

## McKenzie PTA General Meeting

March 9, 2010

**I. Call to Order and Welcome.** President Kimbra Burnside called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of the January 12, 2010.** Minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

**III. Presentation: The State of the School - Dr. Denise Welter.**

Dr. Welter spoke about the makeup of McKenzie Elementary. McKenzie consists of 23 classrooms, 537 students (248 boys / 289 girls), 80 staff members. Of the 80 staff members, 12 have a BA, 38 have a Masters, 2 Doctorate and 10 have National Board Certification (rigorous requirements). In addition, 80% of the certified staff has over 5 years of experience. There are 29 members of support staff, including 18 Para pros, 1 nurse, 2 secretaries, 3 kitchen and 5 custodians. The school's mission: The McKenzie School community is dedicated to the development of the WHOLE child: attitudes, skills, knowledge and responsibility essential to successful achievement in school and society.

- o Goal #1 – Achievement: To improve student performance in the areas of writing and reading.
- o Goal #2 – Character Education: To increase students' problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- o Goal #3 – Go Green: To promote the Green initiative within and around McKenzie school.

While this is a brief summary, the full PowerPoint presentation may be found on the McKenzie School website under *About McKenzie – State of the School Address*. In conclusion, while these are financially tough times, we are making good choices with what we have. A question was raised as to the class size limits per grade. Kdgtn – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades: 24 children per class maximum; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades: 27 children per class maximum.

**IV. President's Report – Kimbra Burnside**

The District will be offering a new program called *I Teach I Learn* on May 5, 6-8 pm for \$15/person. This program will introduce several mini-classes (you choose two) on various computer/technology fields. They can support a maximum of 150 people. Class options include: Desktop Publishing, Having Fun with Digital Photography, Beyond Google and others. (Brochure passed around).

**V. Preseident-elect Report – Eleanor Lipinski**

The **Nominating Committee** has fulfilled the **2010 - 2011 Executive Board slate** which will be voted on at the April PTA meeting. Positions and nominees are as follows:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| President Elect – Jen Konz-Alt | Secretary – Maria Fowkes                 |
| VP fundraising – Ann Sciortino | VP Enrichment Elect – Caroline Goldstein |
| Treasurer – Brenda Werth       | VP Communications – open                 |
| Treasurer Elect– Michele Irvin |  |

The **PTA sponsors many activities** throughout the year such as Parent Learning Network, school benefit, Open Gym Nights, Book Fair, McClubs and Chess club. Upcoming PTA events are: Variety Show, Teacher Appreciation Week, McKenzie Ladies Night Out, 2<sup>nd</sup> Movie Fun Night, PTA Spring Luncheon, and Field Day. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these events for the next school year, please let Eleanor know.

**VI. Faculty Representative Report – Ms. Weil, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Thank you for the Enrichment support with Judy McKee, helping the students learn about the properties of matter, they are also enjoying the use of the handheld remotes. **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Finished writing nonfiction books on arctic animals, getting ready for science rotation on light, water, air **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** ISAT test completed, finished Living Museum with a Spanish component **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** ISAT test completed, working with hands on electricity kids, field trip to Brookfield Zoo at the end of March, Amateur Architect project **Spanish** – check the Monitor. **Technology** – learning how to use the computer to edit, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grades learning to graph **Art** – thanks for coming to visit during Open House, 4<sup>th</sup> graders studying painting of the desert, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders learning about Picasso and still life, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade the rain forest

**VII. Reports of Committees**

**A. Benefit – Julie Farina** – The Benefit was a huge success with 320 people attending. The generosity of the community was amazing! The goal was to make \$18,000 and thus far, the net is over \$40,000. In order to complete the accounting on this effort, all reimbursement forms must be turned in as soon as possible. The addition of the Men's Party was also a big success.

**B. FAN – Jill Sutherland** – Past speaker William Damon, *Cultivating Your Child's Moral Compass: Empathy, Effort and the Path to Purpose* on Tuesday, February 23. On March 2, Vivian Paley spoke on *Building Community through Play: How Friendship, Fantasy and Fairness Become the Building Blocks of a New Society*. Upcoming on April 21<sup>st</sup> at New Trier High School is John Cacioppo, speaking on *Widening our Circle of Compassion: Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection*

**C. Book Fair – Lisa Hoffman** The Scholastic Book Fair raised \$8900 in books for the McKenzie library. We also collected 25 boxes of books for Carmen Buckner Elementary School. They were very excited and appreciative of these book donations.

**VIII. New Business** – Next meeting April 13, 2010 at 9: 15 am with speaker, Dave Palzet, WJH Principal

**IX. Adjournment** – 10:10 am