



PSO AGENDA

PEIRCE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Thursday, March 2, 2023

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to everyone in attendance. We introduced ourselves around the room.

II. Recap of Events

Valentine's Dance - Feb 10th

- Held on Feb 10th for all Peirce kids and families. A big success.
- As an organization, PSO doesn't officially raise money, but we do collect donations at our events, which helps us fund our future events. Donations collected from this dance were: \$1200, expenses \$206 for decorations and goodie bags.
- What went well: kids seemed to have a really good time. Separating 5th - 8th from the younger grades seemed to work well. Awesome music by our parent and student DJs. We had 4 - 5 crafts for things to do for kids who didn't want to dance. Snacks and drinks were free. This year we introduced pizza and goodie bags. No popcorn and cotton candy this time, we'll make this an outdoor thing. This really helped with clean-up. Pickles was there and was a total hit among kids big and small. Pickles needs some new jerseys! We've learned the old ones have been thrown out.
- What we can improve: We need to figure out how to get water when it runs out to have for drinking. In the past, we had a volunteer at the water table to pour the water instead of letting kids pour themselves. There is a janitor closet we can use to get additional water, and we'll set the water station up near there. This has been an issue for previous events like the back-to-school picnic where we've run out of water. We need to create a water plan for events in the future, to know how and where we'll refill as needed. It's a matter of logistics.
- We'd like to continue with pizza but need better rules about this. Smaller cuts to feed more. Need better logistics in the hallways to manage lines. Have separate stations for food. Have more pizza.
- Change the entrance to door 7? There's more room to enter there. Would like to test this out for our next event. Is an entry table necessary? This takes up space and slows the line down. We want to do whatever we can to avoid lines.
- More group dance instruction would be fun.
- We need to clarify which kids need parent to accompany them, for example PYP need a parent, MYP do not and instead have several parents volunteer as chaperones. This needs to be clearer to the chaperones. A parent expressed there was bullying happening at the dance where the kids felt under-supervised, with the older kids in the auditorium. We need a process in place to support these situations. Chaperones need a protocol for when these things happen, such as how to report this, who to escalate to if you need support. We'll set up a meeting with admin to discuss this. Would be great to have volunteer t-shirts, and we'll let kids know they can go to anyone with a t-shirt, if they don't have a parent and they need support.
- We need support for site from custodians to help with trashcans, closing / opening doors. Need a check-list for things we need for each event - custodian, admin available, water plan, t-shirts, etc.
- We'd like to do a survey for kids and families at the end of the year for feedback on our events, which will inform how we manage events next year.

Discuss the relationship between FOP and POS

- FOP is the fundraising organization for our school and they fund things outside the school's budget.

- FOP's biggest fundraisers are the Move-a-thon, held every spring, and the Gala (an event similar to Harbor Night pre-Covid), that will be held in the fall. More to come on both events as we approach them.
- FOP also raises money with parent annual subscriptions, business sponsorships, Hopleaf events (which will return in April) and selling Peirce merchandise.
- There is a request to have Peirce merchandise available for sale / order at every Peirce event, and the answer is yes we can do this. It's just a matter of logistics and FOP will work to figure that out.
- PSO runs community building events and falls under FOP's insurance and budget. PSO does not fundraise or raise money ourselves, but use a budget allocated by FOP. Suggested donations we collect go back to our FOP budget. We are set up this way so that our events can be free to all families to participate.
- There's an interest among the community to know more about FOP and what they're doing. Everyone is part of FOP and welcome to attend meetings. Minutes will be shared (need to be better about communicating where and when). There's an elected board who figures out where we put our money.

III. Upcoming Events

Winter Mixer - Friday March 10, 6 - 10pm. TONIGHT!!

- Our next Parent / Caregiver Mixer will be held tonight at the Whiskey Girl. There will be pool tables and a special drink. Gorgeous space. Free jazz band.
- There will be Peirce signature cocktails and mocktails. We hope folks can join!
- Babysitting Night will be held at Peirce this evening from 6 - 9pm to make it easier to attend the Winter Mixer (although it's not required you attend the mixer in order to take advantage of babysitting night - you can spend your time however you wish). The Babysitting event has sold out, all 60 spots are full.

Career Day Breakfast - Friday, March 24

- Mr. Lee is asking PSO to help, buy breakfast food, coffee and set-up. FOP will cover the cost (\$350 - 500).
- There is a slate of fantastic parents to speak with kids, including their most requested careers - Video Game Designers and Photographers. Thank you to all parents involved!
- Reach out to Lauren Swihart, who is helping support this event, if you have any questions.

Spring Book Fair - March 27 - 31

- The Book Fair is coming up again in the Spring. Erin Payne is the Committee Lead. Discussion about how to continue making it more equitable for all kids. There will be a meeting prior to the book fair to discuss.

Teacher Luncheon - Wednesday, March 29

- There will be a Luncheon for teachers during our spring Parent / Teach Conferences. Will be led by Lee Ann Searight.

Celebration de Arte - Wednesday, April 26

- Formally known as Fiesta de Arte, the Celebration de Arte is happening again this spring. This will be in partnership with BAC's Dia Del Nino event held that day.
- There will be a Silent auction, an FOP gear table, an Art market in cafeteria for kids, parents and community members to sell their art, Bake sale, performances by the kids, food trucks outside.
- There's an idea for each classroom to have a piece of artwork they can make together to be sold.
- All money collected will go back to the school.
- Need parent support to help organize and execute this. Erin Payne agreed to help hang art on walls. Michelle will get info out soon to solicit more volunteers.

IV. Committee Updates:

Peirce Website - Lauren Swihart

- Lauren met with Ms. Zaimi and Mr. Lee to work out how to make quick updates to the site. There will be a new Google Form for parent group leads for updates. Updates will be made to the site every Monday.
- We're looking to update photos that are displayed, and we'll need the following volunteers: a photographer to take new photos at school events, and several parent volunteers who can review the photos, and work with teachers to identify each child, and match them against their Media Consent forms to ensure there is permission to share their photos online.
- We're interested in making the website more functional and beautiful. We'll be looking to raise funds and working with vendors to secure a 15 - 20 year commitment for ongoing web hosting. More to come as this gets worked out.

Crossing Guard Appreciation - Helena Swyter

- We have money in our appreciation fund to gift our Peirce crossing guards for Crossing Guard Month, which is running now and ends 3/14. Helena will gift them each a \$50 gift card as well as a small Peirce branded water bottle.
- We will include our crossing guards in our gifting annually going forward.

V. Upcoming School Events:

STEAM NIGHT - Wednesday, March 15

NO SCHOOL - PD Day - Thursday, March 17

NEXT PSO MEETING - Thursday, April 13