

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2013**

**Present:**

Tracey Smith, PTSO Jr. Chair  
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer  
David Krane, Principal  
Matt McDowell, Assistant Principal  
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator  
Christine Brault  
Janet Munson  
Carol Chytil  
Julie Weir

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM.

**Minutes**

The minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved.

**Principal's Report**

David reported that as of today we now have 6 snow days. The last day of school will be Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

David again thanked all the organizers of this year's Auction and all McT parents for their continued generosity. A Kindergarten parent did wind up buying the Penguin picture so it has found a good home with a kindergartener.

We are preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of MCAS testing, Math, Science, Technology & Engineering, which will take place in May. David reported that students seemed less anxious this year with the first round of testing.

David also reported that McT is hoping to have 2 sections of All-Day Kindergarten next year. Letters were sent to all Kindergarten families letting them know that we will have 2 ADK sections. We only need 8-9 families to sign up for ADK at McT to run the 2<sup>nd</sup> section. If the 2 ADK sections go, the ½ day class will stay as an AM class the entire year. The lottery for Kindergarten will take place on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The big change coming to McT is that pretty much all classrooms are moving so that all classes in a grade will be together. Grades K and 6<sup>th</sup> will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor; Grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor and Grades 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Packing Day will be Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and we will be looking for parent help on that day. Teachers may also reach out to parents for help before then as they begin to pack up materials that they are finished with. David is excited about this change as it will enable greater collaboration at the grade level and cross-grades. It gets to the heart of teaching and learning. Sharon Ryan will be moving into the Computer Lab. David is looking to combine the Computer Lab with the Library to create a media center, having more mobile carts...this is still a work in progress.

The class placement conversations will be beginning after break. David wrote to parents about it in the April Bulletin.

Amy-Jo Conant has been offered the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade open teaching position.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Auction made about \$56K in profit this year. All major expenses have been paid. We are still waiting on some checks to come in and for the Auction Memorabilia but it looks like a \$6K improvement from last year.

The Lip Sync had a profit of roughly \$1950 which again was an improvement from last year. All agreed it was successfully run.

Chris reported that we are now slightly above our fundraising goal that we set for this year with the Yard Sale and Family Field Day still upcoming. Chris also reported that we have made our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> installment payments to the District and the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment will be due in June. Chris discussed eliminating the credit card machine and using SquareUp which was used at the Auction and has no annual fee. Chris will look into other options including PayPal.

Chris reported that he added a line item for the Merrowvista fundraising efforts. Tracey reported that in addition to the Basketball snack sales, they will be running the bottle recycling fundraiser during the Yard Sale and have a fundraiser scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Acton Bowladrome.

### **Lip Sync Recap**

Again, all agreed that it was successfully run and all the kids really enjoyed participating and watching the show.

### **Yard Sale Update**

Julie is still in need of volunteers for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. They have posted flyers around Town, at the pre-schools and other elementary schools advertising the sale. They are also in need of clothing racks for the day of the sale.

### **International Night Update**

Tracey reported that they are moving forward and parents from both McT and Merriam have pre-purchased tickets for the night.

### **Family Field Day**

Maya and Liz are looking for more parent volunteers/participation for the May 30<sup>th</sup> Family Field Day. They will be sending home a flyer with May's Bulletin.

### **School Committee Meeting**

Tracey reported that the proposed Regionalization Agreement for K-12 has now restructured the benefits to an 80/20 split so that Acton receives 80% of the cost savings. The 5% discount that Boxborough was receiving for capital expenditures borrowed has been eliminated (although it remains in effect for all existing debt). The Regional School Committee is now larger with 11 members 7 Acton members and 4 Boxborough members. Acton receives 2.5 votes per member and Boxborough 1 vote per member. The Town home guarantee has been extended in perpetuity. The Regionalization vote will take place at a Special Town Meeting on **Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Members of the Regionalization Committee will be coming to the May PTSO meeting to discuss the changes to the agreement.

The Safety Task Force decided to not lock the front doors of the school buildings. The Parent Poll had 65% in favor of locking the front doors. The District will be installing a video monitoring system approximately 7 per school with the PDB getting about 15. The system will be monitored by existing campus monitors. There will be the ability to remotely lock the front doors with this system.

**Remaining PTSO Meetings**

We need to discuss the Fall Fundraiser, Direct Appeal and the budget for next school year. The Auction date has been set for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Devens.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Lee

Parent Involvement Coordinator