

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday March 19, 2014**

Tracey Smith, PTSO Sr. Chair  
Shelley Cole, Jr. Chair  
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary  
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer  
David Krane, Principal  
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher  
Janet Munson  
Kristina Rychlik, School Committee Member  
Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Dr. Stephen Mills**

Tracey introduced Dr. Mills and Kristina Rychlik who were attending our meeting to discuss the school budget and the upcoming Town Meeting. Dr. Mills stressed the importance of parents attending the Town Meeting to vote on the school budget. He stated that budgets are getting harder to approve as there is a section of the community that is opposed to regionalization and some are opposed to the proposed budget. Dr. Mills stated that we have an obligation to get the correct information out to the taxpayers. There is a lot of misinformation being generated and he wanted the PTSO's to know the facts as they actually are. He has created a fact sheet which emphasizes the correct facts about regionalization and the school budget. Acton's assessment is not going up because of regionalization. The school budget has increased a total of 9.5% in the past 5 years and average of 1.9% per year. The total budget proposed is for \$76,000,000 with 62% going to support the schools and 38% going to support town services. This includes contributions to OPEB which funds retiree's health insurance costs and the regional transportation budget which went up by \$550,000. Acton's per pupil spending is \$675 less than the state average. He stressed the importance of people getting to Town Meeting and voting for the budget as it is proposed. Tracey thanked Dr. Mills for coming and said we would get the word out that you can't vote unless you go to Town Meeting.

**Minutes**

The minutes of February 2014 were approved as amended.

**Principal's Report**

David stated that there is a lot of excitement at the school for the upcoming PTSO Auction. He thanked everyone who has been involved in making the Auction such a success. Caitlin Walsh will be going out on maternity leave in June 2014. She will be taking a one year leave of absence and is planning on returning in the Fall 2015. He is putting together a committee to interview and hire a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the 2014 – 2015 school year. He is looking for a parent to serve on the committee. Lesley Murray will be teaching Caitlin's class during June when she goes out on leave until the end of the

school year. MCAS have begun and so far no major issue to report. Karen Shiebler was honored for her 20 years of service with the Acton School Department.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved. Chris reported the online Auction Ticket orders continue to be processed. \$800 in unused grant money was discovered by Carol Chytil and delivered to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers. It was stated that 60% of our budget comes from the Auction. David emphasized that whatever money we raise we are grateful for and thank you for all the hard work that goes into putting on such an event.

### **Auction**

So far we have sold 161 tickets to the Auction. The new Auction software is very successful and helpful to processing everything involved with the Auction. New this year there are 14 classroom baskets being auctioned off as well as a parent business table and 36 Live Auction items.

### **Lip Sync**

Currently there are 50 acts with 124 students participating. This is more students than participated last year. The Lip Sync will be April 5 from 4 – 7 P.M.

### **Merrowvista 2014**

There are currently 2 fundraisers planned to benefit the trip to Merrowvista in the Fall of 2014. There will be a Family Games Night and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is also conducting a Bottle Drive. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade might put out a coupon book in the fall for 5<sup>th</sup> grade families with the money going towards the trip to Merrowvista in the fall.

### **Acton Family Network**

Shelley mentioned that the Acton Family Network is sponsoring an event to talk about technology and younger kids. This could be something we think about bringing to one of our meetings next fall.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dee  
PTSO Secretary