



Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School

611 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway, NY 11691 ~ Phone: (347) 403-9231 ~ Fax: (718) 318-4561 ~ Karen Jones ~ Principal

Regular Board Meeting

Principal's Report

January 14, 2015

- I. We applaud the dedicated teachers of our school as we review our latest assessment scores, review students' results, and plan for next steps as we prepare for the State Assessments and prepare for the next grades. We have a fairly large gap to close, however, we will work until the very last day.
- II. While we have moved forward in Math progress, reading continues to be a challenge teachers are facing. Again, data leads us as to who requires additional support and the type of support that is necessary.
- III. The model that the School is using in support of our students is based on the implementation of RTI (Response to Intervention). There are 3 levels of support that students receive. They are identified, receive AIS (Academic Intervention Services) for a period of 6 weeks. At the conclusion of 6 weeks, their progress is noted and then it is determined if the student returns to the GenEd instruction or receive another 6 weeks in AIS. If a Scholar is unable to move OUT of AIS and have gone through the 3 stages of RTI, they are then recommended to receive SpEd services. Before a referral is submitted, the SpEd Coordinator hosts a meeting, including all staff that work with the scholar, explaining to the parent why this referral is necessary. All parties review all data, discuss next steps, then hopefully, the parent consents to the evaluation. Over the last 3 weeks, we have met with 6 parents regarding their student and have made informed consent referrals to the CSE (Commission on Special Education).
- IV. We are thrilled to announce that Mr. Norman Fairley is now the Special Education Coordinator for PPA. Ms. Cara Frankel is working long with Mr. Fairley to identify and support teachers and Special Education students. They attended a workshop together Monday, January 12th on the RTI and IEP (Individualized Education Program) process. Happily, Mr. Fairley learned that PPA is implementing this process with detailed data, extensive documentation, work samples, and parental buy-in, which is exactly the way that the CSE wants the process implemented.

Board of Trustees:

Betty Leon, Esq. - *Chairperson*

Doretha McFadden - *Vice Chairperson*

Kevin Alexander - *Treasurer*, **Jacqueline Burton Waal** - *Secretary*

Sylvester Okonkwo - *Member* - **Patricia Woods** - *Member*, **Michelle Burchette** - *PTO President*

www.peninsulaprep.org



Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School

611 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway, NY 11691 ~ Phone: (347) 403-9231 ~ Fax: (718) 318-4561 ~ Karen Jones ~ Principal

- V. Kudos to Mrs. Lauren Harrison, our talented Music Teacher, on the outstanding Holiday Program she presented to our School Family on December 19th. Not only were our students singing like angels, many demonstrated their virtuosity with instruments that accompanied the singing. It was heart-warming and left us feeling the "meaning of the season".
- VI. Professional Development on Wednesday, January 7th highlighted how to best capitalize on the teacher teams we have in each grade level. There is an ART to team-teaching. Mrs. Deana Beckwith attended a professional development session on December 5th at the NYC Charter Center. She provided numerous strategies on how to capitalize on the "man-power" we have in each classroom. She provided many strategies and asked teachers to review and pay attention to their collaboration and planning in support of students. This presentation was an eye-opener. We expect to see a modification as to how instruction is delivered.
- VII. Thursday, January 24th, we are taking our 4th and 5th grade students to see SELMA. We want them to know some of the history and struggles within the Civil Rights Movement and particularly, the contributions of Dr. King. The teachers will provide information to students prior to attending in order to prepare them for what they will witness.
- VIII. The Fourth Grade will be our featured group at this month's assembly program. We look forward to the lessons we will have on Dr. King.
- IX. The Leadership Team continues to meet weekly in order to plan, set goals, and move the school forward. There is still so much to be done. There is additional information that we must acquire in order to better and further support our teachers. They are all providing the effort that is necessary, but more problem-solving and strategies must be implemented. We moved forward with the newest initiative on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.
- X. Our School's all-inclusive database has been completed. We thank Mr. Anthony Paduano for his efforts and continued improvement for this important tool. We are thoroughly grateful to him for this effort. These programs typically cost schools thousands of dollars. We are so grateful!
- XI. You will see your new DASHBOARD today. If there are any additional areas that you would like tracked, please let me know through email.

Board of Trustees:

Betty Leon, Esq. - *Chairperson*

Doretha McFadden - *Vice Chairperson*

Kevin Alexander - *Treasurer, Jacqueline Burton Waal* - *Secretary*

Sylvester Okonkwo - *Member* - **Patricia Woods** - *Member, Michelle Burchette* - *PTO President*

www.peninsulaprep.org



Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School

611 Beach 19th Street, Far Rockaway, NY 11691 ~ Phone: (347) 403-9231 ~ Fax: (718) 318-4561 ~ Karen Jones ~ Principal

- XII. Counseling services are still begin provided to our students through the FEEGS Health and Human Services program, free of charge to our school and families. We are so grateful for this continued support of our students who are still “recovering” from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Thank you to Ms. Leon for the contact and making this happen for our students.
- XIII. Questions??

Board of Trustees:

Betty Leon, Esq. - *Chairperson*

Doretha McFadden - *Vice Chairperson*

Kevin Alexander - *Treasurer, Jacqueline Burton Waal* - *Secretary*

Sylvester Okonkwo - *Member* - **Patricia Woods** - *Member, Michelle Burchette* - *PTO President*

www.peninsulaprep.org