

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday November 14, 2012**

**Present:**

Kate Murray, PTSO Sr. Chair  
Tracey Smith, PTSO Jr. Chair  
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary  
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer  
David Krane, Principal  
Maureen Greer  
Janet Munson  
Lara Maira  
Sorel Sammons  
Lauren Richardt  
Carol Chytil

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

**Minutes**

The minutes of October 11, 2012 were approved as amended.

**Principal's Report**

David thanked everyone for the lunch that was provided on the Professional Development Day. The staff really enjoyed it.

A new teacher evaluation system is being implemented throughout the district. It will be fully put into practice in September 2013. The criteria for evaluating the teachers is being dictated by the state. It consists of 7 to 10 unannounced observations within each classroom by David and Matt. The teachers being asked to write their instructional and professional goals. They will be looking closely at student to teacher growth. This is a good thing for us to do but at the same time everyone is nervous about how it will work. We chose to do a Pilot program this year in preparation for the full implementation next year.

After Thanksgiving we will have the first full consecutive 5 day week in school since September. David emphasized that it is very important for the children's learning that vacations not be planned during school time but rather during designated school vacation weeks. This is important for the children and the teachers.

Jillian Gilfoil is doing great things with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus this year. This is her first year as the full time McT Music Teacher. The children are really responding well to her instruction. New music equipment has been ordered for her use.

A new format for assembly's this year. Each month 2 classrooms will share something they are doing. The kids and teachers are really enjoying it.

David thanked the PTSO for bringing Helen Lester, the author of the “Tacky the Penguin” series. The kids thoroughly enjoyed her presentation.

David reported that scholarships that were awarded for children to go on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to MerrowVista were significantly more than last year. He stated that we need to think about fundraising we can do to raise money to offset the cost of the trip. The cost of the trip is approximately \$285.00 with half being due in May and the rest due in the fall.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The Direct Appeal was successful although there was some confusion as to whether this fundraiser was replacing the Auction.

On a motion made and seconded the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

### **Kristen Nelson/Amy French**

Kristen Nelson, Director of Food Services, along with Amy French spoke to the group about the changes to the Food Services menu which were implemented this year. Kristen stated that on the average they serve around 3,000 lunches per day among the 5 elementary schools, the middle school and the high school. New rules have been implanted by the Federal Government concerning what can and cannot be served during school lunch. Some of the new rules are:

1. A fruit or vegetable must be served with every meal. The child must take either a fruit or vegetable with their meal.
2. There is a maximum amount of meat or meat alternative which can be served every week.
3. Food is now in the lower calorie range along with having lower sodium contents.
4. In two years everything must be whole grain.

While the full implantation of the program does not take effect for two years Acton is introducing it throughout the year to get kids used to the new menu.

A La Carte items are available for purchase. These items are chosen from a list that was developed by students at Framingham State College. It is called the John Stalker A La Carte list and it contains hundreds of food choices. Kristen must choose A La Carte items to purchase for the schools from this list.

While the new menu is different Kristen felt it is being well received by the students. Parents expressed concern with the amount of waste that is happening as a result of children being forced to take food they do not like to eat. Kristen is concerned with that also and encouraged parents to write to their state officials if they have concerns about the new program. The High School is implementing a composting program to help with the waste problem. Water Machines have also been installed at the High School to allow kids to fill up their reusable water bottles instead of having to purchase water bottles at school. They are very popular with the kids.

**Fundraising Update**

Lauren Richardt reported that the Auction preparations are moving along. They are still looking for volunteers to help out with the Auction.

Box Tops – We have received \$1,000 so far.  
Genevieve's is finished with everything being distributed.  
Scrip orders for this month were low.

**Next Meeting**

The date for December's meeting has been changed to Wednesday December 12 at 7:00 P.M.. Xuan Kong from the School Committee will be speaking to the group concerning the plans for regionalization with Boxboro.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dee  
PTSO Secretary