

NOTES
Peninsula School District Parent Council
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
10:00am-12:00pm

I. Attendees

Beth LaTendresse (Facilitator), Krestin Bahr (Superintendent), Michael Farmer (Chief of Schools), Julie Shultz-Bartlett (Deputy Chief of Schools), Dan Dizon (Director of Talent, Recruitment, and Retention), Arielle Hoesche (YMCA Childcare) Kayla Ferguson (Gig Harbor Library), Maureen Brunetti (Artondale), Kate Kelley (Discovery), Danielle Polliard (Evergreen), Erica Walsh (Harbor Heights), Kelly Carpenter (Pioneer), Julie Hoffman (Purdy), Kate Cunha (Goodman), Karmen Furer (Harbor Ridge & Hands On Art), Krissy Desnoyer (Kopachuck), Angie Costa (GHHS), Sarah Ensminger (GHHS), Marcy Trott (GHHS)

II. District Update

Dan Dizon

- Current openings in the district are listed on the flyer handed out and a digital copy of the flyer will also be shared with the meeting notes. There are several coaching opportunities right now!
- Throughout the year there are staff celebration events and the involvement of parent groups to make staff feel celebrated and to encourage them is appreciated.
- PSD has swag available online! The PSD store is under the family and community tab on the website or can be found [here](#).

Michael Farmer

- PSD School Board has been honored as a Board of Distinction for the 5th year in a row. They will be recognized at the end of November at the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) conference in Seattle.
- Elections were held for two school board positions. Elections will be certified on November 25th. The new position holders will attend the WSSDA conference at the end of November and will attend a training for all new board members across the state. Superintendent Bahr will also attend that training with the new board members. The new board members will be sworn in at the December 9th school board meeting.
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) presentations will be happening at four locations and dates across the district this month. PHS hosts November 5th, Goodman Middle School hosts November 6th, Key Peninsula Middle School hosts November 12th and Kopachuck Middle School hosts November 13th. Schools presenting at the event will be based on feeder schools. All presentations are from 6-8 PM.
- A comment was made that the communication around these events could have been more clear. Many people thought it was solely administration presenting SIP highlights and did not know that elementary and middle schools would be showcasing projects at the events.
- The School Board of Directors approved a Levy Resolution at the October 21st School Board Meeting. This will place an Educational Programs and Operations Levy on the February 10, 2026 ballot. This Levy would replace the current levy.
- The District can provide information only regarding the Levy. District representatives are available to present the details of the Levy at PTA/VPO meetings, Boosters events, or any other parent or community gathering. Reach out to Michael Farmer to set up a

visit/presentation. Parent organizations can also reach out to principals, particularly for specific information on how the Levy will impact their school.

- There is not currently a group taking a strong lead on the campaign for this Levy. School representatives shared a desire to help with the campaign as opportunities become available.

Krestin Bahr

- A Veterans' Day Drone Show is scheduled for November 7th at Harbor Ridge Middle School. Veteran's Day assemblies are happening at all the schools on various days.
- Next month and into January, Superintendent Bahr and School Board Members will be going to elementary schools to read with 1st-3rd graders. They will be bringing a favorite book with them to read to students. If anyone from PDC would like to join and bring a favorite book, please email Superintendent Bahr.
- Superintendent Bahr created a fall science video that was featured in the November newsletter. You can also watch the [Video](#) here.
- The district shared some resources available to families for extra support during the government shutdown and going into the holiday season. These resources are listed on the PSD website [here](#)

Julie Shultz-Bartlett

- This is the time of year when attendance starts to drop. It is a good time to remind families of the importance of regular attendance.
- The Middle School quarters change this month with elective classes changing over. Elementary conferences were the last week in October.
- The district was not aware of the District Band Concert that took place at GHHS November 4th. Please remind groups to have events added to the calendar so that someone from the district can attend.

III. 5th Grade Camp

- WA state legislature did not renew funding for the outdoor learning grant program. This funding had been used to cover some of the costs of 5th grade camp for students in the district.
- PSD CFO was able to direct \$5,000 in funds to each school to cover some of the costs of camp this year.
- Discussion of what each elementary school is doing to support camp is highlighted below.
- Harbor Heights: VPO has a very small budget and cannot fully fund camp. In the past Harbor Heights has not attended Camp Seymour for an overnight camp. This year they will be going to Camp Seymour for one night, February 12th. Families will be paying \$107.50. A 5th grade parent sent out a survey to 5th grade parents and the majority of families were willing to pay the \$107.50 and some were also willing to donate to scholarship for students as well.
- Discovery: In the past the VPO did not contribute to 5th grade camp except to provide scholarships as needed for students - typically 5 to 6 scholarships per year. This year the VPO contributed \$2500 in addition to necessary scholarships. Camp was 1 night at Camp Seymour in September.
- Pioneer: Camp will be 2 nights at Camp Seymour this year. 5th grade parents handle fundraising for 5th grade camp. Pizza sales at events are run by the 5th grade students and families and profits from that go towards camp. A fundraiser specific to camp was also

held at Oceans 5 where 50% of arcade sales were donated back to Pioneer for 5th grade camp. The VPO is contributing \$5,000 to camp this year.

- Purdy: Camp will be 2 nights at Camp Seymour in June. 5th grade teachers and students handle fundraising for camp. There has not been a PTA budget line item for supporting camp in the past. The fundraising has been separate from the PTA. A survey is being sent out to see what the need level is from families this year with an expected cost of \$100/student.
- Evergreen: The PTA is being hit hard with requests for funds for field trips in general this year. Field trips for Evergreen are more expensive due to higher transportation costs coming from Evergreen vs other elementary schools in the district. Teachers are finding it harder to get grants for field trips and therefore are asking for more PTA support. The PTA is fundraising for field trips in general. There is also a car wash for 5th grade camp fundraising and concessions at family nights will contribute to 5th grade camp as well.
- Artondale: 5th graders and 5th grade families handle all of the fundraising for camp. The PTA is not involved in this fundraising.
- Swiftwater: Created a 5th grade committee and they are working on fundraisers for camp. All takeovers will go towards camp. Swiftwater has not historically done takeovers. Also working with community businesses to sponsor camp at various levels of sponsorships. Silver \$500, Gold \$1,000, Platinum \$1500. The reading for success fundraising goal is \$23,000 and anything raised over that will go to camp.
- Superintendent Bahr shared that it is important to share how valuable 5th grade camp and field trips seem to be to parents. The board will be creating a new Strategic Plan in February and this is something that could be part of the new Strategic Plan. If the community puts a high value on these experiences then the district should include it in the strategic plan which then directs where funding may be allocated.
- Arielle Hoesche from the YMCA will inquire with the YMCA about Camp Seymour and if there are any options for grants or other partnerships that could be increased with the district.
- In the past there has not been a lot of consistency across schools for camp. This is something that representatives would like to see more consistent so that all students have the same opportunity.
- Some discussion has been had at various levels about potentially shifting to a 6th grade camp rather than 5th grade. This would be an opportunity for students to build new relationships as they enter middle school and multiple elementary schools are combined. Questions were raised as to capacity of Camp Seymour and the ability to secure sufficient volunteers at the middle school level.

IV. PDC Representative Sharing

Pierce County Library - Kayla Ferguson

- At the elementary level the core programming is focused on two areas - a STEAM program and Ready Readers.
- The STEAM program is offered Mondays after school from 4:00-5:00 PM. The library is partnering with Code Ninjas for some of these events.
- The ready readers program will have more events in January. November 10th Pegasus Puppets is performing Stella Luna. The Ready Readers program focus group is K-2nd graders.
- Read to a Dog is coming back and will be the 2nd Saturday of the month.

- November 15th is a Family Fall Spa Day from 2-3:30. There will be materials to make a fall spa basket.

YMCA - Arielle Hoesche

- In response to the government shut down YMCA childcare is offering families an option to defer payment or take a pause in care without losing their spot. 21 households have taken advantage of this opportunity as of November 5th.
- Each school in the YMCA childcare program is participating in a food drive for Food Backpacks 4 Kids with each school collecting one specific item.
- Winter Camp registration is open. The cost is \$65 a day and children can be registered day by day.

Hands on Art - Karmen Furer

- The second project of the year is the Magic of Molas. Trainings are November 18th, 19th, and 20th.
- Annual Veteran's Day movie at Galaxy Theater taking place again this year.

Artondale

Discovery

- Fall festival was a big success! We held our first fall festival in a number of years on Friday 10/24, and had a great turn out, despite the rain.
- We have kicked off our fall Spell-A-thon, one of 2 VPO fundraisers for the year.
- Fall Book Fair was November 3rd to November 7th.
- Hosting a Piñata Family Night. A parent who owns a piñata company will be hosting an event for families to learn how to make piñatas.

Evergreen

- Evergreen is partnering with Vaughn and Minter Creek for some fundraising efforts including a fun takeover night. More info to come next month!

Harbor Heights

Minter Creek

Pioneer

Purdy

Swiftwater

- We completed our biggest fundraiser of the year; Reading for Success. We had over 92,500 minutes read logged and raised just over \$24,000.
- We had a take over and Fondi last week and are still awaiting results, but they ran out of dough before 8 pm so we know it was successful.
- Fall book fair week of November 3rd.
- VPO provided staff dinners on Tue and Thur during conference week.
- Veterans Day concert Friday the 6th for 1st and 3rd grade.

- We have rented 2 theaters for a family movie night at Galaxy on December 11th. The movie is Zootopia 2.

Vaughn

Voyager

Goodman

- Currently running the book fair.
- Provided snacks for the Young Author's Conference and meals for conferences.
- 11/14 is our next board meeting.
- Drama starts 11/10, the play this year is Little Mermaid Jr.
- Avid/Interact club is hosting a targeted food drive.
- Fondi takeover 11/24

Harbor Ridge

- Charleston Wrap fundraising is ongoing and has raised \$1,000 so far. This is a traditional sales type fundraiser but everything is online - easy money.
<https://registercw.com/gateway?organizationMidasId=24189> and HR code is 24189.
- Conference meals were provided by VPO.
- Water Bottle Filling Station: The VPO is working with the district to install a second water bottle filling station at HRMS. It will replace a water fountain near the aux gym. We are working to get two more plumbing and electrical bids before working with Patrick on selecting the fixture and choosing the contractor. Once those pieces are in place the VPO will start the paperwork to make a donation to the school/district for the project. The goal is to have the project completed by the end of the school year.
- Fondi Takeover November 24th.
- Code Ninja takeover November 17th from 5-7.

Key Peninsula Middle School

Kopachuck

- Received approval from the district to place advertising banners on campus. These will be business banners on the fence around the field.
- Partnering with ASB on a grade level food drive to support the basket brigade for Thanksgiving meals. .
- Information for volunteering with the basket brigade can be found [here](#)

Gig Harbor High School

- Party parents handed out candy on Halloween. November 13th they will be handing out brownies.
- Scholarship notebook sales are completed and 194 notebooks were sold. This is a record number of notebooks! There will be a notebook tutorial on November 20th at 7:00 PM in the GHHS library as well as three workshops during lunch in December and January. Notebooks are due January 22nd.

Athletics

- Fall sports are wrapping up and moving into the post season.
 - Football - 3rd in Narrows Division

- Girls Soccer - 1st in Puget Sound League (PSL)
- Volleyball - 2nd in Narrows
- Boys Tennis - Tied second PSL league
- Boys Water Polo - 3 place league
- Girls Swim and Dive - 1st in PSL
- Girls Cross Country - 1st in PSL
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- Winter sports starting - Bowling starts November 3rd and all other winter sports on November 17th.
- The October Sports Wrap Up will be attached to the distribution of these notes.

Band / Choir / Drama

- Band
 - District Band Festival was November 4th.
 - Jazz Night is November 18th at GHHS.
 - Apple Pie Concert is November 20th at 6:00 PM in the GHHS commons. Pie and coffee are served. This is a casual concert atmosphere and a fun family event.
- Drama will be performing The Play That Goes Wrong November 14-22
- GHHS and Kopachuck Choirs performed together at GHHS on November 6th.

Henderson Bay High School

Peninsula High School

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, December 3, 10:00am