

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

**General PTA Meeting
September 24, 2007
Library Media Center**

Call to Order 7:38 p.m.

Reading and Approval of April General Minutes

Motion made to accept the minutes. Eileen Gombos moved. Patty Mihaylo seconded.
Question: What is meant by a magnet school? Dale explained. All in favor.

1) Guest Speaker

Wes introduced Jack Boyle, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction with the Fairfield Board of Education. Jack is here to speak about the Racial Imbalance Plan. He passed around a handout and reviewed the specific points and the highlights of the plan that is also available on the BOE website. Jack is very pleased with the way the BOE and the schools dealt with the issues. They are looking for more ideas to stimulate movement among the schools via open enrollment policy.

- Question: In Bridgeport the magnet schools have a lottery system so how would that work here? Answer: If you have a strong enough draw you will draw people from all parts of the school district so it will bring all nationalities and races to that school. Nobody believes this will be resolved overnight. One problem is that McKinley is such a great school, who would want to leave?
- Question: The impression is that Burr is under populated and so why was that school not a choice? Answer: The classes are filled to the maximum given the criteria that they were working with.
- Question: The proficiency level and income eligibility issue was questioned.
- Answer: The priority would be given to the students who were of a lower income level or having lower proficiency on district assessments. This would only go into effect if there were a lottery.
- Question: With all the zoning things going on is the BOE working in conjunction with the TPZ?
- Answer: That all happens through the First Selectman.
- Question: What if the State doesn't approve the plan?
- Answer: Then the task force will be in effect much sooner.
- Question: Would the State ever consider changing the law?

- Answer: Not in his opinion.
- Question: Will the schools that we have a choice to go to change?
- Answer: It depends on the recommendation of the Task Force
- Question: Were the 8 children who left all minorities?
- Answer: No. 3 Minority, 5 Majority.
- Question: Is there a proficiency imbalance with the schools as well?
- Answer: There is a difference in the scores between the schools.
- Question: If it were to go to a lottery how does it benefit a child to be moved out of a comfortable environment into another one?
- Answer: The choice is made by the parent to enter the lottery.

OLD BUSINESS

President-Elect Vacancy was discussed. Cut off date 10/4/07 and then the EB will vote on candidates at the Oct. 11th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Calendar of Events. Calendar went out 2 weeks ago and is full of events for the year. We're still looking for volunteers for events throughout the year.

Field Trip Fund

The PTA provides funding for fields trips throughout the year. Classroom grants are where teachers apply for a grant to help reduce the cost of something that would help promote their curriculum.

Fall Fundraisers

We've just finished up the gift-wrap drive and kicked off the cake fundraiser drive.

Spirit Wear

In the next couple of weeks we will be reviewing logos for new t-shirts and sweatshirts. These are also opportunities for the PTA to raise money to put back into the school.

World's Fair

Saturday, October 27th. A marvelous event to celebrate diversity and it was a great success last year and we hope to build on that for this year. Still in need of volunteers for all areas.

Craft Fair

November 17th is this year's Craft Fair. It was very successful last year. We're off to a good start with 27 confirmed vendors. Table spaces are \$60 for each spot. Lunch will be served and there will be a bake sale. Volunteers are needed for that day, mostly for setup and taking down.

President's Report

8/27 was Staff welcome back lunch and was very much appreciated.

Staff welcome back gifts: gift certificate from Where in the World were greatly appreciated.

8/30 Tears and Cheers

9/7 Book Fair/Ice Cream Social

9/28 Parent Social/Kids Movie

Volunteerism and Membership: We have lots of opportunities... please volunteer to help.

Principal's Report

The opening this year was very smooth. One of the statistics that Dr. Bernardoni is often asked about is regarding the introduction of a preschool class on McKinley and whether that will have a positive impact on our school's achievement. Out of the 20 original Preschoolers there are 14 still here. 8 of them were reading at or above grade level in English at the end of Kindergarten so yes that will have a big impact. Blue ribbon software helps prepare 3, 4, and 5th graders to practice answering questions on standardized tests and it seems to have shown that there is improvement in the test scores, attributable to the software and some special help for certain children after school.

We've already determined that the whole school activity will be an all-school one read around Charlotte's Web. The whole school will be attending a performance on 3/31/08 at Southern CT State University.

Director of Cultural Arts Programming

There are a couple of storytellers scheduled for visits: Carol Birch on 1/7/08 for the entire day and Mr. Len Cabrall on 11/28/07 doing two performances. The Amadans will be here in April during the school day and also an evening performance that all the parents can attend. One other initiative is to get the feeder schools together for a performance of The Road to Freedom, the Martin Luther King story. All the 5th graders (Stratfield, Riverfield and Osborne Hill) will be coming here on 1/24/08 to see this. The first FAY performance Blue Jupiter will be coming to all the schools in town 11/13-19, here at McKinley on 11/15 Thursday.

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

Entertainment Books can be purchased online for this and other regions.

PTA Council

Next meeting scheduled for October 8th, 2007 so report will be available at our next PTA meeting.

BOE Representative

The report from the 9/11/07 public meeting was reviewed.

Membership Representatives

207 members. The target is 450 with minimum of 350. All full-time certified teachers have joined. 41 signed up at the Open House.

Corresponding Secretary

16 thank you notes received for welcome back luncheon gifts
A donation was made in memory of Jamie Hamilton's mother
Birthday cards were given to our staff.

Treasurer Report

Report figures were reviewed by Patty Mihaylo.

Teacher Representative

Second grade will be taking a walking tour with the Fairfield Historic Society in October.
Kindergarten off to a good start. Off to pumpkin patch on Tuesday, Oct. 2
Art classes have produced some fabulous work.
We have had a very successful collection for Ronald McDonald house of can tabs. Please continue to collect and turn them in to Janet Banks-Mott.

Other Business

Results of hits on website were discussed.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:35.