

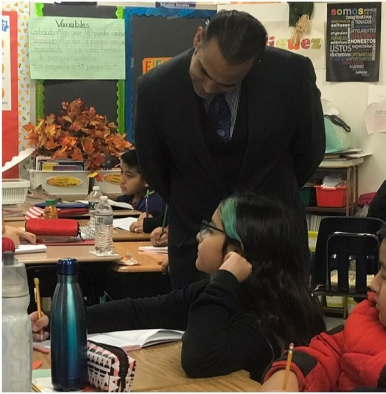
Superintendent's Communication Brief: November 26-30

On Monday, Dr. Mauricio began his week by meeting with Parent, Family and Community Engagement Liasion Mrs. Maria Olivier Flores and a representative from the Raising a Reader program. This program helps families develop a reading culture in the home for children at an early age. Mrs. Olivier Flores will lead the Raising a Reader initiative, which will offer classes for parents at Saturday Academy, at our Parent Center and throughout the Peekskill community.

Later Monday, Dr. Mauricio and PCSD Parent, Family and Community Engagement Liasion Mrs. Maria Olivier Flores met with Toby Pidgeon of Feeding Westchester. Mr. Pidgeon expressed a proposal to bring a farmer's market to our Saturday Academy in the spring. The organization is also considering opening a food pantry at our Parent Center.



As part of his weekly school supports visits, Dr. Mauricio began Tuesday morning at Hillcrest Elementary School, accompanied by Director of Special Services Mrs. Ellen Gerace and Hillcrest Principal Mr. Randy Lichtenwalner. Together, the group toured classrooms and discussed the Walk to Model/What I Need Literacy Block. While inside classrooms, Dr. Mauricio observed the Walk to Model in action where teachers were providing differentiated literacy opportunities to our students. The group also visited a chorus class where students were preparing for a holiday concert.



Tuesday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio met with Patrick Longo, Member Relations Manager of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). Mr. Longo came to Peekskill to learn more about the district and local issues, gain feedback on NYSSBA and to update the Superintendent on new and existing services. Mr. Longo is considering coming to our Saturday Academy program to showcase the event on NYSSBA News.

On Wednesday morning, Dr. Mauricio and Board Trustee Mrs. Branwen MacDonald met with District Communications Specialist Ms. Laura Belfiore to discuss the District's PR initiatives. Mrs. MacDonald will be lending her professional talents to help enhance these projects.

Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio and Peekskill's Mayor Rainey filmed a segment for the City's cable access channel. The two re-capped the past few months of collaboration between the City and the PCSD. They also expressed excitement regarding future opportunities to continue the city/district partnership.



Later Wednesday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio, Principals, Assistant Principals and other members of Central Office staff attended an engaging Calibration meeting led by Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan.

On Thursday morning, Dr. Mauricio met with Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Robin Zimmerman and Dr. Mary Keenan Foster, along with other grant staff. The group reviewed present expenditures and discussed plans for moving forward.

Later Thursday, Dr. Mauricio, Dr. Foster, Mr. Callahan and Mrs. Gerace met with Weiss Institute Executive Director Dr. Ellen Grant to discuss a potential partnership with our District. The group looked at analytics for pre-natal to college success, and focused on creating a college-focused culture throughout our schools.



On Thursday afternoon, Dr. Mauricio attended a My Brother's Keeper strategy meeting with PCSD program leaders and a group of MBK student representatives from the middle and high school. At the meeting, Dr. Mauricio spoke about the program's goals and showed the District's MBK video. The young men provided their voice, offering great ideas on how to build the program moving forward. Some of the ideas included bringing in former PHS graduates to discuss college life, and touring colleges so that our young men can gain better insight as to what awaits them after college. Other students expressed that they would like to focus on providing community service, while another noted he would like to learn how to cook. This group of MBK students will serve as the District's MBK Student Leadership Council.



Thursday evening, Dr. Mauricio attended the Girls Varsity Basketball season opener. Congratulations to Coach Degroat and our Lady Red Devils for kicking off the season with a 69 - 38 win over Roosevelt!



On Friday morning, Dr. Mauricio attended a meeting with Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dan Callahan, Director of Special Services Mrs. Gerace and PHS Principal Arthur to plan January Regents Exam preparation courses. These courses will help our students to successfully pass the tests.

Later on Friday, Dr. Mauricio, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Callahan and Director of Special Services Mrs. Gerace met with Peekskill Youth Bureau Executive Director Mrs. Tuesday McDonald. At the meeting, the group discussed merging the District's GED program with that of the Youth Bureau's to offer our GED candidates additional instruction and better prepare them for the GED test. The proposed program will be hosted by the Youth Bureau. Students will receive lunch as well as increased hours of instruction.



Enjoy your weekend!

Dr. David Mauricio, Superintendent of Schools