

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 14, 2011

Present:

Michelle Caterina, PTSO Chair
Kate Murray, PTSO Junior Chair
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary
David Krane, Principal McT
Chris Hanlon, Treasurer Shadow
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher
Jill Defoe, Auction Co-Chair
Heidi Dalaklis, Auction Co-Chair
Lara Maira
Tina Connors
Maureen Greer
Amy Hedison
Kristin Hillberg
Ori Kilmer
Ginny Galletta

Introductions:

All present went around the room and introduced them selves.

Minutes:

The minutes of November 10, 2011 were approved as amended.

Principal's Report

David talked about the budget discussions that are on going for Fiscal Year 2013. He stated that the reserves may be cut back because of concerns over rising health care costs.

He talked about Protocol Training that Kate Fitzmaurice and Allison O'Leary have just completed. They are now looking at implementing what they have learned. The district has now trained 35 people and they are now able to train more people. The goal is to move towards dialogues that allow everyone to be heard and involved.

The Special Education Forum that was presented at McCarthy-Towne was well attended and well received. David has been receiving positive feedback on the forum. It was suggested that it might be helpful to video tape the forums so more people can see them if they are unable to attend. The next forum will be focusing on the Math Curriculum.

Class size was discussed. More families continue to move into town and continue to be enrolled at McT. There are now 26 children in each of the 5th and 6th classrooms. We have lost 4 or 5 children to moving out of town.

Auction Update

Heidi and Jill have reported that the auction preparations are moving along. This will be their last year running the auction and they asked for help from Michelle and Kate in looking for replacements which they would be happy to help train this year if they would like to shadow them.

It was also stated that this is Lynne Densen's last year at McT so a new web master will need to be found.

Amy Hedison

Amy talked about class size recommendations that is an on going discussion within the district. It was discussed that the optimum number of students per classroom is 15. We also need more qualified adults in the classroom in the form of teacher assistants. While student teachers can be an option we often ask for them but don't always receive them.

Kristin Hillberg – Acton-Boxboro Regionalization Study Committee

Kristin stated that she is on the AB Regionalization Study Committee which is looking at possibly regionalizing Acton and Boxboro, K – 12 because of Boxboro's declining enrollment. While Acton needs more classroom space Boxboro has empty classrooms. The committee is charged with studying whether this makes sense for both Towns in terms of state funding, staffing, all legal and political aspects of such a move. Our group stated some of their concerns with such a move:

1. Staffing concerns – Would all staff be retained
2. What would happen to school choice. We in Acton want to make sure that school choice stays in place.
3. How would the start times work?
4. We want to make sure that the mission statements for all the schools remain the same.
5. If this were to happen would our class sizes decrease?

Kristin thanked us for our input and will bring out concerns back to the committee which needs to formulate a plan to bring to both Town Meetings.

Fundraisers:

Scrip – Made money in November.

Holiday Food Sale – Made \$1,000 in profit.

Wrapping Paper – It was very well received and made about \$1,000+

CPAC - \$1,500 has been raised so far for CPAC. We are about \$400 shy of meeting both of our goals:

\$1,300 for performances

\$ 600 for Art Integration Supplies

We have already spent \$600 on performances.

Adjournment

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Dee
PTSO Secretary