

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 8, 2013

Present:

Kate Murray, PTSO Sr. Chair
Tracey Smith, PTSO Jr. Chair
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer
David Krane, Principal
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher
Paul Murphy, School Committee Member
Various McT Parents

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

Minutes

The minutes of April 11, 2013 were approved as amended.

Paul Murphy – School Committee

Paul Murphy, a member of the School Committee, talked to us about the regionalization of the Acton and Boxboro Schools which is currently being proposed. Some of the reasons this is being considered is because Boxboro enrollment is dropping which results in empty classrooms, while Acton schools are filled to capacity. Regionalization would allow elementary students to be dispersed over 6 schools instead of five resulting in reduced class sizes in Acton schools. He stated there are two options to consider. Option 1 is the preferred one that would allow the two towns to regionalize. Option 2 would allow Blanchard to choose students in from other towns resulting in about 60 more children being added to Blanchard. Blanchard class sizes are now at about 12 to 18 students per class while the Acton schools have from 20 to 25 students per class. With regionalization parents would be allowed to state their choices between the six elementary schools. The hometown guarantee would only apply to incoming kindergarten students.

There are now three school committees between the two towns. Regionalization would allow us to have one Acton-Boxboro Regional School Committee which would encompass all 8 schools.

With regionalization there has been identified \$1 Million dollars in initial savings with Acton (80%) and Boxboro (20%). If enrollment shifts then the 80/20 split would be adjusted to account for the declining/increased enrollment. Paul stated that what the cost savings would be used for is the decision, each year, of the current school committee. We stated that if they could guarantee that all of the savings would go back into the schools then we think people would be more likely to vote for regionalization. Paul also

stated that we are reimbursed by the state for transportation costs. The PTSO thanked Paul for coming to speak with us about this very important decision.

Principal's Report

David stated that there will be a second section of All Day K next year at McT and Darsi Tedesco will be teaching the class. He is currently recruiting for a Half Day K teacher to take over for Darsi. Many classrooms will be moving at the end of this year in an effort to put same grade levels together on the same floors. The bottom floor will house K and 6, the middle floor will house 4 and 5 and the Top Floor will house 1, 2 and 3. Computer instruction will be moving into the library and the computers that are currently in the lab will be moving into the classrooms. Computer instruction will take place in the classrooms and the computer instructor will move from classroom to classroom using a mobile cart. Sharon Ryan and other Learning Center educators will be moving into the space which will formerly be the Computer Lab. David wished to thank McT parents for their generosity this year. We have had a very successful year for fundraising and is all due to the hard work that so many parents volunteers put in.

Treasurer's Report

The Yard Sale brought in \$3,189.50 and the Auction raised \$56,544.06. Currently this year we have raised \$86,166.69. The Treasurer's Report was voted on and approved. Chris presented the proposed PTSO budget for next year. He explained that the budget includes a \$10,000 cushion. The PTSO proposed budget for the 2013-2014 academic year is \$89,000. The PTSO is looking into offering a \$500 scholarship to a senior attending college.

Fundraising

It was explained that the cost of the ticket to the 6th grade graduation goes towards whatever gift the committee decides to give the children. This year it will be a yearbook and t-shirt.

It was stated that the Fall Direct Appeal last year raised \$9,000. It was agreed that we would again do the Fall Appeal and the Fall Fundraiser. Christine Koblowski has agreed to Chair the Fall Fundraiser.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 12, 2013 at 7:00 P.M..

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dee
PTSO Secretary

