

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 4, 2014

Tracey Smith, PTSO Sr. Chair
Shelley Cole, Jr. Chair
Nancy Giansante, Faculty Rep
David Krane, Principal
Julie Weir

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM

Minutes

The minutes of May 2014 were approved.

Principal's Report

David thanked Tracey. It's been a tough year and the parent communication has been terrific. David is grateful for the \$71,000 from the PTSO. Next year, with the 18 full-day Thursdays, will be challenging.

The Scholarship evening at the high school was great. A thing to remember for next year is to have the check in hand. There was some discussion about what the scholarship amount will be, going forward: are we doing (1) at \$500 or (2) at \$500? David will take \$500 from Contracted Services if necessary.

We are thrilled to announce Lindsey Howe as the new one-year 5th grade teacher. She is currently a 3rd grade teacher in a Catholic school in Waltham. All candidates were strong. In other news, Callie O'Connor will be moving to 6th grade to fill Kate Peretz's position. Hiring to fill Callie's opening in 4th grade is in progress. Darsi had her baby. Judy LaFrancis from Merriam is taking over her class through the end of the school year. Caitlin in 5th grade is getting impatient for her baby to arrive.

The .6 psychologist position search has been reopened. The committee is having difficulty attracting applicants for so few hours.

The placement process for next school year is ongoing. We want to do it right and do it well. Assistant hours will remain essentially the same although there may be some shuffling.

A new school calendar for 2014-15 will be approved tomorrow night (June 5th, 2014). The School Committee is trying to arrange the early release Thursdays in a way that parents will remember.

Family Field Day was a success. The decision to have it in the front circle (because of the rain) was a good one and will probably continue for future years. The games went well and there was lots of food.

Lots of things have happened since the Beacon article and the School Committee's subsequent endorsement of our school. We have a warm and supportive parent community. The only regret is that the same reporter from the Beacon was not present for Dr. Mills' and the School Committee's statement. Dr. Mills and the School Committee were very generous in talking about how safe our school is.

Treasurer's Report

Chris was not able to be present. His notes were read and everything seems in order.

General Discussion

Shelley discussed Elizabeth Crowley's thoughts on our fundraising; Elizabeth thinks we need to include more details on our Direct Appeal letter. She would like to see specific examples of how assistants are used.

Nancy discussed that parents don't understand what the assistants do. Perhaps the PTSO should have reps for the lower grade levels to explain what they do.

Regarding the Auction, there was an idea proposed of having teachers send a letter to their classrooms discussing the Auction and why parents should support it. Nancy thinks teachers would do this if given guidance. Maybe draft something for them.

There was some discussion about not doing Scrip next year. It requires a tremendous amount of volunteer hours (in addition to the costs associated with paper and copying) for a very little payoff. Perhaps it makes sense to switch to just once or twice a year instead of monthly or doing online only.

There was a successful vote to approve the Steering Committee for the 2014-15 school year.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Smith
(subbing as Secretary)