

McCarthy-Towne Elementary PTSO  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2012

**Present**

Michele Caterina, PTSO Co-Chair  
Kate Murray, PTSO Co-Chair  
David Krane, Principal  
Nancy Giansante, Teacher Liaison  
Chris Hanlon, Treasurer Shadow  
Jill Defoe, Auction Co-Chair  
Michele Abroff  
Kat Hudson  
Debbie Walz  
Rebecca MacNeill

**Introductions**

All present went around the room and introduced themselves.

**January Minutes**

All present reviewed and approved the minutes from the January meeting.

**Principal's Report**

Last Saturday was APS Budget Saturday. David did a brief presentation. Dr. Mills is proposing \$108K in the budget for allow for 2 more assistants in each school, as well as an increase in from .8 to 1.0 FTE for art, music, and PE teachers. This increase in hours would not increase the amount of time teachers teach, but would allow more time for collaboration between the grades and among the teachers.

All school tours are finished and had a great Kindergarten Information Night. Grade-level teams were all in one room so prospective parents could meet more teachers and move through the building more easily. Teachers liked it this way to have all three teachers in one room. The student council were the shining stars that night. It is so great how they represented the school. They are so articulate and knowledgeable about the school and their involvement isn't just window dressing—this school is all about the kids. Parents also had enough time to visit Sloyd and Special Ed rooms in the building.

Yesterday was the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Attendance reports are being sent home in backpacks to all families They are full reports with dates of tardiness and absence. Absences are becoming an issue as people take their children out of school for recreational activities.

Parker Damon Fund was a gift fund established in the name of Parker Damon, a former principal. The fund purchased a glass case for the main lobby that is filled with art to show how the process of creating art is such an important part of what

we do here. For example, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade just created wire figures that are beautiful and currently being displayed in the library. Some of them are also in the glass case, along with other pieces of art in process.

All of the principals and PTSO co-chairs met with the superintendent to discuss funding issues as well as before and after school programs. There is another meeting next week with two school committee members to follow up on this original meeting.

School Council meets next week as we begin our new school improvement plan. Considering a survey to address concerns, see what people think and feel about the school. School Council is composed of teachers, parents, and a community member. Their job is to take the pulse of the school and come up with things to work on as a school. They look at values and what is important to McT: What the school stands for, math issues, MCAS and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), how to change what we do in the teaching of math. Every year, School Council comes up with a new School Improvement Plan.

### **Treasurer's Report**

All present reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report. Chris Hanlon reported that this is a slow time of year for income, but it's nice to have a slight lull in activity before the auction in March.

### **Fundraising Updates**

#### **Game Night**

Game Night is being held on February 10, 2012. Kim McLothlin running it with 3 adults, as well as a few sixth graders who know some of the games and are going to help out. A few other moms and Kim are going to bring baked goods—a few dozen cookies, brownies, etc. Kim getting in touch with Kat Hudson to ask if there's anyone in particular to talk to at Sorrento's to get a deal on pizzas to sell that night. Patty has sent out an e-mail to teachers asking for any wish-list games. Kim talking again with the woman at Gamewright tomorrow to get more games to sell. If Kim gets her get her a final count tomorrow, she'll ship them the same day. The announcement has been in the bulletin and McT News, and the flyers went home in backpacks last week.

#### **Lip Sync**

The Lip Sync Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st. Sign up sheets will go out on Fri, March 3rd, with a deadline of Fri, March 9th. Lynne Densen running it again this year. Rules are as follows:

- Lynne will take the first 25 groups
- sign up sheets will have to be submitted with they lyrics (we had to say no to inappropriate wording last couple of years)
- must be able to attend the rehearsal on Thur, March 29th (right after school until 1:30ish)
- have to be in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or higher to do a solo

- can sign up for 2 groups (no more than 2 groups)
- will sell take home baked goods
- Tony Dolan will again video tape and we will sell DVDs for \$10
- same admission as the past 4 years, \$5 per person (performers free)

I have contacted some of the teachers from last year to see if we can get a group together again (kids love to see their teachers and unfortunately Robin will be out of town and not able to participate).

### **Scrip**

Scrip forms went out Friday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deadline to submit is Mon, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. We encourage people participate in this program. This supports the PTSO without having to buy anything additional. We made \$60 in January, but it is typically the slowest month of the year). We currently have brought in over \$3,000.

### **ButterBraid**

Majority voted not to run ButterBraid fundraiser this year.

### **Spirit Wear**

Michele Abroff ran this fundraiser. No orders to report. All orders due on Friday, Feb. 10. Michele asked why spirit wear and auction t-shirts are being sold at the same time. Suggested that maybe spirit wear could be moved to December in time for holiday gifts.

### **Auction Update**

Jill Defoe reported that auction planning is going well. Co-chairs are considering running a classroom incentive for raffle ticket sales or auction ticket sales. The class that sells the most of one or the other will receive an extra recess, pizza lunch, playground equipment, or something with David. This will get the kids more involved in getting parents to buy raffle tickets and regular tickets.

Ticket reservations need to be received by March 12. So far, 57 tickets were sold. One ticket is free for all teachers who donate to the auction. There are 160 seats available at the venue.

Sandy Billings will be running the back room. This is a new setting and new location for the back room, so some logistics need to be worked out.

### **Survey and General Appeal**

Vote taken about doing ButterBraid this March for April delivery. Voted no. Auction and Big Things versus little events and fundraisers. PTSO considering doing a survey to get the pulse of direct appeal straight donation versus fundraisers, as well as communication.

### **School Pictures Photographer Vote**

The benefits of Coffee Pond were presented by Rebecca MacNeill. Outdoor photography is their specialty. Their commission would be in line with what we receive now from Hockmeyer. Coffee Pond is a little more expensive compared to Hockmeyer. They offer scholarship packages to 15 families. They also offer a discount to families with 3 or more students in the school. The first 2 kids pay regular price, the 3<sup>rd</sup> child gets ½ price. Conat, Merriam and Douglas all use them and recommended them. All reps from other schools stated that they are very responsive and friendly, photographers are very organized, and liked the scholarship program.

Vote taken and there was a unanimous vote for switching to Coffee Pond.

### **Communication Systems**

Kate Murray initiated this discussion of communication systems. Lynne Densen is leaving the school and she is the current Yahoo News Moderator. Because Lynne is leaving, we need a new newsletter committee member and we can start considering doing things differently.

Kate and Michele are advocating for the newsletter to change from our current Yahoo format to Constant Contact and would like it to come from someone in the office. The formatting would be different in Constant Contact.

Constant Contact is a cost to the PTSO. If we decide to do it, we have to vote on it. High school and Junior High currently do daily announcements. Feedback from our communication survey said that twice per week for our newsletter probably makes more sense.

Twitter feed: David could own this, but information can also come from parents and students who “follow” the school. David could Tweet both important information as well as little tidbits and parents can pick up his Tweets. However, if people post inappropriate comments, potentially have to filter it.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.