



PSO AGENDA

PEIRCE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

PSO MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Peirce Service Organization (PSO) is to foster connection and collaboration amongst the members of the Peirce community. To this end, the PSO plans events and activities throughout the school year to support the faculty, students, and families of Peirce. We are comprised of parent volunteers and welcome any Peirce parent to join our meetings and become a PSO member.

The PSO solicits volunteers to carry out numerous activities for Peirce families to enjoy. We encourage all Peirce parents/guardians to get involved with the school and ask that parents volunteer service hours throughout the year.

For more information, attend a meeting or email: Michelle Platts at michelle@tacboard.com. Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month, alternating between 8:15am and 6:30pm.

President: Michelle Platts
Vice President: Ashley Heins-Elwood
Secretary: Tracy Didriksen
Treasurer : Lauren Swihart

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 7, 2023

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - All

II. FOP UPDATE - Chad Curry

Friends of Peirce (FOP) improves student experience and supports academic excellence, by raising money for Peirce. FOP sponsors several major fundraising events through the year. The FOP board is made up of 12 volunteers. A slating committee every spring asks for parent volunteers to be part of the slate. Board seats are 2 years. FOP engages with local businesses, and is a member of Andersonville Chamber of Commerce.

FOP is a partner to PSO and provides the insurance and legal support for PSO.

The next FOP Meeting is Tuesday Sept 12th 6:30pm. In this meeting we'll be voting on overall budget for the year. We've set a goal of raising \$150k for the year.

The Moveathon is an annual fundraising event with a goal to bring in about \$65k to Peirce. This year we've moved this to the fall to capture the energy early in the year and so as not to conflict with all the other things happening in the spring. Money raised goes to support arts, dance and writing programming at the school. Because we just held this last spring, our goal this year is smaller, about \$30k. We will need parent / caregiver support in 2 ways - 1) help out

on the day of the Move-a-thon, ie walk with your child's class, be a crossing guard, hand out snacks, etc. 2) Help your children collect donations. Kids who've entered funds, no matter what size, become part of a lottery of prize drawings each week.

New this year, we'll hold a Community Awards and Gala in the spring, with a goal to raise \$90k. Will need support to help with this. More info to come.

New! Starting this Friday after drop-off and to continue twice a month, we will hold a Coffee and Community event at the Understudy. Come by, get coffee and figure out how to get involved with FOP. More info to come.

III. NEW BUSINESS

PSO Calendar of Events - Michelle Platts

All events are mapped out for the entire year (see handout). We briefly reviewed each event and are looking to solicit committee leads for each event. Michelle will send this list out to all attendees after the meeting. Anyone, whether in attendance at the meeting or not, is welcome to join to lead and/or support these events. Please sign up and join us.

If you're leading an event, communicate back to and work with PSO so everyone can be connected to what's going on. Include Michelle Platts on communications. Time commitment depends on the event. Most events have been done before and we have all the resources, graphics, sign-up geniuses, etc. so as not to reinvent the wheel. There are plenty of resources to support all our volunteers.

A question to ponder: How do we get more male identifying volunteers to help share the load and support our events and volunteer efforts? We'll make an explicit call out to male identifying folks at Parent Mixers and Basketball Nights and other events where they may typically attend.

Timing of PSO meetings - we'd like to pilot rotating the timing of our meeting to alternate between mornings and evenings. There will be an online component in addition to in person.

Book Fair - Karen McGroaty

Erin Payne has moved on from leading the book fair following her child graduating from Peirce, and we are happy to have Karen McGroaty leading this going forward.

Our overall goal for the book fair is to advance literacy. A contract was signed with Scholastic for fall and spring. Both the fall and spring book fairs will held the weeks of Parent Teacher Conferences. Fall Book Fair is planned for October 23 - 25th.

We'll need parent volunteer support. We'd also like to set up the Book Fair at the branch and will need parent support for that. We're looking for support with social media, gathering teacher wish lists, supporting the donation-based All For Books account, to allow kids to use these funds who may not have their own personal funds. FOP will allow Cheddar Up for donations to All For Books fund. Scholastic provides the ability for an e-wallet for purchases. We need to ensure we have a list of when classrooms will visit the book fair, as this may bring in more parent volunteers who would like to help when their child visits with their class.

Opportunities - how do we help they dynamic in the classroom when kids realize they don't have the funds to buy books while others do. How do we let teachers know we can support them in purchasing book sets for the classroom.

For future, there is a desire to explore Anderson as a new vendor for Book Fairs. Anderson is a locally owned Chicago company, they offer more books and less trinkets, they provide author reads (author comes to the school, reads and discusses it) and they offer no tax. More discussion needed around this.

JR PSO - Rene Ryan

JR PSO is back! This will run as an after-school program every Tuesday from 3 - 4pm for 4th - 8th graders. This group of students will focus on volunteering at school and in the community, and each week will focus on a different tenant of service. (This group is separate from Student Council, which is an elected position. Kids do not need to be elected to join JR PSO, anyone in grades 4 - 8th is welcome to join). JR PSO will largely be supporting events and activities such as school dances, the Peirce clothing closet, teacher appreciation, and playground clean-up. We'd like to get them t-shirts or buttons to proudly wear. We will be sure to invite them to partake in the end-of-year volunteer breakfast. Backpack mail to go out soon with more details and to announce this widely across the community.

Effort to provide Free Tutoring Support for High School Selective Enrollment Exam (for 8th graders) - Liz Webster

All students in 8th grade take the High School Enrollment Exam in October of their 8th grade year. Results of the exam are used to determine acceptance at top High Schools. This test is similar to SATs in its importance. The school provides no additional tutoring support, beyond the curriculum taught in the classroom. Schools are not allowed to offer additional test prep, nor can they endorse any test prep vendors. Tutoring is very expensive. We have a Tier system - if you live in a lower income neighborhood, you don't have to score as well. But if you live in Tier 4 neighborhood such as Peirce, your kids needs to score near perfect. How can we, parents, find a way to support all kids in taking the test, particularly those whose families may not have access to funds for expensive tutoring programs?

FOP has offered an infrastructure for fundraising, and as well as a \$1k match to whatever is raised. The first issue is raising the funds. The next issue is how to distribute this equitably. How do we decide who gets these funds. What are our ideas? We discussed the following: reaching out to admin and staff who may understand who may have the greatest need, adding to the LSC Equity Committee, using Room Reps to make parents aware funds exist. A big concern is not crossing any lines of legality in any of our approaches. If we could even offer 50% off a 1-day workshop that would be so helpful. The test is coming up in early October. We may not be able to make much of an impact this year, but perhaps we can explore this and come up with a plan to better support our families next year. If you have ideas and would like to support this, please email Liz Webster for more info - lizwebs1@gmail.com.

PSO Budget - Lauren Swihart

FOP has approved half of our budget in a previous meeting, they will review and vote to approve the rest of our budget for the remainder of the year in their upcoming meeting. We anticipate this will be approved without issue.

PSO now has a credit card that can be used for purchases, so volunteers do not need to put forward their own money first to be reimbursed later.

IV. REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

Back to School Supplies- Michelle Platts

We'd like to gather feedback from the community on this process. It's clunky to bring physical supplies in on the first days of school - is there a better way? One idea to collect monetary donations for supplies instead of asking parents to bring physical supplies in. However, this

comes with challenges too. Helena Swyter volunteering to take this on, collect and review feedback and come up with a recommendation for the best approach.

Back to School Picnic - Michelle Platts

Thank you to everyone who helped with Back to School Picnic on August 17th! We appreciate everyone's support and feedback.

V. UPCOMING EVENTS

Picture Day coming up (date TBD). We have a new school photographer, Chad Leverenz, who is also a Peirce parent, and is an amazing photographer.

After School Programs coming soon, more info to be shared during Open House.

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Our next PSO meeting will be Thursday, October 5th, at 7pm in the Peirce Fieldhouse or join us online at: <https://meet.google.com/wgd-rijy-ope>