

# McKinley PTA General Meeting Minutes

## Thursday, May 14, 2009

### Attendance:

Scott Bannon, Janet Banks-Mott, Dyan DeCastro, Marie Stalling, Wes Greenop, Bev Greenop, Eileen Gombos, Crismeylin Rivano, Peri Lieb, Sherrie Fahey, Walter Donne, Jenn Cerbone, Domingo Thomas, Jill Kellerman, Barbara Harrington, Patty Mihaylo, Melissa Bonet, Dale Bernardoni

Meeting was called to order at 7:32

### Approval of April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

Minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve made by Walter Donne.

Seconded by Marie Stalling.

All in favor.

### Old Business

#### Budget

Janet distributed a hand out detailing a petition that is circulating around town calling for a referendum on decreasing the budget.

She encouraged us not to sign it and to tell others not to sign it.

She said that we may see people out and about trying to get signatures.

If they get the necessary signatures, the signatures will need to be verified and then it will cost the town \$25,000 to have a referendum.

#### Redistricting

Sheila has been attending weekly meetings where representatives from each PTA have been involved in the redistricting discussions.

Dale shared the history of the committee and why it is doing this work.

The redistricting plan that was out there in Feb/March is still possible.

This plan included having some Stratfield students come to McKinley and have 38 McKinley students go to Jennings.

Dale showed us Sheila's handout (the redistricting map)

Another plan is to move 71 children from Stratfield to McKinley and 22 students from McKinley to Stratfield.

Sheila would like to call a meeting to present this information to the McKinley parents.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> at Roger Ludlow.

#### Carnival

Domingo thanked everyone for their help. There were a record number of volunteers.

Domingo is going to call and make arrangements to book Stewart Amusements and Parks and Rec for next year's Carnival. A big thank you to Domingo was expressed by all.

#### Call for Volunteers

Still need volunteers for chair people for The World's Fair, Craft Fair, Directory, and Election Day Bake Sale.

Marie volunteered to chair the World's Fair.

Wes is chairing the craft fair, but is looking for a co-chair who would take over the following year.

#### New Business:

#### Nominating Committee

Marie introduced the new slate of officers. People who were new to the board introduced themselves.

Dyan motioned to accept the slate as proposed

Wes seconded.

All in favor.

#### Reports:

##### President:

Patty presented a PowerPoint presentation – McKinley School PTA Year End Review for 2008-2009.

##### Highlights for the year include:

##### Successful Family Events and Fundraisers

Fun Night with Wakeman, McKinley Dinner Fundraisers (Flying Dish, Super Duper Weenie, Friendly's), Teacher/Staff Raffle, McKinley Magnets, Car Wash gift cards

##### World's Fair

23 Country Tables

175+ volunteers

##### Carnival

4 days of great weather

Income of over \$30,000

##### Fostering Community Relationships

Parent Participation at World's Fair

Senior Citizen Interaction

Collaboration with Stratfield PTA (next year there may be some shared events)

Cultural Enrichment Programs

Amidons  
Gerald Moore

Classroom Grants

\$3,297.18 a 14.4% increase over last year.  
Proposed cost of Field Trips  
\$15,000 a 100% increase over last year.

Income \$56,042  
Expenditures \$46,358  
Net Income \$9,683

Looking forward to 2009-2010

Provide more funding  
Be proactive with Board of Ed  
Strengthen Relationships w/PTAs (Stratfield and Jennings)  
Streamline communications with community

Principal

Community Conversation

Will try again in the Fall  
Purpose was to discuss issues relating to diversity

Evening of the Arts

A big success, thanks to all.  
Raised money for the Arts program

This weekend first grade students are having a show at Yale Center for British Arts which will be displaying their work.

110 attended the United Way sponsored event with the Poet in Bridgeport.

The Invention Convention had 4 kids go to Southington

Devin Spencer went to the state wide spelling bee.

Dale shared a letter from Lynn LeVesque (special ed teacher) requesting funds to purchase a mini laptop computer for her students. Dale thinks 3 would be ideal. Can put one in each classroom or cluster them in one room. Scott shared details about the computer being requested. He said the size and portability would help children who take computer based assessment/CMT, do so at their desk.

Jenn Cerbone volunteered to look into the possibility of a SEPTA grant to purchase the computers. Bev suggested that this could be a

possibility for an end of year gift. First we will find out about the SEPTA grant and then explore as an end of the year gift.

There will be an e-mail vote on this.

#### Budget Review

Already discussed.

Building Level Administrators continue to meet and discuss the what ifs.

#### Teacher Rep

35-40 e-mails thanking the PTA for Teacher Appreciation Week

Cross Country Team had meet in preparation for the big meet.

Meet was held at McKinley with Stratfield and Riverfield schools.

May 30<sup>th</sup> at Southington High School there will be a big meet. Rod Dixon, an Olympic medalist, will run with the students for 1.2 miles.

3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are getting ready for their 1 mile run. 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be running on the track at Ludlowe in early June.

The Spring Concert will take place on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am and 7pm.

This will include the 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, the band, and the McKinley Singers.

On May 16, the student council will be having a car wash. The cost is \$5.00 and benefits Relay for Life. We hope to raise \$2000.00. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade has wonderful saltwater tanks in their classrooms.

Thanks you to Jill and her husband. The creatures will be released on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Grade 4 is studying Colonial Times and on May 28<sup>th</sup> will be going to Sturbridge, MA for a field trip. This was provided for by grant monies.

May has many end of year assessments.

A few highlights include a 5<sup>th</sup> grader who went from a level 28 to 50 and a non-reader who is now at a level 6.

Math assessments are also taking place with minute math facts.

#### Board of Ed

##### See Report

There was discussion on the potential shortage of classrooms for middle school students.

#### Cultural Arts

Amidons came, they were impressed with the parent presentation and the participation. Marie has contacted them to get dates for next year.

##### FAY presentation

Laurence Pringle, and author, came and talked to students in the first through fourth grades. His talk focused on the process of writing, how difficult it is, but how the end product is worth it.

Kindergarten Visits occurred. Incoming K has 59 students. Only 2 kids have not had prior school experience. The preschool programs have really helped to ready the kids.

#### Corresponding Secretary

A lot of thanks you have been received in regards to teacher appreciation week both for the treats and for the coffee maker.

Need to recognize Jill and Jenn Chrysadakis for their efforts with the Mother's Day Flower Sale.

#### Ways and Means

Finalizing vendors for fundraisers

Meadow Farms will be the new vendor for Gift wrap. Genevieve will be the new vendor for pies.

#### Volunteer Coordinator

There is a list of open coordinator positions

PTA Council- see report

Membership – nothing new

#### Advisor to the Board

Monthly accounting done.

Walter will do the year end review

### Craft Fair

Will take place on Saturday, Nov 21 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) from 10am-3pm which is a shorter time frame. The pricing structure has been reviewed and rental for an 8x10 space will be \$55. Postcards have been sent out to vendors on the master list.

### Father's Day

Pictures of kids put into frames decorated by the kids was discussed. Marie would take the pictures and kids could decorate in class.

End of the Year Picnic is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Melissa and Sherrie Fahey are the coordinators. An ice cream truck has been secured for the event. There is no rain date. If it is pouring, it will be cancelled. Going forward for next year the idea was brought up about having the picnic be on a Friday evening or later in the day so that it would be cooler and not conflict with everything else that happens at the end of the year.

Thank you to Mr. Bob and Mr. Mark for the new PTA shelves!!

The Bluefish game is an upcoming event. Get your money in for tickets.

Motion for meeting to adjourn by Wes. Seconded by Bev. All in favor.

Adjourned at 9:11.