

Peirce Service Organization Meeting Minutes

Friday December 16, 2016

8:15 am

Attendees

Nora Hughes, President

M. Cecilia Bocanegra, Secretary

Members of Peirce Service Organization (PSO)

Location

Fieldhouse - Helen C. Peirce School of International Studies

1423 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago, IL 60660

Agenda

- **New Business**
 - Holiday Collection
 - International Dance
 - Career Day
 - Winter Dance
 - Website Needs
 - Learning Celebration
- **Old Business**
 - PSO/FOP Parents Mixer Update
 - Junior PSO Update
 - Open House Update
 - LSC Update

New Business

- **Holiday Collection** The Holiday collection of potluck food and drink for teachers, staff, and administration is taking place again. The SignUp Genius and communication about this event are being handled by PSO member Rebecca Hendrickson.
- **International Dance** As a fundraising effort for the DC trip the 7th and 8th graders are taking, the middle school is hosting an International Dance on January 27th. Proceeds from the event will go towards DC scholarships. To provide an additional boost, some Peirce parents who have a business will be setting up tables to sell their products in a mini-bazaar style and they will be donating 20% of their earnings towards the scholarship fund. The plan is to have Jr. PSO and PSO help with the volunteering efforts and there is also a plan to have a snack table, t-shirt table, food, dancing, dance classes and performances.
- **Career Day** Career Day will be taking place on April 21st and PSO members are asked to spread the word and spark interest for potential speakers. PAC will also be recruiting speakers for that day.
- **Winter Dance** The middle school will be having a Winter Dance on December 22nd. They will have a table selling concessions and proceeds will go towards the DC scholarships. Volunteers and donations of food and drink will be needed.
- **Website Needs** PSO Member Kathy Herwig is helping move the school's website and she needs the assistance of a website programmer. PSO members are asked to reach out to anyone they may know who does this and can volunteer their skills and time.
- **Learning Celebration** The next Middle School Learning Celebration is set to take place on February 10, 2017. Volunteers will be needed to facilitate that event.

Old Business

- **PSO/FOP Parents Mixer Update** The Mixer was well attended and included many new faces. It is considered a success and the group would like to schedule another one. PSO President Nora Hughes asked that we keep in mind the budget we used for the event so that going forward, it can be included in the overall PSO Budget. This year, about \$90 was spent on pizza for the kids in childcare and half of the \$250 food budget was used for food at the event.
- **Junior PSO Update** PSO Member and Jr. PSO Coordinator Ella French gave an update on the new group. She reports that she has about 15-20 kids in the group and they meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 3pm until 4pm. She and Principal Zaimi have reached out to teaching staff to offer the group members up to help on projects and they've been getting good responses from the teachers. The PSO group discussed ways to get another adult to help Ella coordinate the Jr. group because it is a lot of kids and even more have expressed interest in joining. In an effort to accommodate the interest and be inclusive to all who'd like to take part, this is

something that will need to be addressed. The group was asked to brainstorm other ways to help ease the work on Ella and allow all kids interested to join. For our next meeting, we will have 1 Jr. PSO member, along with 2 student council members, on hand to participate.

- **Open House Update** PSO is still in need of someone to take over the Open House Committee. Ideally, a parent from a younger grade can be found to head this up.
- **LSC Update** PSO Member and LSC Parent Rep, John Azpeitia, was on hand to give PSO an update on the most recent LSC meeting. John reported that the LSC discussed attendance and its impact on our school rating. Attendance in the Kindergarten and 8th grades are seeing the biggest problem and the LSC discussed incentives to help increase attendance so that our school rating is not negatively impacted. Ideas are welcome from all parents. John also reported that another big topic of discussion in the LSC meeting was the possibility of changing the school's name now that International Studies is no longer as good a description of Peirce. Some members liked the idea of IB being included in our name but it was brought up that the IB organization does not allow something like this. Other members liked the idea of having an opportunity to use this for branding and as a way to bring some uniformity to how the school is represented. The LSC is open to suggestions on this issue. Finally, the LSC was also discussing the state of the CPS budget and how it may impact our school. PSO members were encouraged to contact their State Representatives. The CPS Board will be taking a vote on an amended budget reflecting the most recent cuts in January.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 20 at 8:15 am. The location will be the fieldhouse at the school.