

McCarthy-Towne School PTST Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Judy Bourdon, PTST Jr. Chair
Julie Maranian, PTST Treasurer
David Krane, Principal
Kari James, McT teacher
Rachana Shah
Roland Bourdon
Abigail Lewis

Tracey Smith, Parent Involv. Coordinator
Kerry Lewis, PTST Secretary
Jen Pratt, PTST faculty representative
David E. James
Deepika Prakash
Colin Bourdon
Cameron Lewis

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M.

Jen Pratt led a Responsive Classroom greet with the meeting attendees. We passed a paintbrush around the table and shared one kind of art we enjoy.

Principal's Report

The Parker Damon Fund was discussed at a recent faculty meeting. The money will probably be used for something related to art integration, but the specifics have not yet been worked out. Art Integration is going to be a school goal next school year and a committee of 12 has been formed to create and present workshops to the faculty to ensure all new teachers have a good understanding.

David thanked the Auction Chairs and many parent volunteers for their work on the Auction. It was a fun night, and he's grateful for every contribution.

Some grades at McT are in the midst of taking MCAS 2.0. Make-ups are happening this week and Math begins the first week of May. The state is recalibrating what "proficient" means and is changing the rating system. AB was one of the few districts to try taking the new test on computers this year. It went really well. No crashes or problems despite Merriam also testing at the same time. David thanked Tracey and Matt for their hard work during this testing time. Their work takes a lot off the teachers' plates as they help track students, equipment, materials, etc.

Kindergarten placements have happened. Across the district about 95% of families were given their first choice school. Right now there are 62 kindergarteners enrolled at McT, which means the classes will start with 21, 21, and 20 students. David expects those numbers will increase as more students move into the district over the summer and during the next school year. School enrollment across the district continues to be higher than the projected amounts; there are already 42 more students in the Class of 2030 than estimated.

The faculty has begun having placement conversations for the next school year. They put a lot of thought into how the students are placed into classes and aim for balance. There are always surprises with new students, etc.

Grade 5 will go to Merrowvista for two nights next week. David is going for one of those nights. Everyone is really looking forward to it! A camp staff member will also be returning to McT this spring to visit with the 6th grade kids who went to Merrowvista last year.

Treasurer's Report

Our total funds available are \$117,619.03.

Fundraising/Income:

- Julie shared that the Auction earnings totaled \$40,780, which is \$11,220 below our goal and \$12,035 less than last year's total. The main reason being that the bid income was about \$10K lower than last year; people just weren't bidding as high as usual. Also, we did not get as many camp donations as in the past. With most of the other schools doing an Auction this year, some camps have opted to only donate on an every other year basis. We have to tweak next year's budget accordingly.
- Another \$185 direct appeal donation was received bringing that total to \$5,170
- Lip Sync raised \$1,545. More is expected after DVD sales.

Expenses/Activity:

- Field trips are in full swing. Deposits for Thompson Island and Lowell trips have been received. Paid 2nd installment of Thompson Island trip, deposit for Ecotarium, bus for Lowell, and admission fee for Museum of Fine Arts.
- Paid Coffee Pond \$81.25 to reprint class composites with errors
- Reimbursed Hanna for art integration supplies
- Paid Community Ed. \$150 for custodial fees for Lip Sync and \$275 for Movie Night
- Paid Red Apple \$143.72 for Safe Arrival magnets
- Ordered bank deposit slips for \$48.98

Alison Forseter will be the PTSO Treasurer for the 2017-2018 school year.

Looking Back

International Night was a success. McT had many booths and enthusiastic parents participating. Dee said she's interested in continuing to work with Merriam on this event next year – to make it 50/50 and not just advertised as a Merriam event. Expenses will have to be discussed ahead of time. Charging admission seemed to work well this year.

Judy shared that at the last joint PTSO meeting, it was shared that School Committee is looking at how each of the elementary schools are doing nature's classroom like trips and activities. Right now different schools go to different places for varying lengths of time. The PTSOs noticed that the schools don't all pay the same rate at some of these places. This will continue to be explored. Judy also shared that School

Committee is looking for put a K-12 homework policy in place. No other specifics were shared.

Looking Ahead

Our Yard Sale with Merriam will take place on May 6th.

Visual Arts Integration Presentation

Second grade teachers, Jen Pratt and Kari James, shared a slideshow featuring what art integration looks like at McT and its purpose. Some key ideas shared were:

- Art integration is separate from weekly art class.
- Integrating art with curriculum deepens the kids' understanding of concepts and ideas.
- Focus on process not product
- Shows strengths and challenges of students
- Mistakes are okay – teaches problem solving
- Quality artist materials used
- Create from the inside out
- Ongoing time to work on projects
- Reflection and talking about the art is key

Jen and Kari showed some examples of art including animal paintings, weaving, and Ghana brochures. Next, with their guidance the adults tried one of two art integration projects (painting animals and butterflies with colored pencils) and reflected afterwards.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Lewis
PTSO Secretary