

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

**General Meeting
February 12, 2009
Library Media Center**

In attendance:

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

Not In Attendance:

Conte, Theresa	Donne, Walter
DeCastro, Dyan	

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Dr. Clark, Superintendent of Fairfield Public Schools was introduced. She discussed key issues including 2009-2010 budget and the proposed redistricting plan to address overcrowding at Stratfield School. Key points from her discussion are as follows:

2009-2010 Budget:

- In order to move all current programs forward, we need a budget increase of 3.3%. We are asking for a 2.3% increase which, although some reductions would be necessary, class size guidelines and programs for children would be maintained.
- The new high school schedule (chosen by 95%) is delayed.
- The budget was built assuming that 12 teachers would retire, however not one teacher has indicated that they would retire to date.
- A student receiving special education services is 4.5 times the cost of a student who does not have special needs. There is no reimbursement for dollars spent until you have spent five thousand dollars above allotment.
- Town officials and the Board of Finance want the BOE to determine a 0% increase. Dr. Clark indicated the importance of parental presence at budget meetings. On March 9th the budget will be presented to the Board and the March 11th budget meeting will focus on non-recurring items including a boiler at Burr, two boilers at OHS, and a new kitchen at OHS.

Redistricting:

- Stratfield Renovation is essential.
 - Enrollment at Stratfield is above capacity. This year there are 117 kindergarten students where only 75 were projected.
 - OT and PT services are provided in a hallway.

The initial thought was to move grade four students to Burr during the renovation. This idea was rejected because the bus route would be 45 minutes and would cost \$84,000.

On February 24th, another plan will be presented to the Board. The new plan would move students from Stratfield to McKinley, McKinley to Jennings, Jennings to Burr and some North Stratfield to Burr. The administration has asked that a decision be made by the end of March.

- There are also projected space problems at the middle school level. Projections indicate that there will be 200 extra middle school students in three years.

A motion to approve the November 13, 2008 General Meeting Minutes was made by Jenn Cerbone and seconded by Jill Kellerman. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

President Elect Position

Melissa Bonet has been elected as the 2008-2009 President Elect

Fundraising

- We are on target to date.
- The cookie dough fundraiser is extended to the Monday after vacation.
- The Valentine Dance made \$500 more than last year. Special thanks to CT Tank for its donation of the Wii.
- Super Duper Weenie made \$147. The owner suggested we do another event once the weather gets warmer.
- McKinley night with the Soundtigers was a success
- The spring fundraiser will run from 2/27 -3/14
- Other fundraising ideas include having Super Duper Weenie at the welcome picnic and a potential Fathers Day event (A Dog for Your Dad).

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was formed. The members are; Dr. Bernardoni, Marie Stalling, Jenn Cerbone, Jill Kellerman, Scott Bannon, Peri Lieb, Laura Coletti, Sherrie Fahey and Jenn Hoffman.

Carnival Committee

We need several volunteers to assist with organizing and running the event. The dates are as follows:

- Thursday, April 23 - 6-9pm
- Friday, April 24 - 6-10pm
- Saturday, April 25 - 1-10pm
- Sunday, April 26 - 1-5pm

Luigi's will be providing the sweets and coffee. Ash Creek will cater the food. The town has requested that we clean up at the end of *each* night instead of the end of the last day.

PTA Website/Weekly e-News

There is potential interest in taking over maintenance of the PTA website and weekly e-news.

Calendar

There will be a meeting in July to finalize dates for the 2009-2010 school calendar.

REPORTS

President

- February 27th is Family Fitness night at Wakeman. We are in need of healthy treat donations.
- February 27th is school spirit day as well.
- Family Read-In Night is March 6th.

Principal

- Mid-year assessments are complete.
- Kindergarten report cards went out last week.
- 100th day of school is next week.
- Students in grades 3-5 are preparing for the CMT's.
- Side-by-side readers from United Way will go home on Friday.
- The book for the whole school read will be distributed after vacation. The story this year is George Seldon's *A Cricket In Times Square*.
- There will be an all town read of Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, about Hugo, a twelve year old boy who lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station. This graphic novel has 246 pages of illustrations woven in with printed text. There are literature circles to discuss the story elements and illustrations.
- There are upcoming trips to the Discovery Museum, Peabody Museum and another visit by the 1st and 2nd grades to the YCBA. In May the CBA will set aside part of the galley for the display of 1st grade artwork. Students will lead their parents through the display.
- We are looking for a well known author to host an evening for the Schools of Hope. The event will be hosted by a Bridgeport School of Hope.
- Two students, Alisa Korneyeva and Justin White, were selected to receive the Connecticut Association of Schools Outstanding Elementary Artist Awards. They attended a statewide CAS banquet in February.
- K registration is in April, not March.
- We need to form a parent welcome committee.

Teacher Representative

- Grades 2-5 are working on improving their math fluency. For example, the 2nd grade is expected to complete 30 addition/subtraction math facts in one minute.
- Grades 3-5 will take the CMT 3/2 - 3/17. Make up days will follow if necessary. Some students will be taking the CMT MAS (Modified Assessment System) which is new this year. There is a link on edline to information about what all parents should know about the CMT.
- Alisa Korneyeva illustrated the cover of the summer school brochure. Summer school will be

two 2-week sessions. Grades 3-5 will be at Burr and grades K-2 at McKinley.

Volunteer Coordinators

The second call for volunteers had a moderate response.

Advisor to the Board

- There were no exceptions noted in the monthly account review.
- A draft of the 06/07 budget review has been submitted to Patty. We still need an accountant to help with the 07/08 review.
- Form 990 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 has been filed and received by the IRS.

Family Read-In Night will focus on *A Cricket In Times Square*. There will be violin players and read alouds of Eric Carle's *The Very Quiet Cricket*.

Motion to adjourn made by Wes Greenop and seconded by Jill Kellerman. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.