



# PSO AGENDA

PEIRCE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Thursday, October 6, 2022

## MEETING SUMMARY

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to everyone in attendance. We introduced ourselves around the room. Our apologies we were not able to get Owl up and running for use of this meeting, which would allow more folks to attend virtually. Our goal is to get the logistics worked out and have it ready for our next meeting on November 3rd.

### II. Recap of Events

#### Open House / Curriculum Night

Open House was held on September 14th for all Peirce families. It was a success, and parents were so happy to be back in the school and in their kids' classrooms. Below is feedback we gathered, which we'll share with Ms. Zaimi for ongoing improvements:

- There was a good presence of parent groups to greet parents and share information
- Fliers were available for families about after-school programming and it helped increase awareness of these programs and how to sign up.
- It's important we let parent know to visit Specials Teachers in addition to Homeroom teachers.
- A map with Special's Teachers' classrooms could be shared with families at the door, it could be a passport or a punch pass to encourage families to visit all teachers.
- Good discussion about better accommodating families with multiple children. It was felt there wasn't enough time for families to meet with all teachers of all kids, many families missed their teacher-led presentations due to visiting multiple children's classrooms, families had to pick one child's classroom to attend while missing the others; kids felt disappointed if parents weren't able to attend theirs.
- Two different ideas formed out of this discussion: could teachers hold multiple presentations at different times? Or is a teacher-led presentation actually necessary when this info could be sent out via slides in an email, and should the time be spent more on greeting the teacher, looking around the classroom, hearing the student's share their work, etc.

#### Fall Parent Mixer

Held on Friday, September 30th, this was a great event for parents to mingle and get to know each other. Great to see new parents, as well as veteran parents. Folks around the room gave it 2 thumbs up. Everyone who attended had a lot of fun.

There will be another Parent Mixer this fall and it will be a fundraising event on November 11th. This will be fee-based with the proceeds going back to FOP. This will be led by Kate Polgar and FOP. More info forthcoming.

These events led to a discussion about providing babysitting for kids to allow more parents to attend. Historically, we've offered free or fee-based babysitting for these types of organized parent events. We've also held monthly fee-based Babysitting Nights, led by Peirce middle schoolers and Peirce parents. The proceeds of these events have gone to the middle school programs, trips and events. Ashley Heins and Bonn Wade agreed to work together to bring these back. Requires approval from FOP / LSC, which will be discussed in their October meetings. More to come.

### **Volunteer Sign-ups**

We often need volunteers to help us pull off our many events and activities, which we generally solicit through a Sign-Up Genius. When creating and communicating these sign-ups, we agreed we will use the following channels to ensure we reach as many parents and caregivers as possible:

- Ms. Zaimi's Weekly Newsletters
- Teacher Emails to families
- Room Reps communications
- Facebook groups

(This led to a discussion about Sunday night phone calls that our Admin team used to make to all families, with important reminders and info. Michelle will ask Ms. Zaimi about the possibility of doing something like this again).

We will also be careful to note what type of volunteer status (Level 1, Level 2) is required for each event. Generally, when a community event is held on school grounds and is open to all members of the community, no volunteer status is required to volunteer. When a school-only event is held at the school, Level 1 or 2 will be required.

Students also play a big role helping at school events. We discussed holding an end of year celebration for those students who've volunteered their time to PSO / school events.

### **III. Calendar of Events**

#### **Fall Fest - October 15th, 1 - 4pm**

- Led by Michelle Platts and Rene Ryan, we'll hold our 2nd Annual Fall Fest on the Peirce Field on Saturday October 15th from 1 - 4pm.
- Admission will be free, there will be no need to register in advance or stand in any lines for tickets. Donations of any size will be accepted, but not required,
- All games, activities, and crafts will be free of charge. Popcorn, water, coffee and cider will also be free.
- There will be other items for cash sale if you wish - cotton candy, donuts, pumpkins, Peirce gear, etc.
- There will be a free prize wheel for the kids to spin for a small prize.
- We'll include a warm clothing drive, which will run through the following week as well.
- We'll include a Peirce gear swap, like we had at the Back to School picnic.
- A sign-up genius has been sent through all our communication channels and we're actively seeking more volunteers to help. No Level 1 or 2 required.
- We need someone to be Pickles! Our last volunteer moved to another school.
- Kids can volunteer too! Ms. Zaimi has approved this. If your 6th - 8th grade student would like to help run games, facepaint, or run the cotton candy machine, sign them up!

#### **Halloween Dance and Movie - October 28th, 5 - 7pm**

- Led by Ann Regan, Ashley Heins and Kirby Kaiser, the Halloween Dance is back this year!
- The Dance will be for 6th - 8th grades in the Auditorium, while a Halloween Movie will be held for PreK - 5th grades in the Cafeteria (although given the brightness factor of the room, these may need to be switched; a detail yet to be worked out). The movie playing will be Coco and we'll parter with BAC on other Halloween and Dia de los Muertos activities and crafts that can go along with this.
- Chip Payos is working with Ms. Moritz to plan a Flash Mob dance
- This event will be free, there will be no tickets needed for entry or to buy snacks. This will hopefully limit the amount of time kids spend waiting in line so they can enjoy the event fully. Donations of \$1 at the door will be suggested, but not required.
- Popcorn and cotton candy can be prepared ahead of time so that pre-packaged bags can be handed to kids as they enter.
- Need dedicated chaperones for the middle schoolers to ensure kids do not leave the event or enter other areas of the building.
- Kids will be encouraged / welcome to wear their costumes
- There will be 2 separate photo booths - one for the middle school and one for primary grades

### **Prospective Parents Open House - November 4th**

- Led by Cecilia Bocanegra and Sarah Gust, there will be an Open House for families who do not currently send their children to Peirce, but are interested in considering it for the next school year.
- There will be a presentation in the Auditorium, Pre-K and K teachers will be available to share information and answer questions, and lastly parents will be able to tour the school.
- There will be free coffee and snacks available.
- Volunteers will be needed to help check folks in upon arrival and to lead small groups of parents on tours and answer questions.
- A sign-up genius will be sent out through all our communication channels soon to solicit volunteers.

Important message for families who live outside of Peirce boundaries with current children enrolled here but with siblings who are not - you must register any and all siblings through the lottery process to ensure their spot. This includes any Pre-K student currently enrolled in Pre-K at Peirce who lives out of boundary- you must still register them in the lottery process to ensure their place at Peirce.

### **More Upcoming Events:**

- Book Fairs - Led by Erin Payne, the book fair is coming back this year! Our first one will run November 13th - 21st, and will be held in the library. More info to come.
- Fiesta de Arte - We're very happy this is coming back on April 26th
- Yard Sale - this has moved to the spring for spring cleaning! Will be held at St. Gregory on Ashland and Catalpa. Date TBD.
- Sports Banquet - We're working with Mr. Carbajal to hold a Sports Banquet to recognize our Peirce athletes. May 24th.
- Dia del Nino (Children's Day) - we're excited to see this event coming back again this year. This event is sponsored by BAC, with Mr. Lerner as the teacher representative, and more to come.

## **IV. Committee Updates**

### **Peirce Grounds - Tracy Didriksen**

- Ms. Zaimi will share more information about the School Grounds project as that becomes available. The plan is to make big improvements to the areas by Doors 8 and 9 and beyond to make them more usable to our kids. The goal is to have the project out to bid this winter and begin construction this spring.
- Our Playground Clean-ups continue this year every Monday after drop-off and we welcome any caregiver to come out and join us.
- Coach Mike has received paint from us to refresh and update the 4-square courts and he plans to complete that soon.
- There's been a request to ask Ms. Zaimi if we can bring back outdoor lunch through October. Lunch has moved inside because of an issue with bees outside. We will ask Ms. Zaimi what's possible and provide an update.

### **Volunteer Committee - Erin Snow**

- There will be another fingerprinting event here at Peirce on October 11th from 3 - 6pm. Fingerprints are required to become Level 1. You can also obtain fingerprints anytime at your own schedule at any Accurate Biometrics location.

### **Room Reps - April Browning**

- April Browning held a Room Rep Orientation in person and virtually, as well as shared the recorded session to all Room Reps. She also recently shared an email that has thorough details of the session and next steps, as well as how to sign-up for What's App, which we'll start to use this year.

### **Spirit Squad - Lindsey Moon**

- There's work happening to create Spirit Squad as an official sport for 5th - 8th graders this winter. Legally, we are required to have a teacher lead and run this. There is a teacher who has indicated a possible interest. We'll see this through and communicate more soon. If this does not become an official sport, we can also run this as an unofficial club or after school program led by parents. More to come.

### **V. Topics from Last Meeting:**

- Will we bring back Monthly Coffee and Community sessions? Melanie to check with REP and report back. Kate Polgar is selling Metropolis coffee as a fundraiser for FOP.
- We still need support to restock the Teacher's Lounge - this was greatly appreciated by our teachers and items were quickly depleted.