



Peekskill City School District
A System Focused on Every Student; Every Day

The Mission of the Peekskill City School District is to educate students in a caring, inspiring environment characterized by a spirit of excellence and high expectations; prepare graduates to meet or exceed standards; graduate students who respect and appreciate cultural diversity; and prepare students to pursue adult lives as contributing citizens of our local and global community.

Board of Education

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November 21, 2017

Dear Peekskill School Community,

In anticipation of recruiting a new Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education built into our 2017-2018 goals a plan to revisit the district mission statement and assess the degree to which we are on track. As part of Dr. Licopoli's work with the school district, he will be facilitating a school community team to assess our district mission. The Board believes that this assessment will be a resource in helping us select potential candidates who can fully understand what our hopes are for our children and community. Finally, upon hiring our new educational leader, the new Superintendent will have the opportunity to collaborate with our school community and finalize the planning process.

The benefits of this process will help us identify what our key priorities are as a school system focusing on student learning. It is a way to succinctly define what matters most as well as providing the "big picture" of where we are, where we are going, and how to get there.

Our next planning steps are as follows:

- November-December:
 - Survey our school community regarding two central questions:
 - What are your top three hopes that describe a graduate from our school system?
 - What are the top three priorities for our system to meet your goals for a Peekskill graduate?
 - Select a Core Planning Team among 25-30 school community stakeholders (including students) that reflects the diversity of our school community.
 - Compile a data book for team members to gain a better understanding of our school system.
 - Conduct an evening preliminary planning meeting to review the planning team protocols. Tentative Date: *To Be Determined*
- January 2018
 - Convene the Core Planning Team, January 18 & 19
 - Revisit our mission: does the mission define our purpose and what we are striving for our students to achieve through their experience in our school system?
 - Identify what the school community core values are that support the mission.
 - Identify ideas and objectives that will allow us to gauge our progress towards achieving our goals.
 - Define what we perceive as obstacles that we need to overcome to achieve our mission.
 - Propose the draft plan to the Board for approval.

- January-February:
 - Discuss and distribute the draft plan to our schools and community.

We look forward to an invigorating process that will help us move forward. In the next few days, Mrs. Foster and Dr. Licopoli will begin facilitating this process.

Sincerely,

Peekskill Board of Education
Lisa Aspinall Kellawon, President
Michael Simpkins, Vice President
Branwen MacDonald, Trustee
Samuel North, Trustee
Maria Pereira, Trustee
Colin Smith, Trustee
Jillian Villon, Trustee

CC. Mary Foster, Interim Superintendent
Larry Licopoli, PhD, District Consultant