

**McCarthy-Towne School PTSO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday April 11, 2012**

**Present:**

Michele Caterina, PTSO Chair  
Kate Murray, PTSO Junior Chair  
Carolyn Dee, PTSO Secretary  
Chris Hanlon, Treasurer Shadow  
David Krane, McT Principal  
Nancy Giansante, McT Teacher  
Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator  
Tracey Smith  
Maya Minkin  
Debbie Walz  
Janet Munson  
Lara Maira  
Jillian Dee, AB High School Student Observer

**Introductions:**

All present went around the room and introduced themselves.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of March 15, 2012 were approved as amended.

**Principal's Report**

David reported that the last day of school will be Friday, June 15, 2012.

David thanked everyone for all the hard work and generosity that went into the auction. He liked the venue and thought it was a great place to have the auction.

He thanked Patty Lee for the phenomenal work she has been doing to make sure the MCAS are administered by the book. There is heightened security around the administering of the MCAS and Patty has been doing a great job making sure all the rules are adhered to.

In May the second round of MCAS will be given. The math MCAS has gotten harder and the kids are more anxious about that.

In regards to the MCAS David stated that statewide testing is here to stay. The MCAS will eventually be phased out but something else will take its place.

The School Budget was approved at the recent Town Meeting. The following items were approved in the budget:

Sloyd – 1.0 teacher 5 days per week

P.E. – 1.0 teacher 5 days per week  
Music – 1.0 teacher 5 days per week

Also 2 more assistants at 18 hours each were included in the budget. This will allow us to still maintain the status quo even if there is an auction shortfall.

Plans for the next school year are now underway. The scheduling committee is currently meeting to plan the school day schedule for next year. The 45-minute instructional blocks that were introduced last year were popular among teachers. Three times a week children do not get pulled from their classroom for a 45-minute period. It may be expanded to 1 to 1.5 hours next year.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade model of moving classrooms for different subjects is very successful this year.

McT continues to get more children whose second language is English, towards the end of the year.

David is working on placement for next year and cannot entertain direct requests. The teachers spend a lot of time making sure they have produced three balanced classrooms for each grade level. We will have the same number of classrooms per grade as this year. Gates has cut 1 kindergarten classroom next year. The kindergarten lottery will be on April 23.

Regionalization with Boxboro is still being discussed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was approved. There is a faculty meeting on May 7. Before that David will meet with Michele, Kate, and Chris to talk about the realities of the PTSO budget for next year. Before the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting David will need a proposed budget from PTSO. We will vote on our proposed budget at our June meeting.

David stated that whatever money the PTSO raises is awesome.

### **Fundraisers:**

**Scrip** – We raised \$200 last month. \$3,400 – Year to Date  
Wendy Schaad and Mimi Kirkman will take over Scrip next year.

**Lip Sync** - \$1,700 was raised at the Lip Sync.  
Deb Verner and Bridget Metz will be taking over Lip Sync next year.

### **PTSO Update**

Kate Murray and Tracey Smith will be co-chairs of the PTSO next year.

### **Auction Update**

The Auction was a great success. The sale of classroom memorabilia will start. Mugs, key chains and notecards will be available for sale with the classroom pictures on them. The order for the items will be placed according to who orders what. Next year's Auction will be held on March 9, 2013 at the Stow Acres Country Club.

It was suggested that each classroom donate a themed basket next year to be auctioned off.

### **Event Update**

International Night – May 4, 2012

Yard Sale – May 19, 2012 – Suzi Epling and Carol Watson are running it.

Ice Cream Social – June 7, 2012 – Maya Minkin and Liz Walker are running it.

They are planning on a more interactive family field day with games being played. Pizza will still be available for sale with an ice cream sundae included in the admission price.

They welcome all ideas and feedback from anyone who wishes to help.

### **Direct Appeal**

It was discussed whether or not we should do a Spring Appeal. If we have a shortfall, does that impact what we do next year? It was suggested that we only appeal for money once, either in the Spring or Fall. The Direct Appeal would replace all the Fall Fundraisers. If we got rid of all the Fall Fundraisers, we are looking at \$4,000 we would need to raise from the Direct Appeal. Right now we are possibly looking at a \$8,000 shortfall. It was discussed that perhaps we will not to do a Spring Appeal this year. We will discuss possibly doing a Fall Appeal at a later date.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2012.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Dee  
PTSO Secretary