

Peirce Service Organization Meeting Minutes

Friday January 18, 2017

8:15 am

Attendees

Nora Hughes, President

M. Cecilia Bocanegra, Secretary

Molly Roudebush, Treasurer

Lori Zaimi, Principal

Kimberly Lebovitz, Primary Years IB Coordinator

Dr. Talyia Reimer, Middle Years IB Coordinator

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**
 - Valentine's Day Dance
 - Talent Show/Cake Walk/Fiesta de Arte
 - Festival of Colors Celebration
 - Upcoming Giordano's Peirce Days
 - Hopleaf Peirce Day
- **Old Business**
 - Student Council Update

- Junior PSO Update
- PAC/BAC Update
- International Dance
- LSC Survey
- FOP Survey
- Learning Celebration

New Business

- **Valentine's Day Dance** The Valentine's Day Dance will be taking place on Friday February 10th. A new chairperson is needed to manage the dance. No one at the meeting was able to volunteer so PSO will work to find someone. Some PSO members did volunteer to handle certain aspects of the dance such as food and crafts.
- **Talent Show/Cake Walk/Fiesta de Arte** This event will be re-tooled a bit. Ms. Buchbinder is heading up the planning and a meeting has already been held to discuss the event. More meetings are scheduled. The event will take place on Saturday June 3rd.
- **Festival of Colors Celebration** Last year, PSO member Manini Rao held a 3rd grade celebration of Holi, the Festival of Colors. This year, she would like to expand the celebration to include the rest of the school. She and Primary Years IB Coordinator, Kimberly Lebovitz, will be working to make this possible. The Celebration will take place on Monday March 13th. Manini will need help making the colors and PSO Member and Parent Chair of Junior PSO offered Jr. PSO's help. They will look at looping in the kids in Student Council as well.
- **Upcoming Giordano's Peirce Days** FOP members Susan Boyle and Laura Meyer have secured more Giordano's Peirce Days. The upcoming dates are January 26, February 23, and March 30. PSO will help publicize these upcoming days.
- **Hopleaf Peirce Day** This year's Peirce Day at Hopleaf will take place on Sunday April 30.

Old Business

- **Student Council Update** Simeon Shedd, member of Student Council, attended the meeting to give the group and update on recent Student Council events. They have chosen one local and one international charitable organization to which to donate some of their fundraising monies to this year. The local charitable organization is Cornerstone Community Shelter in Uptown and the international charitable organization is Operation Smile. The Student Council used their Pajama Day funds to make a donation to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their efforts to fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

They also recently held a focus group with Principal Zaimi and their teacher reps and they were able to compile a list of issues salient to our student body that they'd like to see addressed. Principal Zaimi is taking these issues to the LSC to see what can be done. Finally, the Student Council is planning on trying to help raise money for the 7th/8th grade DC trip scholarships by holding one or more movie nights.

- **Junior PSO Update** Jr. PSO student member Sinead Lyons was in attendance to give the group and update on Jr. PSO's recent activities and upcoming plans. They have been dedicating themselves to helping out around the school by picking up litter and assisting teachers in their classrooms. They are also in charge of making the decorations for the Valentine's Day Dance and are helping with setup. They are in the process of trying to brainstorm ways to advertise their availability to help to the teaching staff.
- **PAC/BAC Update** PAC Chairperson, Anya Kompare, informed the group that PAC is coordinating some math workshops for parents to better understand the math strategies that are currently being taught to our children. PSO member, Rebecca Hendrickson, will be leading these workshops and they are scheduled for Friday March 3rd and Friday April 28th. Also, they have coordinated more IB parent mornings with Kimberly Lebovitz and they will be coming up in March. BAC had a meeting yesterday and they are coordinating a workshop regarding how to navigate the special education system when one has a student with special needs. Finally, they are discussing ways to determine all the languages spoken by Peirce families and ways to provide translation for as many as possible.
- **International Dance** The SignUp Genius for volunteer needs is out and the planning group is plugging in the teachers for the different dance classes. They are researching the cost of hiring a DJ. Their fundraising goal for the year is \$10,800 and they are more than halfway there. These funds provide six full scholarships for the trip and 5 half scholarships. Other plans in the works to raise the remainder of the funding necessary are a Chipotle night, a partnership with Babes with Blades for a performance night, and a volleyball tournament on Wednesday February 22nd.
- **LSC Survey** The LSC Survey used to solicit feedback about the school will be going out later in the year.
- **FOP Survey** An email will be send out with the link to the survey to garner more replies.
- **Learning Celebration** A sign up will be going out to parents asking them to volunteer to teach mini-courses for the Celebration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 17 at 8:15 am. The location will be the fieldhouse at the school.