

McCarthy Towne School PTSO

Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 12, 2013

Tracey Smith, PTSO Sr. Chair

Shelley Cole, PTSO Jr. Chair

Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer

David Krane, Principal

J.D. Head, Director of Facilities and Transportation

Michele Abroff

Sorrel Sammons

The meeting was called to order at 9 am.

Minutes

The minutes from November 2013 were approved.

Principal's Report

The principal search at Blanchard is going well. David is getting to know the school better and is excited to see us all become one school system.

The past service learning projects were a success. The spoon project for Project Bread raised almost \$2800.

Acton Long Ago with second graders was a big success. After their field trip the costumed children got to be a part of the assembly. Jillian did a remarkable job once again.

Requirement for band now has 4th, 5th and 6th grade children taking chorus. The concert for the 5th grade chorus is coming up this month on the 18th.

No snow days yet and no major illnesses puts us in a good place for instruction. It has been a terrific year so far.

J.D. Head's Report

The start times for the schools will stay the same for next year.

Single tier district would be best for the school system as a whole but we are not ready to do it for next year. Despite remaining on a double-tier next year, the buses will change a little: Conant will now have its own buses, while McCarthy-Towne and Merriam will continue to share buses. This means that buses for the Parker Damon Building will no longer load or unload at Conant. This should mean less time in the bus room and less driving around from school to school, possibly reducing total bus room/bus travel by 20-25 minutes.

As part of the process of determining whether or not to move to a single tier, consultants were hired to examine the new bus routes. These new routes were longer than J.D. would have liked and the stops were too far apart. The routes were then simulated and other problems were found with them. To manage the switch to a single tier, additional buses would need to be purchased and this is, at least, a three-month process and buses would need to be ordered now to have them ready in time for September 2014. Ultimately, J.D. felt that rushing into this would be a disservice to the district and the community, so we will remain on the double tier for the 2014-15 school year, while his department continues research into eventually moving to a single tier. For the 2014-15 school year, Blanchard will be starting at the same time as Douglas and Gates.

A question was asked about whether we own or lease our buses and J.D. explained that we currently lease our buses on a 5-year rolling schedule. This is more cost effective than buying. We now have 27 buses and will need 40 in order to do a single start time. Every day there are 5,500 kids that come to school, approximately 3,700 ride the bus. J.D. would like to see more children riding the bus or walking to school and fewer parents driving to and from school.

Blanchard now has a contract with Dee Bus Company. We will take on 7 buses and drivers next year, although we will most-likely not continue to use Dee. Bringing it fully in-house will end up costing about the same, but we will have control over the schedule and routes.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved 10:15 am. All fundraising is down for the year except for photography. We are looking into profits from Spiritwear and considering another round of orders in the spring.

Fundraising

Scrip is down over all but went up this past month. Mimi Kirkman and Wendy Schaad took over scrip this month and will do it again next month too.

Auction software is great and committees are meeting and all is going well. Business letters have gone out already.

Next meeting

The next PTSO meeting will be held on Wednesday January 8th at 7pm. We will be discussing the possibilities about a McT Facebook page and hope to have a large parent turnout voicing their opinions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Cole

PTSO Jr. Chair