
 - Minutes have been posted in agenda and in chat
 - There are no recommendations, changes, or edits

- Kristen asked for a motion to approve the minutes
 - Annemarie made a motion to approve
 - Marjut and Sylvia seconded the motion
 - Minutes were approved

Q - Stephanie: Will PTAC Meetings remain virtual?

A - Annemarie: IDK. Seems easier to conduct virtually. We would like to have, at the very least, an in person meeting for the last meeting of the school year. This year space has been limited. We can look at potentially doing a hybrid meeting. Planning for next year's meetings will take place over the summer.

- ★ Treasurer Report - Suzanne:
 - State Tax IDs
 - PMHS has the right number
 - Other units check yours
 - Suzanne looking into it and will verify
 - 990s need to be completed and submitted - end of Jan.
- ★ Communications - Melissa:
 - Flier for Nominating Committee coming out this week
 - PTAC Comms Guidelines in folder to review Re: content
 - Thanks to everyone for their participation!
- ★ Community Engagement - Allison Anderson:
 - Over to Katie Caufield
 - Dates 1/17 - 2/3 READ - A - THON
 - Bookmark designs
 - Author Visits being pushed back due to timing of requests
 - Author will be visiting all 4 elementaries later in the year
 - Sign for Read-A-Thon for District at Wolf's and Colonial
 - PEF Grant changed to a 3 year proposal for Author visits
- ★ Sustainability - Allison Anderson:
 - In works

Community Organizations:

Pelham Together - Laura Caruso:

- ★ WINTERFEST
 - 2/4/23
 - 4-7 PM
 - Food added
 - One-Pot Meal PotLuck
 - Bands
- ★ Community Therapy Services

- End of January - 1/23
- Short Term (3-6 months w/permanent placement assistance)
- Ages 7-21
- Huguenot Church location
- Director has been established
- No one turned away
- Financial Assistance on sliding scale provided
- Examiner to run article when Kim starts
- ★ Other Programming
 - Trying to bring back Skate Nights at Ice Hutch
 - Rotating schedule of age groups
 - M.S. PTA can you reach out and partner up?
 - Internships
 - 2/1/23 Applications will be out
 - Applications Due in March
 - Need Mentors for Internship Programs
 - All types of work - 30 hrs over 3 weeks. Potentially looking to expand over 4 weeks.

PEF (Pelham Education Foundation) - Lisa Horten:

- ★ Dr. Charles T. Wilson Scholarship
 - PEF is helping to FACILITATE
 - Taking Donations
 - Assisting with infrastructure
 - Not to be combine with any other PEF funding, completely separate
- ★ 2 Grants approved:
 - Reading and Comprehension at all 4 Elementaries
 - M.S. Funding an Artist in Residency
 - Photoskills/Photography/Portfolio building
 - 8th Grade program

JLP (Junior League of Pelham) - Allison Anderson:

- ★ Library - Stories and Craft time
- ★ Launching Pelham Community Grant Program
 - Pelham improvement of health
 - Tax exempt non-profit
 - 1/23 Applications out
 - Deadline in March

Not In Attendance

- ★ Pelham Recreation Dept.
- ★ Pelham Civics Association

Project Community - Katherine Rogers-Damme:

- ★ Project CHILD - Pelham Art Center
 - Those with disabilities
 - 1/8/23 2-4:30 PM
 - Held Monthly
 - Free of Charge
 - Medical Form to be completed online prior to attendance

GSA (Pelham Girl Scouts) - Stephanie Otero:

- ★ 3/11/23 - Community Wide Day of Wellness
- ★ Look for upcoming Info

10:00 AM - UNIT UPDATES/HIGHLIGHTS (All Unit updates submitted to PTAC President)

Pelham SEPTA (Special Education PTA) - Joanne Colon:

- ★ Candidates being sought for Open Board Positions
 - 2 Co-President Positions
 - Secretary
- ★ Nominating Committee Members also being sought
- ★ More Info to follow

Colonial Elementary School - Lisa Horten:

- ★ Thank you to the PTAC Community Engagement Committee for support and collaboration on Read-A-Thon

Annemarie Garcia - There being no new business, we will reconvene on Thursday, February 2nd at 8:45 AM.

This meeting will stand adjourned

Meeting Adjourned - 10:04 AM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Whalen, Pelham PTA Secretary, 1/16/23