

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

School Council Meeting Notes

1. Library Volunteers Needed!

The Peabody school library is looking for volunteers. There will be a Google form for signups, with a goal to get the volunteer program going by mid-November. Katie Bourne explained that there are two types of opportunities. Volunteers need to have a completed CORI form and be up to date on their Covid vaccinations.

Book fair volunteers. Peabody hopes to hold a book fair this winter or spring. Volunteers are needed for one or two shifts.

Regular library helpers. This option is for people who are able to commit to more regular volunteering, about every other week. Duties include shelving books, checking books in and out, and possibly assisting students. Timing (morning or afternoon) is flexible! “My philosophy is, the library’s for everybody. The more the merrier, and I’m willing to work with people and find something that would fit your schedule,” Ms. Bourne says.

2. Finishing the great work of our Vision & Mission Subcommittee

Peabody’s mission is “To love, to learn, to lead.” The longer vision statement is in draft form and Michelle Lippens read what the subcommittee has come up with so far:

“The Peabody vision is to create and sustain a welcoming and inclusive learning community, where we learn together through stories and music that connect, inspire, and allow us to grow as individuals. We celebrate and respect our differences as we become the best version of ourselves. We educate the whole child and help them grow to their fullest potential as collaborative leaders in their communities and their world.”

Michelle Lippens and Michael Simons expressed interest in reviving the subcommittee to hone and finish the vision, and perhaps even come up with some graphics. Families will receive more information soon.

3. Selection of Council Co-chair

Council member Michael Simons will serve as co-chair.

4. Covid Protocols Update

Peabody's Covid rate has remained low compared to other schools in the district. "Parents are being very vigilant and doing rapid tests at home as well," Mr. S. says.

Bobby Travers, Peabody's chairperson of Facility Infection Control, provided some updates:

- Peabody currently meets all air exchange requirements.
- CPSD will mail home rapid tests for Thanksgiving, December break, February break, and April break. You can also get tests through health insurance and via the city, such as at the city's free vaccination clinics.
- Boosters are not mandatory for staff and students, but are strongly encouraged.
- Notifications about Covid cases are no longer required, but classes will be notified if there is a positive case in their classroom;.
- Masking is recommended if there are three or more cases in a classroom.
- Keeping windows open is still strongly encouraged, but has been difficult in recent days because the building has been so cold due to the chiller being broken. The heat is now fixed as of Wednesday, which may make it easier to keep the windows open.

Other illnesses (flu, cough, stomach bugs) are going around and classes will also be notified if there are multiple cases of those in a class.

5. Current Employment Vacancies and Hires Updates

Peabody has hired two additional lunch aides. Peabody parent **Jessica Wier** has already started! The other hire is being finalized by HR.

One first grade paraprofessional, who was on maternity leave, has resigned. That position is currently being covered by a building sub. The other first grade

paraprofessional, **Regina Silva**, is retiring November 1. Both job positions have been posted and interviews are being conducted on Friday, October 21.

There is also an opening for a building sub because previous building sub **Marisa Fried** is now a paraprofessional in Ms. Patterson's JK class! Mr. S. says "I am very grateful, Marisa, for everything that you do and everything that you are."

6. School Goals for the next two years

Mr. S. outlined some (ongoing) goals:

- Reducing absenteeism and chronic tardiness
- Moving growth percentile from 86th %ile to 96th %ile and making sure that students who are not getting what they need and deserve are getting the necessary help
- Working on equity and dismantling racism.
- Healing from Covid trauma and loss. The Equity Committee will be working in cohort with the School Council on these goals and will be discussing and enacting restorative justice practices.
- Improving communication between school and home.

7. "Collaborative Problem Solving" Think Kids Seminars for Families

This seminar for families will take place on October 27. Some information has gone out and more will soon, please sign up if you are interested.

8. Bike Rodeo and Bike to School Day

Bike to School day is Saturday, October 28.

Peabody will have a Bike Rodeo on Saturday, October 29. Fliers will be going home this week. **Peabody needs bike donations (which must be brought on October 29, not before)** and will be giving away helmets. At the Bike Rodeo kids will get some biking lessons too. Bikes, trikes, scooters, training wheels, balance bikes are all welcome.

9. Other things to look out for

Keep an eye out for information on upcoming workshops led by Ms. Lippens, Ms. Vecchiarello, Ms. Bourne, Ms. Bach, and Ms. Sullivan.