

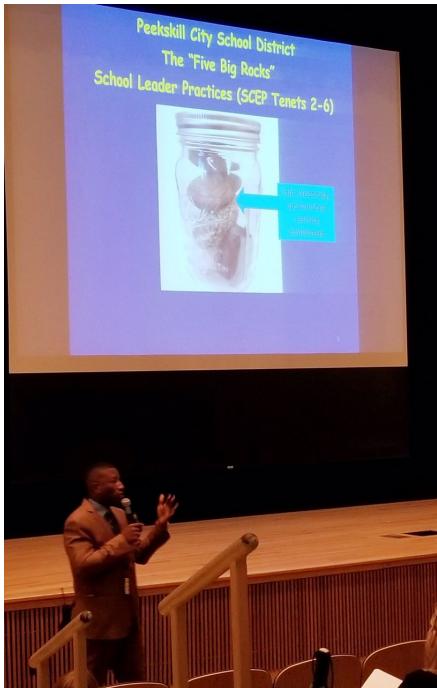
## **Superintendent's Communication Brief: November 5 - November 9, 2018**

On Saturday, the District successfully launched our Saturday Academy program at Peekskill Middle School. Over 350 attendees joined a variety of community vendors and stakeholders, Peekskill Board members, PCSD staff and other members of the Peekskill school community as they celebrated this fun filled day. This was an exciting first step for our Saturday Academy series of events, and we look forward to keeping up this momentum as we head into the holiday season. Our next Saturday Academy will take place on November 17 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Peekskill Middle School.



On Monday, Dr. Mauricio, Board President Mr. Michael Simpkins, Board Vice President Mrs. Maria Pereira and Board Trustee Mrs. Pamela Hallman-Johnson attended the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association Regional Dinner in Tarrytown, NY. At the event, attendees listened to a guest speaker who presented on how to improve educational programs and outcomes for children.

On Monday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio joined a faculty meeting at Peekskill Middle School where PKMS Principal Mr. Lewis reviewed his school's Tenet 5 progress, which encompasses a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for students and staff. The conversations exemplified the great school climate. This was a productive afternoon for all of those in attendance.



Tuesday evening, Dr. Mauricio and Peekskill Board members honored Peekskill High School students Christopher Smith and Kathryn Czerwinski at the evening's Board meeting. Both Christopher and Kathryn participated in the October 28 Tri-State Rocks singing competition at the Paramount Theater, and Mr. Smith took third place in the contest. We are extremely excited to note that NBC has since contacted the District after seeing news about our students' participation in the Tri-State Rocks event, and have invited us to submit student applications for their popular TV show, *America's Got Talent*.



Wednesday morning, Dr. Mauricio joined other local district leaders at the My Brother's Keeper Superintendent Network meeting at Saunders High School in Yonkers. At the meeting, discussions focused on continuing districts' collective efforts in the Hudson Valley Region to improve outcomes for young men of color. Students from Saunders High School presented their MBK initiatives in a professional and inspiring manner.



On Wednesday, Dr. Mauricio and Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace met with Paula Santa-Donato and Shannon Van Loon of WJCS to discuss proposed programming to support high school students. These initiatives will be considered throughout our budgeting process.

On Wednesday evening, the Peekskill Athletic Department hosted their Fall Sports Awards Dinner at Peekskill High School. The evening was hosted by PCSD Athletic Director Mr. Adam Lodewick, and welcomed Varsity coaches, players and their families to celebrate the fall season. We congratulate all of our student-athletes and coaches on their successes.



On Thursday, as part of the Superintendent's weekly school support visits, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Callahan met with Peekskill High School building leaders and guidance counselors, as well as with members of the District's Technology Department to review graduation, attendance and suspension data for high school students. The group discussed ways in which Central Office leaders can support the high school and action steps the high school can take to improve student outcomes. Mr. Arthur and his team presented their "graduation tracker," which is an excellent tool to monitor the status of students and provide supports to improve graduation rates.



Following the high school data meeting, Dr. Mauricio was once again joined by District Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid, Technology Department members and Assistant Superintendent Callahan, with the additions of Parent, Family and Community Engagement Liaison Mrs. Maria Flores and District Communications Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore. The group met with Ms. Stephanie Rizki of Infinite Campus who demonstrated the company's Backpack feature, which assists in the electronic distribution of student information to parents/guardians via Infinite Campus' Parent Portal.



Later on Thursday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio met with PHS Principal Mr. Rodney Arthur and local theater director Scarlet Antonia of Antonia Arts to discuss potential partnerships for theatrical performances in the future.

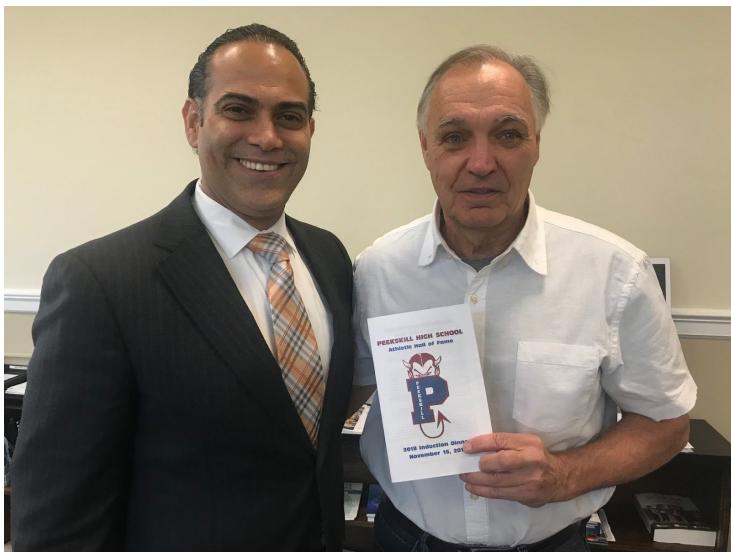
Thursday evening, Superintendent Mauricio and Board Trustee Mrs. Branwen MacDonald attended the Peekskill Parent Teacher Organization's general meeting. Dr. Mauricio gave greetings and presented a PowerPoint highlighting the District's recent accomplishments, including our Saturday Academy launch and the Tri-State Rocks talent competition. Dr. Mauricio also showed the My Brother's Keeper launch video, which was received with great emotion and excitement from attendees, who expressed they are excited about what is to come from this program throughout the school year. [Click here to watch our MBK video.](#)



On Friday morning, Dr. Mauricio and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Foster and Mr. Dan Callahan were guests at the Peekskill High School Art Department breakfast. Advanced Art and ENL students are collaborating on a project where art students interview their fellow peers in the Newcomer program to learn about these students' stories of their journey to America. Art students also interviewed Dr. Mauricio about his parents journey to the US and his pathway to college. This information will be incorporated into the students' final art project.



Later Friday morning, Dr. Mauricio met with former Athletic Director Mr. Lou Panzanaro to discuss the upcoming Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner taking place next Friday, November 16 at Colonial Terrace. Mr. Panzanaro has also been working on a hall of fame display in the Peekskill High School, which we look forward to unveiling shortly.



On Friday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio continued meetings with PCSD Technology Manager Mrs. Janice Reid, Data Analyst Ms. Carmen Freed and PCSD Database Specialist Ms. Nancy

Wilkowski. The group focused their conversations around five year graduation rates and student attendance data.

Later Friday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio and cabinet staff held a phone conference with the Weiss Institute, which was created by Say Yes, Inc. Members of the organization expressed interest in engaging in dialogue with our school district. The organization provides supports in relation to: early childhood to college/career readiness; data analysis to assess student progress towards post-secondary success; community asset mapping and collaboration. A follow-up meeting will take place in late November.

Please remember to take a moment to thank our Veterans for their service to our country as we recognize Veterans Day this Monday.



Enjoy your weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools