



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.

Mary Keenan Foster, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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December 12, 2017

Dear Peekskill School Community,

As a follow up from the Board's November 21 correspondence regarding our plans to revisit the Peekskill City School District's mission in anticipation of our hiring a new Superintendent of Schools, I am writing to bring you up-to-date on the planning process that will be facilitated by District Consultant Larry Licopoli. Please check our district website for all updates and surveys relative to this planning process.

The next stage of our planning includes the selection of a Core Planning Team. The Board of Education and I will be working together to select members of this team, which will be comprised of members from our district staff, parents, students, and community leaders with the goal of having this team accurately reflect the diversity of our school community. We are seeking individuals who feel comfortable with participating in open discussions, as well as those who are available to meet the following commitments:

- Pre-planning meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Participate in 2 days of planning:
 - Thursday, January 18, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Friday, January 19, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Participate in up to two days of follow up planning with the new Superintendent to finalize the plan. (Dates to be determined.)

Please note that we anticipate selecting four members from this Core Planning Team to serve as members of the Community Stakeholder Interview Team for the hiring of our new Superintendent of Schools in February. Aside from our speaking to various community leaders and parents to recruit members for this project, we are asking that if you are interested in serving on the Core Team for revisiting the District's mission, the District Community Stakeholder Interview Team, or both, please email or write to District Communication Specialist Laura Belfiore before December 22 at:

LBELFIORE@peekskillschools.org.

Part of the information gathering process for the Core Team includes a survey that our Board and administrators have already completed during their respective retreats over the summer. We are asking our staff, parents, students (Grades 8 to 12), and community members to respond to this survey **by December 22**. The survey is now available in English and Spanish on the website, and consists of the following two questions:

- ***What are the top three qualities you would like to see in a graduate from the Peekskill City School District?***

- ***What changes would the school district need to make in order to help students become the graduates described in the above question?***

We look forward to your contributions to this important process and thank you for your interest in our schools during this exciting period of time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mary Keenan Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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