

McCarthy-Towne School PTSO

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011

Present:

Michelle Caterina, PTSO Chair

Kate Murray, PTSO Junior Chair

David Krane, Principal McT

Chris Hanlon, Treasurer Shadow

Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Matt McDowell, Assistant Principal McT and Teacher Representative

Kim McOsker, member of the School Committee

Jill Defoe

Kat Hudson

Michele Abroff

Rebecca McNeill

Debbie Waly

Lara Maira

Maria Ledeboer-Cid

Introductions:

All present went around and introduced themselves.

Kim McOsker:

Kim McOsker read a general statement from the School Committee chair, Mike Coppolino. This statement attempted to clarify some of the issues that were discussed during the school Committee meeting on October 20th at Parker Damon. Some of the topics discussed were school choice and how each of the 5 elementary schools are unique as a result of the way that each of the PTSO spend their funds. The extended day programs run by Community Ed and two of the elementary schools were also mentioned. Currently, the schools welcome the money raised by the PTSO and/or the extended day programs, and they use it to fund extra positions in the schools. However, there is legal concern that all professional staff should be paid by the school district; instead, each school pays for those positions under the current system. There is a consideration to increase the

appropriated budget by an additional \$108,000 (to be divided among all the schools over the next 3 years) which will add a 19hour position per school per year. Concerns have been raised about the fact that there are different rates for each of the three Extended Day Programs. Currently, the Community Ed Day Extended Program generates less income but it is the program that gives out discount scholarship to families based on financial need. Dr. Mills is trying to come up with a proposal to address these issues.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 16th for the principals, PTSO school chairs and the school committee. Another public meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17th where parents are encouraged to attend. Kim McOsker stressed that the school committee welcomes parents' concerns and ideas, and suggested to have parents send their opinions if they are unable to attend the meeting. However, no vote is expected to be taken on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

Minutes:

The minutes of October 12, 2011 were approved as amended.

Principal's Report:

David reported that the Professional Day was very successful. McT teachers merged with the Merriam teachers for part of the day. For half of the day, the teachers worked on Protocols of Learning. Teachers were trained on how to present student's work to their peers. The other half of the day, teachers were divided in groups and they discussed present issues of the classroom and student progress. They are trying to expand the professional and social relationship with Merriam, since they share a common facility and similar philosophies of teaching. David thanked the hospitality committee for organizing the Professional Day.

He also discussed Linda Schymik's position as the Math Assistant. She is working with remedial math students; as well as, providing enrichment Math. She is working with teachers and students in the classroom with level MATH but she also has smaller student groups.

David expressed his satisfaction with the Instructional Block as the teachers have uninterrupted time to teach without having kids being pulled out for specials and they can have their grade team meeting where they consult and plan lessons together.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Chris and it was approved by the group. In the spring, the different fundraisers will be compared to decide which ones should be run next year. The new Fall Fundraisers did not do as well.

Follow-up regarding PTSO and School-Related Forums

The special Education Forum will tentatively take place on December 8th during the day so that the Special Ed teachers can participate and answered questions to the parents. The format is still under discussion.

Fundraisers:

Our goal for this year is to raise \$89k

Scrip October- It raised \$360 for the month of October. For the month of Nov., they are trying to raise interest by offering a Pajama Party in December for the students if they reach the goal.

Scholastic Book Sale- It brought \$2916.

Fall Social- Great success! Chris and Kat were thanked for the fabulous job! The “Minute to Win It” game was a great hit. Kat arranged a great price for pizza with Sorrento. The dance instructor was a great addition to the night.

Genevieve’s Holiday Food and Wrap Sale- It raised about \$2000. It was more than expected considering that it was added at the last minute to the fall fundraisers. Easy to arrange and coordinate; it is definitely a fundraiser to keep for next year.

BoxTop- It brought \$520. David’s class had the most. The deadline for next time is Dec. 2nd.

Haunted Hoedown- It had a good turned out despite the snow storm. The Line Dancer cancelled at the last minute. Maria will contact her to see if she will come to the school as a CPAC event since she offered to host a free event for the school.

School Photographers

Rebecca McNeill has offered to investigate different photography companies for next year as many parents are disappointed with Hockmeyer photos. A few things to consider are that the Hockmeyer package includes staff badges and free class composition for every child even if one is not bought.

Adjournment

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Ledeboer-Cid