

**McKinley School PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 6, 2007
7:30 P.M.
Library Media Center**

In Attendance:

Wes Greenop
Bev Greenop
Dale Bernardoni
Theresa Conte
Shannon Goodchild
Beronica Jara
Lisa Schell
Dyan DeCastro
Patty Mihaylo
Marie Stalling
Shawn Munday
Jennifer Hoffman

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Teachers' Representative Report:

1. The Holiday Concert is on Thursday, December 13th 2007 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Grade 5 Orchestra, McKinley Singers and Grade 5 Chorus will be performing. Also the Holiday Sing-Along will be on Thursday, December 20th 2007 at 2 p.m.
2. The cross country team was a huge success. They worked with the high school coach and several of his runners twice each week for the month of November. 26 students are on the team and will do it again in the spring and have a mini meet against other elementary schools in town.
3. The second grade class took a trip to the Peabody Museum for the rocks and soil unit. In math they are working on place value. In reading, the second graders are writing about reading in special reading journals.
4. The Kindergarten class is learning about germs and responsible behaviors which reduce and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. This health program has been sponsored by the Fairfield Rotary Club.

Sue Dow from the Fairfield Board of Education ("BOE") was the keynote speaker. Sue was recent elected to a four year term on the BOE.

She spoke about the structure of the BOE, and its primary responsibilities are adopting the town wide budget, assessing and addressing the needs requested by the Superintendent, adopting geographical boundaries and review of third party contracts.

The BOE is a public forum to hear what the BOE is discussing, but there is limited public speaking. The BOE also works with other boards such as the Board of Finance.

Sue spoke about such matters regarding the Stratfield School, building issue and racial imbalance.

Sue answered questions from the group as well as previously submitted questions.

The minutes from the November 8, 2007 General Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Bev Greenop. The motion was seconded by Theresa Conte. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Bev Greenop spoke about the results of the Craft Fair which took place on Saturday, November 17, 2007. The total net financial results were \$3,345. There were 37 vendors, of which 11 vendors were returned vendors. At the end of the fair, surveys were provided to each of the vendors and requested feedback. The areas of feedback and the scores (1 being highest and 5 being lowest) were:

Attendance	3.3
PTA Support	1.4
Location	1.3
Advertising	2.5
Quality	2.0

Dale Bernardoni presented the Principal's Report. She spoke about the following:

- UNICEF Drive raised \$1,200
- Zimbabwe project involves obtaining educational and corporate sponsorship to provide supplies to villages in Zimbabwe. The Student Council has been studying this and has provided support as well.
- Cross country team as mentioned in the Teachers' Representative report
- Len Cabral presentation was in November 2007.
- Charlotte's Web series will occur after the CMTs. The series will include age appropriate reading and grades seeing the musical.
- Drama Club has been formed.
- State of Department of Education has new addition to mastery tests – science for fifth graders.
- On December 21, 2007, there is a Professional Development Day for the teachers.
- The school has now installed the soap product "Popular" for hand washing
- New equipment/technology added:
 - o Smart board training

- Playaways – recording of books predominantly for ESL students
- New IPODS - recording shows for younger children
- IMAC graphics
- Upgrade of digital cameras

Cultural Arts Report:

- Monday, December 3, 2007 was Holiday Show – a huge success.
- Len Cabral presented in November 2007.
- Carol Birch, requested by Gail Marton, will be a storyteller on January 7, 2008 to all grade levels.
- Leslie Bullion will be presenter on February 15, 2008.
- Road to Freedom will be held on January 24, 2008. The fifth graders for the feeder schools will be attending.
- Movie Night for fifth graders from feeder schools will be Friday, January 11, 2008.
- Fifth Grade Social is being planned for April 4, 2008.

Treasurer report:

- Balance sheet – cash totals \$28K
- Net income is \$7K
- Two new fundraisers being added – Gift Card.com and BJ's New and Renewal Membership

Volunteer Coordinator Report:

- No new updates.
- Concentration on some open chairperson positions

BOE Representative Report:

- Recognition to James Lee, former BOE member -two books added to McKinley in his name

Membership Report:

- Total membership is 326 (71 staff, 254 parents, 1 non McKinley member)
- Goal by PTA Council is 350

Additional Principal Matter:

- Outgrown clothes donated by parents
- Thanks to all who took advantage of the giving tree

Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m.