

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

**General Board Meeting  
October 2, 2008  
Library Media Center**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

We welcomed Marne Usher, First Vice President, Connecticut PTA; Jim Accomando and Brian Kelahan Co-Region Board Members, Connecticut PTA and Charlotte Leslie President-Elect of PTA Council and former McKinley parent and PTA President. We asked for a motion to accept these representatives as courtesy seatholders.

Motion to accept our courtesy seatholders by Marie Stalling, seconded by Jenn Cerbone. All in favor.

Welcome everyone and thanks for coming tonight. Minutes from September 11, 2008 General Meeting were reviewed. Motion made to accept the minutes as amended by Nancy Donne, seconded by Barbara Harrington. All in favor, except one abstention.

Change: dots to dogs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Election for 2008-2009 Executive Board**

Nancy Donne presented report on new slate of officers. Thanks to all on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee has completely fulfilled its responsibilities and now its obligations have been fully discharged.

### **Election**

We reviewed the Roberts Rules of Order regarding voting. First thing to do is vote on method of voting. Voice vote, raising hands, paper votes. Raising hands was requested and seconded. No discussion. All in favor of vote by raising hands. No nays, no abstentions. Hand raising vote will take place.

Each candidate was asked to stand, state name, child and class and why they are interested in the position that they have been selected for.

Inquiry as to whether anyone is interested in nominating themselves or anyone else. None noted.

At this time we are voting for the entire slate of officers. Motion made to accept the slate of officers for the 2008-2009 Executive Board. Motion made by Walter Donne. All in favor of granting the motion raise hands signifying yay. No nays. No abstentions. Unanimous election of the new 2008-2009 McKinley PTA Executive Board. Formal installation Wed. Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the McKinley cafeteria.

Question: How will we go about finding a President-Elect for this year? The Executive Committee (consisting of President, President-Elect (vacant), Board Advisor, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Cultural Arts Programming) will now look for a candidate. Then the Executive Board will vote on that person.

Question: What happens if no one steps forward? The answer is in the by-laws.

## **REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

Last Friday night was Parents/Kids Social Night. Lots of fun. Also had four Warde H.S. Key Club members who chaperoned.

Friday night is Family Read-In Night. Really nice evening, please come if you can.

Wes read a statement re: Jim Wittstein's email.

Reminder that we do a lot here at McKinley so please volunteer your time and by all means see the new Volunteer Coordinators if you want to join in.

### **Principal's Report**

Dr. Bernardoni reported that the executive did an outstanding job this past year. She personally wants to thank Wes and Bev for providing outstanding leadership through it all.

- Since our last meeting all teachers have finished administering the **DREDDRA**.
- The after-school enrichment programs are all in place and have either started or are starting up this week. There are approx. 16-18 activities for kids after school. Most of this is organized by Becky Miller.
- Cross country started this week under the direction of Janice Mayeran. We now have about 200 kids from 3 schools participating and having meets this fall and spring. The ballet program (Ballet for Breakfast) has gone from about 18 children the first year to 50 this year. Everyone is really excited. The Wakeman program is back in full force, starting its 4<sup>th</sup> year here at McKinley. Their support is equal to upwards of \$100,000 per year. This year we have \$50,000 in contributions from the United Way this year. This Saturday the first grade teaching team is meeting with the coordinators of the Yale Center for British Art. In two weeks the artist for the mural project will be coming to meet with all of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Anyone who knows of any veterans or if you yourself are a veteran, we are looking for speakers on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Smart Boards aren't here yet. Six are coming. We hope by November they will be in place in six classrooms. Many teachers creating or downloading programs for use with Smart Boards.
- Area of concern: we have many more families who are hurting because of the economy. We're changing gears a little bit in only providing gifts for children and one clothing item and one gift item so that children will receive one thing in each of those categories. Please give freely and encourage others to do the same.
- Re: Holiday giving time. Gift cards, especially for groceries are a great idea. Buy a gift card from the PTA so the PTA receives funds from that and they you can also support a family in our community.
- The BOE has always supported this school having a slightly different class ratio than other schools. Out of respect for those schools who have increasing populations and class sizes decided they couldn't' leave the class sizes here with no guidelines so they are now considering what the unique guidelines should be here. Yet to be determined.

### **Director of Cultural Arts Programming**

Since our last meeting Bev got an exciting email from the Great American Theatre Company. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am for MLK presentation. Thanks to everyone for the support over the last year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Not a lot of activity since the school year started. Calendar made \$700 more than last year. Fall fundraiser: Gross take \$6,000 of which we receive \$3,000. Slightly under budget. Other than that things are as they should be.

### **Ways and Means**

Last month's Uno night didn't do so well but we get 15% of \$156.00. Gift cents program,.. you can purchase gift cards and use them at Stop and Shop and McKinley can benefit from that. Info is in Friday folders and on the website. Pie fundraiser is still going on.

### **Volunteer Coordinators**

We currently have 11 open positions.

### **PTA Council Rep**

There will be an update at the next General Meeting

### **BOE Reps**

Nothing to report

### **Membership**

As of today 290 members

### **Budget Review**

There haven't been any budget meetings but the process starts now. It is due to be turned in by the schools by the day before Thanksgiving.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Have received a few more thank you's from the teachers. Two from students we have given scholarships to. Thank you from Relay for Life for our donation. Also made a donation on behalf of Mrs. Schallau's sister who passed away.

### **Teacher Representative**

Scott spoke about the mentor program. About 1/3 of those students are former McKinley students who have come back to mentor our current students. Dana Bossio: Diversity Day on November 6<sup>th</sup> this year... many volunteers are needed. Kindergarten's science program is in full swing. Grade 2 kicked off a Social Studies unit focusing in on community. All 5 classes will be visiting the Historical Society. Grade 5 has started an election unit this year. Want to hold a mock election on October 23<sup>rd</sup> so all McKinley students will be able to vote using actual voting booths. Mrs. Bonenfant was acknowledged for all her work with the Student Council. They will be collecting school supplies for Zimbabwe. Raising money for diabetes assoc. Big thanks to Maureen Bonenfant. Can tab fundraiser is ongoing. Tabs can be turned in to Janet Banks-Mott.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Would it be possible to use funds raised from the Book Fair to purchase and donate books to needy McKinley children. We'll wait to see what happens with the United Way book donations first and then consider that.
- Reading incentive: the new forms will be coming out soon and they have a little different look and better instructions.
- Jenn Cerbone is chairing the celebration books. They can be purchased for any reason. It's a nice way to remember a special event or special person. Books range from \$5.95 to \$21.00.
- Diversity Day is coming up. All volunteers are welcome.
- World's Fair can use volunteers!
- Support a Friend in Need. Wes read statement about a teacher at Jennings school who has had some unexpected tragedies and events this year. The PTA will be making a \$300 donation and passing along other donations from families who donate.
- Mark your calendars! CT PTA Convention April 1 and 2 in Waterbury.

Wes thanked the 2007-2008 Executive Board for all their efforts and support in the past year. We're excited about the new board coming in. We are all here for the children.

Motion made to adjourn meeting. Made by Shawn. Seconded by Jenn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.