

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 17, 2014**

Shelley Cole, PTSO Sr. Chair
Julie Weir, PTSO Jr. Chair
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary
Chris Hanlon, PTSO Treasurer
David Krane, Principal
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher
Kirsten Nelson, Food Services Director
Kerry Lewis
Kate Myers
Jen Lewy
Michelle Abroff
Christine Brault

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M.

Minutes

The minutes of June 4, 2014 were approved as amended.

Principal's Report

David reported that McT has 39 new students this year which came from other schools, towns and countries. We are very proud of our diversity in culture and language at McT. Kathryn O'Hara is the new fourth grade teacher and Lindsay Howe is the new fifth grade teacher. Sharon Ryan has accepted a new position within the district and has been replaced by Sandra Baron. Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade will be utilizing the chrome book cart where they will be learning how to use Google Drive, the keyboard and electronic navigation. This will be beneficial in teaching students how to responsibly research online. First and Second grade students will be using iPads to learn about reporting, research and technology navigation.

In June the district posted a job for a .6 psychologist to support Carolyn Imperato. We are about to open our 4th search as it is difficult to find someone willing to work the 3 day position.

This summer we sent 8 teachers to NY Columbia University to learn about implementing the Reading and Writing Project. The program and website offers amazing resources for our teachers. The implementation date is not set in stone but we think it will begin in November or December. Students will need to start with practice and then teachers will begin to identify any challenges with each student. After assessment of the students and classes have been made then the hardcore instruction will begin.

Treasurer's Report

Chris began by explaining the reports that will be handed out at each meeting for new attendees. On the Treasurer's Report he stated that we have our Checking and Money Market Accounts at Citizens Bank. Certain events have their own sub accounts (i.e. Merrowvista, Library). The money we earned last year is used to calculate this year's budget. Highlights from last month's fundraising include; the gift wrap catalog was distributed, direct appeal will be sent home in October, the Activities Expo. will net around \$3,000., the check from Target was delivered and the final check from last June's Scrip was also delivered.

Expenses have been minimal so far. We bought flowers for the Kindergarten Orientation and we have renewed our contract to host the PTSO Website for the next two years. Overall our fundraising is down \$9,000 from the year before but we are ok because we always operate with a cushion. We are estimating earning around \$79,000 this year through fundraising efforts.

Chris emphasized that he did not want coins to be submitted with deposits. Please change them into paper money before submitting your deposit. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

Kirsten Nelson – Food Services Director

Kirsten Nelson, Food Services Director for the Acton/Boxboro Regional School District, talked about current offerings in the cafeteria's at the various schools. Amy French is the Cafeteria Manager for all the schools. There are a total of 8 kitchens and they serve approximately 3,500 lunches per day. There have been many changes to the menu in recent years due to the Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. Students must take a fruit or veggie with their meal. A La Carte items are also offered but only items from the John Stalker A List are available. A point of sale system has been implemented for payments to student lunch accounts. You will receive a call if your balance falls below \$5.00 and automatic payment can also be set up.

Kirsten discussed the menu offerings and stated that there is now a gluten free option available with prior notice to the cafeteria manager. She then showed us the sample lunches she brought with her and we all thought they looked nutritious and appetizing. Kirsten asked if she should do this same talk at the Kindergarten Orientation Night and we responded that would be very helpful.

Playground Play Dates

It was stated that the playground play dates we very successful and the turnout was very good. We will continue to offer them to incoming families to McT.

Fundraisers

The Activities Expo will take place on September 22 at 6:00 P.M. There are 21 vendors in all coming and the activity has been advertised on Facebook, The Action Unlimited and The Beacon. Pizza and water will be offered for sale at the Expo.

We will be changing the Direct Appeal this year and are still working on the wording and timing of it. Gift Wrap Catalogs have been sent home in backpacks. Family Portraits will be taken the weekend of October 4 – 5, 2014.

Website

It was stated that there are many calendars on the website and it would be helpful if we had one master calendar for everything so items do not get missed or misconstrued. It was suggested that we create a PTSO position where the person is in charge of updating the master calendar. We will talk to Tracey about taking on the role of creating a master calendar and updating it.

Mileage Club

Chris stated that the Mileage Club starts this Friday in the morning from 8:20 – 9:05 A.M. It is a lot of fun and the kids can't wait for it to start.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Dee
PTSO Secretary