

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday September 12, 2012**

**Present:**

Kate Murray, PTSO Chair  
Tracey Smith, PTSO Junior Chair  
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary  
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer  
David Krane, McT Principal  
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator  
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher  
Vanessa Bergmann, McT Teacher

**McT Parents:**

Prasanna Lakshman, Carol Chytil, Maria Greene, Kat Hudson, Colleen Clark, Sarah Tarbell Kazmowski, Kerry Flaherty, Christine Russell, Lara Maira, Maureen Greer, Tom & Anayanci, Julie Weir and Jill Dafoe.

**Introductions:**

All present went around the room and introduced themselves.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of June 6, 2012 were approved as amended.

**The Howler**

Kate thanked Bridget Matz for all her work on the McT Howler. All agreed that it was a great improvement over what was used in the past.

**Principal's Report**

David agreed that this is a great turnout for our first meeting. This school year we welcomed over 50 new families to McT, many of whom speak a variety of languages. Our ELL program provides services to a large number of students. McT and Merriam are serviced by one ELL specialist.

A few changes for this year include our new music specialist Jillian who is now at McT 5 days a week. We have moved Reading Buddies and Assembly to Thursday so we will have 4 full academic days during a week.

6<sup>th</sup> grade is continuing with the program of each teacher is responsible for one or two subject matters and the children switch classrooms amongst the teachers throughout the day. Laura is responsible for teaching Literacy, Kate is responsible for Science and Social Studies and Tara is responsible for Math. The children are responding well to the new schedule.

David thanked Patty, Maureen and Astrid for all the hard work they did over the summer getting the school ready for the new school year.

The next School Committee meeting will be October 18, 2012. This year all meetings will be held at R.J. Grey Junior High School. David will be making a presentation at this meeting.

### **Fundraisers**

Family Photo Day and CPAC are still looking for Chairpeople for this school year. We will run a list of committee vacancies in The Howler in an effort to fill all the vacant positions. Auction Co-Chairs are still needed. There will be an auction kick off meeting at Tracey's house on October 11. More information about that will be coming in the near future. The Auction will be held on March 9, 2013 at the Stow Acres Country Club. The theme this year will be Rock and Roll. The PTSO wishes to express that there is no pressure to raise a large amount of money at the Auction. This is a community building event that is a lot of fun and good for the school.

### **PTSO Website**

A new PTSO website is being developed. Maria Greene and Christine Barault have been working very hard over the summer to develop a website that is pleasing to the eye as well as interactive. There will be a google calendar on the website and the children's artwork will also be showcased. There will be a way to sign up to receive "The Howler" as well as a streamlined way to submit articles to "The Howler". The PTSO is very excited about this new website and are looking forward to it going live. We need to pay a fee for hosting the website. It was moved that the McT PTSO establish a Pay Pal account and pay the \$40.00 fee for hosting the new website. Thank you to Maria and Christine for all their work it looks great.

### **Facebook**

It was moved to explore opening up a PTSO Facebook account to keep people updated on events happening at the school.

### **News**

Community Events are being attached to the website and "The Howler". They will also be put on the new PTSO website in the calendar section.

David continues to send out a weekly newsletter to the school community.

"The Howler" will be going out on ~~Sunday and Thursday nights~~ **Monday afternoons**. Bridget Matz is the coordinator for "The Howler".

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Hanlon reported that the total assets we currently have equal \$91,549.10. This is the amount that we raised last year. The Direct Appeal has begun and we have received a few donations already. Genevieve's and Scrip will begin soon.

We paid \$108.50 for flowers for kindergarten orientation. There seems to be a drop in fundraising amounts due to the economy. There is still \$1,385.43 in the Parker Damon fund that we need to figure out what to use it for. We have already purchased a display case for the children's artwork with part of the money.

Chris explained to the group that the money we raise this year will be used to fund programs for the following year. Some of the positions that the PTSO aides in funding are Hanna – Art Integration Specialist, Patty – Parent Involvement Coordinator and Additional Hours for the Librarians. We will also fund the supplies needed for the classroom projects for the auction and cultural performances at the school.

One of the field trips the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will take this year is a trip to Mera Vista in New Hampshire for a 3 day 2 night stay. The cost for the trip will be approximately \$215.00 per child. There is scholarship money available to defray the cost of the trip. No child will be denied access to the trip because of the inability to pay.

Chris presented a report of his goals for the year for each of the fundraising projects. He stated that one of the programs, McT Mornings is now being run through Community Education. McT will receive a check at the end of the year from Community Education. Chris stated that there is always a cushion available to account for unexpected expenses and scholarship money.

We will discuss and formally adopt deposit procedures at the next meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

### **Future Forums**

Kate and Tracey asked for suggestions for future forums to be held at PTSO meetings. One suggestion was to invite the Food Services Director Kristen Nelson to come to our meeting to talk to the parents about the changes implemented this year in the cafeteria. Please email Kate or Tracey with any ideas for future forums:

[tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com)

### **Fundraising Update**

Direct Appeal – We have already received \$2,905 through the Direct Appeal. Non-profit companies can make matching donations through the Direct Appeal.

Genevieve's – We will be sending the brochure for Gift Wrapping home this week.

Fall Social – Chris and Kat are co-chairing the Fall Social which will be help on November 2. The Book Fair will also be going on during the Fall Social. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact Chris or Kat.

Anyone who has new ideas for fundraisers please contact Kate or Tracey. We would love to hear any ideas people may have.

### **Steering Committee**

The PTSO will vote on the Steering Committee at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Dee  
PTSO Secretary