

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

**General Board Meeting
September 11, 2008
Library Media Center**

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

All attendees and board members introduced themselves.

Minutes from May 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Spelling edits:

Principals' Report: correct spelling of Amadin, correct spelling of name Alyssa Korneyeva

Back page: correct spelling of name Kretbix, change name to include full name: Delma Carter-Nicholas

Motion made to accept the minutes as revised by Marie Stalling, seconded by Bev Greenop. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Beautify McKinley

Sheila Sullivan spoke about a plan to do landscaping at McKinley. A proposal showing costs was passed out. Looking for volunteers to help out with the work. Flyer also detailed different "green" events that will take place in and around McKinley throughout the year. It was suggested that Sheila tie in a "buy a bag of bulbs" with the September parent social on September 26th. \$200 is in the PTA budget for Beautify McKinley. Interested volunteers call Sheila Sullivan and bring your own shovels.

PTA

Question & Answer session

Question was asked about directory form that went home in Friday folders.

Question about ads in the back of the directory. Answer is that it's not done anymore.

World's Fair

Saturday October 25th is the third annual World's Fair. Patty Mihaylo, spoke about the event. October 12th there will be a dinner at the Flying Dish on the Post Road in Fairfield. There will be 2 seatings, 5:00 and 6:15. This is a fundraiser for McKinley and they will donate 15% of proceeds to McKinley. There will be a reservation form going out.

Fall Fundraiser

Sally Foster Gift Catalogs will be extended another week. Last Friday was the Ice Cream Social/Book Fair. This year it was even better than last year. Proceeds from the Book Fair give us vouchers from Scholastic that allow the purchase of books for the school.

Reading Incentive Program

Theresa Conte described the program. The form is being revised and it will be going out soon.

REPORTS

President's Report

We spoke about what the EB has done during the summer and has done since the beginning of the year, i.e., Tears and Cheers, Teacher Welcome Back, Staples gift cards for teachers, Open Me Packets. Upcoming is the Parent's Social Night. Next week is the Pizzeria Uno fundraiser. We're in the process of accepting members interested in open positions for the PTA for 2008-2009 school year. Anyone interested please see one of the nominating committee members. There will be an election on 10/2 at the General Meeting.

Principal's Report

- We've had a great beginning of the school year. Our initiatives this year are the same as last year with the push on vocabulary. In addition to that there will be more of a push on science.
- We are anticipating the arrival of 6 new smart boards to be installed. Some paid for through operating budget and some through our partnership with the United Way. A grant has been written to train the teachers on this new technology. Eventually these will replace chalkboards, whiteboards and blackboards.
- This year's book is *The Cricket in Times Square*. Any child who is able to read the book will be given a copy through a grant from the United Way later on in the year.
- The CMT results were better than in the past and went up about 20 percentage points. This past week we were given the results of the Adequate Yearly Progress report (AYP). The initiative is that all children will be on grade level by the year 2014. This year the percent of children who need to be proficient is 82% in math and 79% in reading. This year in the State of CT about 200 schools did not make adequate yearly progress. McKinley is NOT on this list. Our kids measured in mathematics Goal = 82% we were at 87.4% Reading goal 79% we are at 82.8%. We're very proud to be where we are.
- Lots of exciting things coming up this year. New teachers, great technology. We are supported by Wakeman, Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, Commerce Bank, Junior Achievement.
- The American Mural Project. The children of McKinley School are going to be contributors to this project. The artist will be coming to visit in a couple of weeks to meet the children.

- We have developed a business relationship with the Yale Art Museum. First grade students will be going to learn about visual literacy.
- Diversity Committee: All members of Fairfield Community are invited to be participants. Anyone interested can visit the website or see Dr. Bernardoni.

Director of Cultural Arts Programming

Bev reported that there hasn't been a lot going on yet since school has just started. We have contracted with the Amadins. This will be their 3rd visit. We hope to be able to again have a production of The Road to Freedom. Bev is working on that. Gearing up for the Annual Craft Fair the Saturday before Thanksgiving. As of now there are 16 paid applications with additional applications coming in. Anyone interested please contact Bev. Anyone interested in selling hot dots, pizza or soup or donating to the bake sale please let Bev know as well.

Treasurer's Report

Patty went over the P&L sheet.

Ways and Means

Dinal described the different events that go on during the year. Gift wrap has gone out, pie sale coming up. Also monthly practical fundraiser is the Pizzeria Uno event. Also for web shoppers giftcents.com is a fundraiser we will be doing.

Volunteer Coordinators

There are still a few openings. Volunteer handout sheets have been collected and are being tabulated. Helpers are needed as well as chairpeople such as in the library, summer reading program, World's Fair, helpers for pie sale, craft fair food booth, holiday gift shop needs a co-chair. Anyone interested in anything please call Theresa Conte or Marie Stalling.

PTA Council Rep

Nothing to report this month.

Board of Education Rep

Highlight was the new McKinley teachers and diversity committee report. There was a revised student's code of behavior.

Membership

As of today, 64 staff are members and 86 parents. Total 150 members.

Budget Review

Nothing specific to report. Some schools in town have class sizes that are quite large. McKinley has smaller class sizes.

Corresponding Sec'y

Many thank you cards from staff about the Welcome Back Lunch. Thank you from Ms. Reddy.

Teacher Representative

Mr. Bannon filled in for Ms. Reddy. Many thanks from teachers for the PTA support. This morning there was a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. Academically the teachers have hit the ground running this year and are doing a lot of assessments and testing in order to plan instruction. Edline will soon be available. Ms. Mayeran said 4th grade mile run is Oct. 27 and rain date is the 28th.

Safety and Protection

Due to some parents' request that their children do not appear in photos the weekly news will no longer have photos in it.

Volunteer Form will be sent home asking any and all volunteers to note whether they are a registered sex offender or have a felony arrest. This is to ensure our children's safety and anyone checking yes will not be invited to volunteer in our schools.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.