



**PEIRCE**

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# Peirce Service Organization (PSO)

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## Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2022

### Peirce Service Organization

Cecilia Bocanegra – President

Ashley Heins-Elwood – Vice President

Tracy Didriksen – Secretary

We welcome any Peirce parent to join our meetings and become a PSO member. PSO helps foster connection and collaboration among the members of the Peirce community. We plan events and activities throughout the school year to support the faculty, students, and families of Peirce. Some of the key things we do are the Room Rep program, family and parent events, Teacher Appreciation Weeks, and beautification efforts such as Playground Clean-up, painting and gardening, and many other things.

Our meetings take place the second Friday of each month, in person, in the basement of the Edgewater Baptist Church on Hollywood and Glenwood (entrance is on Glenwood). Even if you can't attend all the meetings, we still welcome you to get involved in any of our activities. If you have ideas of activities you'd like to see, or events you'd like to lead or support, feel free to reach out to our Leadership Team or email us at [peircevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:peircevolunteers@gmail.com).

### Current Activities / Updates

- **Stock the Teacher's Lounge (Helena)**
  - Ms. Zaimi approved for us to help stock the Teacher's Lounge with drinks and snacks, as a small way to show our appreciation to our teachers. Helena will lead this effort.
  - Michelle will partner with Helena, as there is already an effort underway to provide snacks for Career Day on April 7th. Leftovers will go to the Teacher's Lounge.
  - Ongoing, Helena will continue to stock and solicit volunteers to help support.
- **Parent Concierge for Main Office / Teachers**
  - An idea was floated in our last meeting to create a Parent Concierge, a parent or small group of parents to support the needs of the main office and/or teachers in general. We learned we will not move forward on that this year. Instead, Ms. Zaimi encourages parents to reach out to their own classroom teachers to find out how we can support them at the individual classroom level.
- **Fiesta del Arte** will not happen this year.
- **Picnic Tables**
  - Several picnic tables have been purchased for outdoor lunches for students. Originally there was a call for volunteers to put them together but the tables have already been assembled. There may be a need for parent support to help stain / paint the tables. Ashley will reach out to Ms. Zaimi to confirm.
- **Spirit Squad (Ashley, Lindsey)**
  - No action at the moment but we're still working to push for more attention to school sports
- **School Website (Lauren)**
  - Edits are still in process. There are both short-term immediate changes to be made and long-term needs. Lauren is working with Mr. Lee to progress this.
  - A question was raised about who owns the Helen C. Peirce Facebook and Instagram pages? How can we help keep these updated and current? Ashley will find out.
- **Parent Engagement and Education subcommittee (Rebecca)**

- The current focus is on how to expand our parent outreach to better get in touch with our Peirce parents and caregivers
- We will begin using WhatsApp, a free, anonymous service to text parents. Our hope is this will help us reach families who don't rely on email. Invitations to join this app will be communicated to parents in backpack mail, teacher's emails and Ms. Zaimi's newsletters. The main question is translation – we will research what is possible.
- In addition to WhatsApp, Ashley will ask Ms. Zaimi if parent groups can host a table at Parent Teacher conferences to give folks information about this, ask them to sign-up, and collect email addresses, if applicable.
- **Report Card Day Luncheon (New Lead Needed)**
  - Emily DeSantos is working with volunteers to host a luncheon for our teachers on Report Card pick-up / Conferences Day, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and is looking to pass this on to someone else to lead it in the future. Lauren and Chip to support.
- **Peirce Spring Dance - Tentative**
  - We will confirm with Ms. Zaimi the ability for us to host a Spring Dance for all students. We are tentatively looking at May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - We need volunteers to form a subcommittee to plan this out. Interested folks are Tracy, Ashley, Lauren and Chip. Any others welcome!
- **Peirce Beautification**
  - **Clean and Green – Tracy** – The 48<sup>th</sup> Ward is hosting its annual Clean and Green event throughout the neighborhood on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and we'd like Peirce to join in to continue to clean and beautify our playground. More details forthcoming as we work this out.
  - **Repainting Games – Ashley** – we will pursue repainting 4-square, hopscotch, and other games treasured by our kids at recess and after school
  - **Peirce Garden – TBD** – We are working to figure out who is leading this and would like to recruit others to help.
- **PSO Elections**
  - PSO will conduct elections for its officer positions, which will take place by written ballot during our next meeting on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Officers will serve a 2-year term. To be eligible, one must have been an active participant in PSO meetings / initiatives for at least one year.
  - Nominations were made in our meeting and the current candidates are:
    - President – Ashley Heins, Michelle Platts
    - Vice President –
    - Secretary – Tracy Didriksen
  - Reach out to Cecilia Bocanegra with any questions.