

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 14, 2013

Present

Tracey Smith, PTSO Jr. Chair
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer
David Krane, Principal
Matt McDowell, Assistant Principal
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator
Lauren Richardt & Jen Mabardy, Auction co-Chairs
Lara Maira, Janet Munson, Carol Chytil

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM

PTSO Minutes

The minutes of January 23, 2013 were reviewed. Janet Munson moved to approve the minutes; Chris Hanlon seconded the motion. Motion to approved PTSO Minutes of January 23, 2013 passed.

Principal's Report

Kindergarten tours are finished. McT's Kindergarten Information Night was Tuesday night. We had very successful presentations by the faculty, staff and Student Council members. David thanked all who participated.

School Budget: Preliminary budget accepted by the School Committee on Budget Saturday and will likely be approved at School Committee meeting tonight.

Regionalization is back on the table and open for further discussion. If it goes forward, both Acton and Boxborough will have their special simultaneous Town Meetings to approve regionalization but the date of those meetings has not been set yet.

Absences on the rise around the vacation times. David is re-emphasizing the need for families not to take kids out during the school year as it impacts their learning time in the classroom.

MCAS is starting in March so critical that all kids be present. MCAS ELA testing will take place in March. MCAS testing in Math and Science & Engineering will take place in May. Massachusetts will be changing to Common Core testing in coming years. While the tests are important, it is not the only measure we use at the school. David again emphasized that it is critical that all children be in class.

Auction is coming up in 4 weeks. Love having the artwork show up in the Office. David emphasized that the faculty and staff always look at the Auction as a success no matter how much money is made. It is always more than we have now.

Snow days used is 4 to date. Last day of school is currently June 20th.

Some of the advantages of starting before Labor Day is to account for these snow days. School can happen until June 30th so even with the District calendar showing that last day is June 21st we can still go to the end of June.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Hanlon presented the Treasurer's report. It has been pretty quiet with money matters since this is the lull before the Auction. Auction things are starting to come in.

Our current balance is quite high because we have not made our payments yet to the School Business Office. Those payments will be forthcoming so our balance will look different when those come in.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report: Janet Munson moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Lauren Richardt seconded the motion. Treasurer's report approved.

Auction Update

Lauren Richardt and Jen Mabardy presented an update on the Auction. A lot of donations coming in from businesses as well as parents and faculty and staff. There are approximately 260 Silent Auction items and 40 Live Auction items including the Classroom Art Projects plus Faculty & Staff donations. Business donation value approximately \$26K.

Auction t-Shirt sales have been pretty low. There was a discussion of not run this again next year.

Auction chairs requested help with matting of projects this afternoon and Friday all day. Patty will send out a Pinch Hitter request and check to see if Ingrid and Hanna are available to help. We also need help with raffle ticket sales...need 5-6 more slots to fill at Donelan's & Roche Bros.

The Auction chairs will be sending home a reminder on Monday after break for ticket sales, etc.

School Council Update Tracey Smith provided the School Council update.

During the School Council meeting, there was a discussion regarding direct appeals. Gates does a direct appeal, which raised almost \$40K, but they do not do any other fundraising. Question was asked about whether we could do the same at McT and get the same amounts we get at the Auction? Discussion ensued regarding pluses and minuses of doing just a direct appeal and no Auction.

Douglas did an incentive with the Direct Appeal. If you gave x amount you got 2 free tickets to the Ice Cream Social; top donors get free auction tickets. Helped with pushing up the numbers. PTSO will look into this in the coming months as discussions on next year's budget and fundraisers get vetted.

Douglas contacted Gymnastics 10.0 to have a night of babysitting during night of the Auction. Can this can be something we do this year or next year?

Security Task Force: The Superintendent has put Security Task Force together. Ideas will be coming out in the next month. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at either 3:00 or 4:00. All are welcome.

Next Meeting

The next PTSO meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

We will have a guest speaker from Emerson coming to talk about base-line screening for concussions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Lee

Parent Involvement Coordinator