

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO Meeting Minutes Monday, December 14, 2015

Julie Weir, PTSO Sr. Chair

David Krane, Principal

Matt McDowell, Assistant Principal

Jennifer Stolz

The Minutes of November 2015 were approved with minor edits.

Principal's Report

The Student Council's Spoon Project was a great success as each classroom participated. We donated \$3,832 to Project Bread!

Shawna from Teachers College was here last week to work with the teachers in grades 3-6. The faculty is excited to further explore how to implement the reading and writing workshop models, especially with the recent Teachers College publication of the K-5 Units of Study. Teachers are exploring the lessons, trying them out, making changes to fit their needs, etc.

Budget Saturday is January 23, so big conversations are being had as the needs of the district and the individual schools are considered. David shared that he has requested the addition of a 1.0 ELL teaching position because the school's ELL population is on the rise.

Our Natures Playground is almost complete. It will have terrain features and natural landscapes for the children. The original funds didn't go as far as expected. We could take advantage of local grants if someone from the PTSO is willing to write them. The PTSO will add some plantings to the new Natures Playground in the spring.

On December 3rd, the last Professional Learning Thursday, teachers studied art integration. They took a look at the history art integration at McT, informing new faculty. After a lecture, the teachers broke into small groups for some hands-on art experience. David shared that art integration is critical to the history of McT. There will be a parent forum in late January on this topic. The kindergarten tours will start at McT at the end of January. He'd like McT to stay in people's minds. The school has gained in popularity over the past few years and is attracting a diverse group.

Treasurer's Report

The current funds available are \$80,382.14. This is considerably lower than last month due to a number of big payments. The Merrowvista field trip was paid off. Other expenses include the 2nd grade trip to the Hosmer House and the 3rd grade Eyes on Owls program. Our first payment (\$23,667) for contracted services was

paid to the district. A check was written to the state for the taxes from the Book Fair too.

We collected \$1,445 in ad revenue from the school directory, making a profit of \$570. This is a little lower than previous years, perhaps due to the addition of the Activities Expo. But it all evens out in the end.

\$500 was earned through the Scrips program. Should we do it again in the Spring or Winter? Tracey suggested we highlight the hotel chain and airline gift card options in communications with parents as we would get 10% of those sales. We should think about cutting down on the amount of printing and copying. We could use a new volunteer to organize this program as Christine has taken over the Auction.

\$78.49 was earned from Amazon. Now that an accounting edit is being made to the paperwork, we should be able to join Amazon Smile soon.

Other Updates

The Auction Committee is hard at work. Mailings were sent to businesses and the school is already receiving items.

The district's Family Learning Series is available for viewing on ActonTV.org. Julie W. will link this to the Facebook page.

Future Business

Winter Choral Concert – 12/17 6:30pm

School Committee Meeting on 12/17 at 7:30pm

Winter Break – full day of school on 12/23. Return on 1/3.

Next PTSO meeting is 1/12 at 7pm in the library

Parent Forum about Art Integration in January – date TBD

Book (gently used) Swap on 2/5

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Lewis

PTSO Secretary