

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2011

Present:

Kate Murray, PTSO Junior Chair

David Krane, Principal at McT

Matthew McDowell, Assistant Principal and School Representative

Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Jill DeFoe , Auction Chair

Heidi Dalakis, Auction Chair

Kat Hudson

Chris Hanlon

Rebecca MacNeill

Tracey Smith

Maya Minkin

Christine Brault

Kristen Fitzgerald

Lara Maira

Mariah Straayer

Maria Ledeboer-Cid

Introductions:

All present went around the room and introduced themselves.

Minutes:

The minutes of June 8, 2011 were approved and amended.

Treasure's Report:

Jonathan Chinitz's Treasurer Report was reviewed and approved. School received a big check from Target (\$544), it would be beneficial if more emphasis is put in this program, "Take Charge of Education", which costs nothing to anyone, and all that is needed is for people to register their Target cards so that MCT receives 1% back from every purchase made. PTSO funds are used toward Parent Involvement Coordinator, Art Integration, additional Library Help, and supplementing classroom assistants. We discussed the James Family Fund which has \$270 available for immediate use. Voted and approved that the James Family Fund will be used immediately toward the purchase of gas cards for the James family. Currently, there is a small campaign

in school, by word of mouth, to collect gas cards for the James Family. Patty Lee will be collecting any gas cards that families might want to donate.

Principal's Report:

David informed us that 38 new children joined McT, a few do not speak any English (Russian, Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese). We need to reach out to the new families through the Buddy Program and the school needs to deal with the language barriers. Jean Oviatt is the new Math Coordinator for the AB School District. Lynda Schmitz has been hired as the Math Assistant for McT; she is certified in teaching Math in Middle School. She will be working 19 hours with 3rd thru 6th grade students. David confirmed the acquisition of Smart Boards and that the teachers had the opportunity to be trained to use them. The library has been quadrupled with the acquisition of tradebooks; it is a great resource for teachers and students as they will have access to texts that are appropriate for their reading level. The Leveled Library has been located in the classroom of Sharon Ryan, our Reading Specialist, who has moved to room 315.

We acquired more faculty and staff. Kerri Tomlin is our new McT School Counselor. Donna Kaufmann is our new Librarian. The four new teachers are Kate Gibalerio and Darsi Decker for 3rd grade. Ashley Pringle is teaching Second Grade and Laura Martin joined the Sixth Grade Team. He thanked the hiring committees for their time over the summer to fill up all the open positions in the school.

David reviewed the new teaching system for the 6th graders where students are rotating among the teachers to receive specific subject expertise. Also, every classroom has been moved into instructional blocks where there is a 45-minute period during the day where students can't be removed from the classroom and teachers have the opportunity to teach to the whole classroom. David expressed his gratitude to Maureen Jones for all her extra work during the summer. He reminded us that McT will be hosting the next APS School Committee meeting on Thursday, October 20th. He encouraged everyone to come and support this meeting as many issues will be discussed including raising money for hiring personnel, school choice, sizable amount of \$ that needs to be addressed, and the Waterfall provision.

PTSO Forums:

Discussed the possibility of running Forums for Parents so that they know what is happening in the school, and how those issues are being addressed. The focus would be to explore ideas and issues that don't get discussed anywhere else. Some ways to keep families informed are to have a parent from each class email the classroom with the PTSO information and coffee hours with David where parents could come and talk with him.

Budget Update:

Our fundraising goal for this year is \$89,000. The budget will go to classroom assistants, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Art Integration, additional Library Help, PTSO events and needy families.

Patty Lee:

She would like to receive any forms to be copied by the end of Wednesday so that they can be ready for the teachers on Thursday, and sent home by Friday.

Fundraisers:

Mother Earth Fundraiser: Suzi Yarin is running this fundraising. It is delayed and the numbers are unknown as people order online. It ends on October 3rd.

Snack Taxi Fundraiser: Lara Maira is running this eco-friendly fundraising. It ends on October 3rd.

Genevieve's Holiday Food Sale: Tina Connors is running this fundraiser, which will begin at the end of the month. It consists of selling frozen food for the holidays.

Family Photo Day at the Arboretum: The sign up is ongoing with Niki Le Mar. Flyers went home and families need to sign up for a photograph session for either Saturday, October 15th or Sunday, October 16th. Lisa Connaughton is the photographer. There is a \$30 sitting fee; half of the \$ goes directly to the school. In case of rain, the families will meet at the photographer's studio in Hudson.

Scrip: It brought \$450 during the 1st month.

Auction: Heidi Dalaklis and Jill Defoe reported that the Auction is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at Butternut Farm, Stow. The theme is Mardi Gras. They still need more volunteers and chairs for the committees. Also, both Heidi and Jill indicated that this will be their last year coordinating this event. Volunteer request will be sent in November.

Halloween Hoedown: This event is for adults only and it has been scheduled for Saturday, October 29th. It will be held at the Maynard Rod & Gun Club. Vin's Husband band, Laura and the Lookouts, will be playing and a Line Dancing Instructor will be teaching western country dance and party dance. It was offered as a 2 for 1 for teachers. Funds will be 100% donated to the PTSO. Costumes are optional.

Publicity: Matt Benway will be doing the publicity for the PTSO.

Fall Social: Chris Hanlon and Kat Hudson reported that the Fall Social is on schedule. It will be held on Friday, October 28th from 6-8pm. They have many games, face painting, hip hop instructor teaching two 30 min sessions for the kids, and food. They still need more volunteers to cover the games. HS and JHS students were suggested.

Book Fair: Scheduled for the end of October. Set up is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th and it will end on Monday, October 31st. Volunteers are needed.

Miscellaneous:

Professional Day: It is scheduled for Nov. 1 Hospitality committee needs volunteers to help with setup/clean up. Also, many items (food, paper goods, etc) are needed to make this event successful.

PTSO Liaison: Volunteer list will go out on Friday about the liaison for each classroom.

Johanna Hurwitz: The author held two sessions for the students in the school. She met with 1st/2nd graders and 3rd /4th graders; to talk to them about becoming an author.

CPAC: It had low donations last year. A new form will be sent soon.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30A.M.

Submitted by,
Maria Ledebauer-Cid