

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Chris Hanlon, PTSO Sr. Chair
Julie Maranian, PTSO Treasurer
David Krane, Principal
Tracey Smith, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Judy Bourdon, PTSO Jr. Chair, and her son, Colin
Kerry Lewis, PTSO Secretary
Jen Pratt, PTSO faculty representative

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. The Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Principal's Report

David reported it has been an intense two months. Kindergarten Info. Night was a huge success. The tours have gone really well too; many were full and parents asked good questions. Tracey shared that they did not get as many questions about art integration and MCAS scores as in the past. David is proud of our school and the teaching happening here. While there are things that make our school unique, McT is not so widely different from the other schools. People view us differently now and notice how we are reflective about children, their learning, and our teaching.

MBAS approved plans for Douglas School, meaning AB will be given some money towards the building of a new school. There are still many details to be worked out, however. What will the school look like? Will the town raise the funds? Will there be reconfigurations? There are many options on the table, but the decisions will impact us all. David said that this is the time to be vigilant about the things we think are important in an effort to protect what makes us who we are (tone, culture, atmosphere). The town needs to balance what's fiscally appropriate with the concepts that are important to families. David shared that there's not enough space at McT (though it's not immediately apparent) and that it's partially a design flaw; he has shared this with the committee so they can take it into consideration with future building plans.

This week there will be an All School Assembly. Both the Decibels Foundation (Stink Week) and the Acton Food Pantry (Project Bread Spoons Project) will come to thank the students for giving back to their community.

Some grades will participate in MCAS within the early April to end of May timeframe. See the Bulletin for specifics. This is MCAS 2.0; the rules have changed with different timing and accommodations. Grade 4 will do the test on the computer; they'll borrow the grade 6 Chromebooks. This will be interesting as the test involves lots of toggling and scrolling. Is this test really giving the students an opportunity to show what they know? David emphasized how important it is for the students to be in school. This is only one data point in the kids' lives, but we want the kids to do well. We do our best to set the kids up for success.

There have been two snow days so far.

Three new students started this week; two do not speak English.

Treasurer's Report

Julie Maranian shared that our current funds available are \$99,548.61. (This does not include the second contractual services fee that was just paid.)

Recent income/fundraising:

- Raised \$2,685.39 for Project Bread
- Received \$635.70 in Box Tops (great shape to beat our goal)

- Received \$1442.39 from Coffee Pond Photography as part of revenue sharing program (little short of our goal)
- SCRIP brought in \$14.75 in January, but we also paid subscription payment. Total income for year is \$835.60
- Received \$100 Direct Appeal donation bringing total to \$4,885.
- Movie Night brought in \$1,272.50 (offset by \$175 licensing fee) to help with 6th grade Thompson Island trip.
- \$220 in Merrowvista donations from two 5th grade families

Recent expenses/activity:

- Received some 6th grade and 3rd grade field trip deposits. Paid invoices for initial deposit to Thompson Island (\$690) and Eyes on Owls (\$820).
- Made 2nd contractual services payment to ABRSD for \$23, 667 (not reflected in bank account yet)
- Paid \$175 to Motion Picture Licensing Corp. for 6th grade Movie Night
- Reimbursed Julie Maranian \$28.20 for postage
- Auction reimbursements: \$17.37 to Carol Chytil for paper for raffles and \$462.01 to Shelley Cole for table décor
- Reimbursed Hanna \$243.28 for art integration supplies

All Direct Appeal tax receipt letters were mailed in mid-January.

The Parker Damon Fund is steady at \$1,385.43. We're waiting for the faculty decision on how to spend this. David promises he'll have a plan by the end of the school year.

Julie may have found a replacement for PTSO treasurer; she's meeting with her this week.

Looking Back

Movie Night was a success; it was a packed event!

Judy Bourdon attended the Joint PTSO Meeting. All schools reported their Direct Appeal donations are down. The Co-Chairs discussed how much each school raises and saw a wide variety there. Each PTSO uses their money very differently, i.e. some pay for classroom assistants. The Charters have a lot to do with this. Maybe they should be reviewed every few years? School Committee is putting together a glossary of terms on how parents can get involved with the schools. The focus of the meeting was the realization that PTSOs do not have insurance coverage by the district. Each PTSO needs to obtain its own A.S.A.P. Proposals and estimates should be gathered to discuss. PTSO Today is one source to check out.

Looking Ahead

The Auction is coming on March 18th! Personally outreach to parents to encourage attendance. Right now only 35 tickets have been sold, but there's usually a push in the last two weeks. Parents need to be given a deadline reminder for purchasing tickets. Another order form will go home in backpacks (separately from Bulletin). The addition of Kindergarten/newcomer tables seems to be well-received. Judy needs more volunteers to sell raffle tickets this weekend at Roche Bros. and Donelan's.

Chris is going to meet with Heidi to discuss the possibility of tying in student art with the outdoor chess board/table to be purchased in honor of Astrid.

International Night is March 25th from 5-7:30pm in conjunction with Merriam. Dee has made plans with the other school and things seem to be going smoothly. A flyer was put in the last Bulletin. Tracey reached out to Brazilian families to find someone to translate it to Portuguese.

The Yard Sale will also be a joint event with Merriam.

Upcoming PTSO Meetings:

March 21 – Finance Committee and Use of technology

April 11 – Art integration by faculty

May 16 – Superintendent

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Lewis

PTSO Secretary