

**McKinley School PTA
60 Thompson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825**

**General Meeting
April 9, 2009
Cafeteria**

In attendance:

Altieri, Sheila	Cerbone, Jenn	Goodchild, Shannon	Mihaylo, Patty
Banks-Mott, Janet	Conte, Theresa	Greenop, Bev	Rosato, Tracey
Bannon, Scott	DeCastro, Dyan	Greenop, Wes	Stalling, Marie
Bernardoni, Dale	Donne, Nancy	Harrington, Barbara	Thomas, Domingo
Bonet, Melissa	Gombos, Eileen	Kellerman, Jill	

Not In Attendance:

Donne, Walter Kotulsky, Susan
Hoffman, Jennifer

Meeting called to order at 7:37 p.m.

The February 12, 2009 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Jenn Cerbone to approve the minutes and seconded by Marie Stalling. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget

The BOF decided on a .32% increase over this years budget. With inflation this may effectively be less than a 0% increase. By law, education budgets cannot go below a 0% increase, however that law will no longer be in effect as of June 30, 2009.

Positively, \$2.3 million from the Stimulus Package will be granted to Special Education. It should be noted that there are strict parameters on the utilization of those funds.

There are several upcoming meetings where parent attendance is essential:

Date/Time	Location	Info/Topic
4/20	Town Hall	
4/22	Town Hall	Education subcommittee considering budget.
4/27 - 8pm	OHS	Budget
4/28 - 7pm	RLMS	Superintendent Awards followed by budget.
5/4 - 8pm	OHS	RTM vote on budget.

Redistricting Update

The BOE decided to postpone any redistricting until the 2010/2011 school year to allow time to be more thorough in all aspects of the planning process. The Facilities, Technology and Long-Term Planning Committee (FTLTPC) recommended three guiding principals to keep in mind

throughout the planning process: Maintain the current school configurations (K-5, 6-8, 9-12); Maintain an elementary, middle and high school feeder system; and improve space utilization.

The FTLTPC has asked for one representative from each PTA to serve as an ad-hoc member of the committee and serve as a liaison between their school community and the FTLTPC. Sheila Altieri will be McKinley's PTA representative on that committee.

Carnival

- Ash Creek will cater the same menu as last year.
- Need to hire police to monitor. The cost has increased from \$50/hr. to \$57/hr. for each officer.
- We have done a great deal of marketing and publicity including radio, television news, newspaper, online, and local print advertisements.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

The proposed slate of officers was presented. There are two open positions, President Elect and Assistant Treasurer. Nominations from the floor were requested but not received. A copy of the proposed slate is attached.

Operation Hope Dinner

Operation Hope helps families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Operation Hope dinner will be on June 8. We need a chairperson and volunteers to prepare the meal according to the guidelines.

Call for Volunteers

We still need volunteers for the website, e-news, World's Fair, Craft Fair and many other things. The person responsible for the website and e-news would only be responsible to provide the information, not for the upload. We need to find chairs for the World's Fair and Craft Fair as soon as possible as preparations for those events will need to begin in the next few weeks and continue throughout the summer.

REPORTS

President

- Both the Variety Show and Friendly's Family Night were very successful.
- Super Duper Weenie Night is May 7th.
- The ESL dinner was last Tuesday . Domingo spoke with parents and got a list of potential volunteers.
- We used the Campbell's Labels for Education to purchase balls, jump ropes etc... for recess.
- Patty and Melissa met with the Stratfield President and President elect to discuss the events we each do and possibilities for partnerships as Stratfield goes through its renovations.
- The World's Fair will be on 10/24 and the Craft Fair will be on 11/21.
- Summer School Scholarships are available. (\$400 from the PTA and \$150 from teacher grants).

- Amadons Family Dance will be on 4/20 at 6:30pm.
- 5/4 - 5/8 is Teacher/Staff Appreciation week.

Guest Speakers

Jean Napol and his business partner spoke about Shop-to-Earn (www.shoptoearn.net/greenevolution), an online domain which provides a portal to thousands of retailers. McKinley could purchase its own website for \$350 initially and \$69/yr. We would receive 3-40% cash back from each purchase made at any retailer accessed through our website. Shop-to-earth is the flip side of the domain where “green” products can be purchased and information on environmentally friendly products is available.

Principal

- The last class recently finished reading *A Cricket in Times Square* and many classes have been doing activities around that theme.
- The fifth grade classes recently visited the studio of Ellen Griesedieck, founder of the American Mural Project.
- The Drama Club’s performance of *Where The Sidewalk Ends* was wonderful.
- K registration is almost complete. We have registered 57 people in 4 days. There will be four K classes like this year.
- The Evening of the Arts is May 1st.

Teacher Representative

K - Learning about fiction vs. non-fiction text. Also are studying and researching bears.

1 - Researching the Amazon Rain Forest with Gail Martin (Library Media Specialist). Parents came in recently to see a presentation on their work.

2 - Had first Family Math Night thanks to a district instructional improvement grant. Students and parents enjoyed learning about math games and activities that supported current concepts.

3 - Learning about matter. They recently made pancakes as a way to see what they have learned about chemical changes of liquids to solids.

4 - Trip to the Ogden House and are learning about electricity (conductors, insulators and circuits).

5 - 5th grade classes have visited the Mill River. They are starting an immigration unit, doing D.A.R.E and working on poetry.

PE - Strength and gymnastics unit. Children are climbing nets, doing ropes, spring boards and vaults. They are training for the mile run as well. There are 40 members on the track team which has 3 meets in Fairfield.

Director of Cultural Arts Programming

Gerald Moore came in to lead an activity called *The Game* in which the children manipulated different shaped and sized acrylic pieces to form structures that defined either chaos or order in their minds. Gerald was interested in the children’s communication, emotional response, use of math, science and engineering as they created.

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

The Book Fair was a huge success, making over \$800 more than last year.

Ways and Means

We are able to fund the reading incentive program very well using proceeds from the book fair. We could possibly fund Celebration Books as well. This discussion will be ongoing.

Advisor to the Board

A draft of the 06/07 budget review was submitted and accepted. We still need an accountant to help with the 07/08 review.

Motion to adjourn made by Wes Greenop and seconded by Jenn Cerbone. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Nominating Committee Report

President:	Melissa Bonet
<i>Pres Elect:</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
Dir. Cultural Arts:	Marie Stalling
Treasurer:	Jennifer Hoffman
<i>Assistant Treasurer:</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
Ways & Means:	Eileen Gombos / Barbara Harrington
Volunteer Coordinator:	Tracey Rosato / Jenn Cerbone
PTA Council Rep:	Kim Gomes / Susan Kotulsky
BOE Rep:	Nancy Donne / Will Diaz
Membership Rep.:	Bev Greenop / Sherri Fahey
Recording Secretary:	Sheila Altieri
Budget Review:	Domingo Thomas / Wes Greenop
Corresponding Sec:	Jill Kellerman
Teacher Representative:	Scott Bannon
Principal	Dr. Dale Bernardoni
Advisor to the Board:	Patty Mihaylo