

## Superintendent's Communication Brief: February 4-9, 2019

Dr. Mauricio, Board President Mr. Michael Simpkins, BOE Trustee Mr. Allen Jenkins, Jr. and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Keenan Foster met with parents from Woodside Elementary School to discuss the Dual Language program. The meeting focused on an update of the program and involved great dialogue.

As part of his weekly School Supports visits, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Foster walked through the Uriah Hill building with Director of Early Childhood Mrs. Carmen Vargas to visit classrooms. While visiting, Dr. Mauricio saw highly engaged students and staff focusing on literacy.



Earlier this week, mentors met with our young men at PHS to review report cards and set goals for the second half of the school year. Together they celebrated academic successes and identified opportunities for improvement.



At this week's Board of Education meeting, Dr. Mauricio joined the Board in recognizing PHS students Sandra Murphy and Kennedy Bordas as part of the evening's Peekskill Pride highlights. Sandra recently scored her 1000th career point in a Peekskill basketball game against Poughkeepsie. Kennedy was recently awarded the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy William L. Carter Perseverance Award from the African American Men of Westchester for her strong commitment to community service and her leadership role in the community. Also at this week's Board meeting, Hillcrest Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner did a wonderful job presenting on the school's work and highlights. Mr. Lichtenwalner presented an update on the school's School Comprehensive Education Plan which focuses on instruction, data analysis, literacy, math, STEAM and alignment with other schools.



Dr. Mauricio recently paid a visit to the Scarsdale School District. He was joined by PCSD Assistant Superintendents Mr. Daniel Callahan and Mrs. Robin Zimmerman, District Technology Manager/ CIO Mrs. Janice Reid, Director of Facilities Mr. Carmine Crisci, PHS Principal Mr. Arthure, Assistant Principal Mrs. Naima Smith-Moore, PHS Science Department Leader Mrs. Michelle Obenauer and PHS Robotics Teacher Mr. Carlo Vidrini. Together, the group toured the Scarsdale High School's instructional spaces, including their Learning Commons, D-Lab and iLab, and a new Fitness Center. Scarsdale provides top quality experiences and learning spaces for its students. The purpose of the visit was to garner ideas for the Peekskill School District's renovation plans.



Members of the District's Safety team met to hear a presentation by PHS principal Mr. Arthur and various updates on our implementation of safety practices in our schools. Our district continues to provide a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.



Dr. Mauricio met with members of our District's advocacy team to discuss talking points as the group prepares to head to Albany this weekend. District staff and representatives will be meeting with elected officials to discuss the fair and equitable funding of Peekskill City Schools. Those attending these meetings include: Board President Michael Simpkins, Vice President Maria Pereira and Trustee Branwen MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent for Business Mrs. Robin Zimmerman, Peekskill Education Foundation President Mrs. Adriana Frega, Peekskill PTO President Ms. Marisa O'Leary, PTO Advocacy Co-Chair Ms. Margery Rossi and her son, Luke.

Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Joseph Mosey and PCSD Registrar Fransico Miranda met with the City's Human Relations Committee to review and update the District's new student registration packet. Great ideas were shared and the committee would like to make presentations at the newly opened Parent Resource Center.



Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Daniel Callahan and PHS Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur visited Turner Construction in New York City to meet with Senior Vice President Rodney Pope and his staff to discuss our continued collaboration with Turner, which provides students with internships in NYC. The group also discussed additional opportunities for the future. Turner Construction is a great partner to our high school.



Dr. Mauricio met with PCSD Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid, Data Analyst Mrs. Carmen Freed and Database Specialist Ms. Nancy Wilkowski to discuss second quarter student outcomes. This information will be shared with school leaders to plan for the second half of the school year.



Superintendent Dr. Mauricio and Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores met with Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Education Director Mr. Michael Barraco to discuss the District's long-standing partnership with MOCA and how PCSD can enhance these opportunities for our students. MOCA provides art classes for the whole family at our Saturday Academy and provides internships to our high school students.



There was a great turnout for our District's Art Show Opening Reception! Thank you to everyone who joined us at The Peekskill Coffee House and BeanRunner Café. Our students and art teachers did a lovely job curating the show. The work will remain up throughout the month of February, so please take the time to stop in to each location and be amazed by our students' artistic talent!



Following the Art Show, PCSD stakeholders, partners and volunteers gathered at Uriah Hill for the Lisa Rolleri Parent Center's Grand Re-Opening Ribbon Cutting event. We thank the Board of Education for supporting this initiative and to PCSD Parent, Family and Community Liaison Mrs. Maria Olivier-Flores for her endless hard work and dedication in getting the Parent Center ready for this day. We look forward to serving our community's needs with the many resources the Parent Center has to offer.



The Peekskill PTO held their general meeting following the ribbon cutting at Uriah Hill. The meeting focused on African American History month and included songs, poems and speeches from our students.



Our District's "Love Letters to Peekskill" Valentine's Day campaign is taking place now! Collection boxes can be found at the following places in the Peekskill community until February 15: La Placita (C-Town), Peekskill Coffee House, HRHCare, the Field Library, Kurzhals Coffee, the BeanRunner Cafe and Spins Hudson. At the end of the campaign, we'll be using the collected heartfelt messages and pictures submitted here, (as well as our student and staff submissions), to help inspire our updated District logo, so please help spread the word and be sure to fill out a valentine!



This weekend's Saturday Academy at Peekskill Middle School was a great success! Senator Harckham joined us for opening remarks, followed by the third and final Community Congress forum. The Children's Theater presented, "The Ugly Duckling" on our PKMS stage. As always, guests enjoyed a free brunch and workshops throughout the day. This week's Academy focused on African American History Month and our District's Foundation Aid advocacy efforts. NYC Senator Robert Jackson also joined us to tour the Academy and speak with our District representatives and students about fair funding for our schools. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day's events!



In partnership with the Senior Teens of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter), BOE Trustee Pamela Hallman-Johnson hosted four African-American judges, including Peekskill City Court Judge Johnson, as part of the "Excellence in Black" Black History Month celebration at Peekskill City Hall. They were joined by three law enforcement officers who spoke to a full house in the city courtroom. Dr. Mauricio, Board President Mr. Simpkins, Board Vice President Mrs. Maria Periera and PHS Principal Arthur joined the event. The students received words of wisdom on how to pursue their dreams and become a success in adult life. These opportunities will continue for our students.



Thank you and enjoy your weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools