

## McKenzie PTA General Meeting

February 10, 2009

**I. Call to Order and Welcome.** President Julie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of the January 13, 2009.** Minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

**III. Principal's Report - Dr. Denise Welter.**

- Kindergarten Registration began – 56 packets have been picked up. Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> section is up in the air and will open up based on the final number enrolled.
- Deadline for Highcrest request for foreign language preference has passed. Please talk to Dr. Welter with your child's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices if you have not already. This impacts hiring for next year.
- McKenzie has a new full-time nurse – Kathy Moran.
- Open House is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-8 p.m.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Variety Show is coming up. The theme is "What You want to Be When you Grow Up."
- ISAT Testing scheduled for first two weeks in March for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. It is important to make sure your child is at school on time.

**IV. President's Report - Julie Johnson**

- Thank you to Sari Shein and Meg McDonnell for last Friday's Desperate Housewives event.
- Open Gym Night has been a huge success with 50+ kids. Next one is Wed. Feb. 11th.
- New school supply vendor, School Kidz will be used by McKenzie next school year. This will not be a fundraiser, rather solely a service for the parents.
- Soon to appear is the PTA puzzle (all 74 committees) similar to other puzzles throughout the school
- Coming soon is a new online spirit-wear vendor. This will be accessed by the website and will not compete with the merchandise already available through Maria Bock.
- The second session of chess Club ends Feb. 9th and the new session starts Feb. 23rd.
- Variety Show tickets will go on sale soon at \$7 each. There will be 6 shows, lasting an hour each.
- Highcrest Nominating Committee is looking to fill PTO positions. Contact Carolyn Sennett or Monica Thompson if interested.
- Village-wide PTO Nominating Committee is also looking to fill positions. Contact Kristen Lipsey or Carol Callahan.
- Thanks to Kimbra Burnside for providing Hospitality refreshments for the meeting tonight.

**V. Faculty Representative Report – Jane Dolkart**

Jane Dolkart, first grade teacher, gave an overview of each grade's activities and highlights from the Specials such as Spanish and Art.

**VI. Presentation – "State of the School"- Dr. Welter, Principal**

Dr. Welter spoke about the makeup of McKenzie Elementary. McKenzie consists of 23 classrooms, 515 students (270 boys / 245 girls), 80 staff members. Of the 80 staff members, 12 have a BA, 38 have a Masters, 2 Doctorate and 9 have National Board Certification (rigorous requirements). In addition, 80% of the certified staff has over 5 years of experience. There are 33 members of support staff, including 22 paraprofessionals, 1 nurse, 2 secretaries, 3 kitchen and 5 custodians. District 39 Initiatives include Wellness, Mentoring, Progress, Gender Friendly classrooms, Green Schools and 21st Century Schools (2008-2009). The ability to use cohort data is a new goal as well. The Goal of the District is Educating the Whole Child (safe, supported, engaged, challenged, healthy):

- Goal 1 – McKenzie school staff will promote pro-social skills leading students to become effective problem solvers and critical thinkers. In order to achieve this, it is important to teach this through the curriculum by developing building-wide practices with the use of the 16 Habits of Mind
- Goal 2 – Staff will use formative and summative assessments via day to day and test results. They will look quarterly at the analysis of multiple measures.

**VII. PTA Website - Julie Geyer, Website Creator**

Julie presented the new PTA website ([www.mckenziepta.com](http://www.mckenziepta.com)), still a work in progress. This website is maintained exclusively by the PTA and can be easily accessed by the McKenzie school website. The McKenzie Minute is the first thing you see on the website as a quick point of reference. Updates to the McKenzie Minute are being coordinated with the backpack express on Friday afternoons. Julie Geyer is open to any feedback, including spelling, etc. Julie is willing to add information, especially to the Committee page. Information must be submitted

by Tuesday at 8 p.m. through Yahoo in a PDF format, if possible. Phase 2 will occur next year, focusing on being more interactive where parents can fill out forms online. The school website has also undergone a recent facelift.

Mary Condon, VP, Communications, is working on an electronic flier process for approval and dissemination. It was suggested that this be accessible via the PTA and the McKenzie websites. A question arose regarding approval for PTA items posted on the website. These should continue to be submitted to Mary Condon and do not need to go to Dr. Welter.

#### **VIII. PTA Budget – Lisa Hoffman, Treasurer**

Lisa Hoffman announced that due to the restructuring of grocery dollars this year, we will have a surplus of \$50-80,000. More information on this will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **IX. School Gift - Kimbra Burnside, President-Elect**

Kimbra summarized the process that was taken to come up with the school gift this year. After a survey sent to parents at the beginning of the year and speaking to the staff and Dr. Welter, the following gifts have been selected: Climbing Wall to be installed in February, eleven Cannon Powershot cameras for use in the classrooms, LCD projector for the Art room (Chris Porter). At the last meeting there was a vote to approve an overage of \$3000 for these gifts, bringing the total gift amount to \$7500 (\$4500 original + \$3000 addition). Also announced was that the District is going to match McKenzie's LCD projector investment by adding an additional LCD to McKenzie for the Library. All of the students and staff at all grade levels will be able to utilize these gifts before the school year ends. Many thanks to Kimbra for all of her hard work!

#### **X. Committee Reports - Please sign up if you would like to present a report.**

A. **4th Grade Farewell – Erin McCarthy** – The Fourth Grade Farewell committee met last month and formed subcommittees to assist in moving forward with planning. There will also be a Lydia Martin Memorial, separate from the Farewell that everyone can attend. If there are any questions, they may be directed to Jane Hornstein.

B. **Celebrating Abilities Week** – Kimbra Burnside announced that there will be a Celebrating Abilities Week this spring at McKenzie. Colleen Pollack is chairing this event - if interested in helping, please contact her directly.

C. **2009-2010 PTA** is looking to fill the many committee chair positions. Please talk to Kimbra Burnside if interested in finding out what is available.

D. **Gift Cards** (Lisa Hoffman on behalf of Kathy Freedman) – There are lots of gift cards in stock. Consider for Valentine's Day! Order form is always in the website and you can contact Kathy Freedman at any time regarding an order. Peapod is now available in \$100 cards.

E. **Grocery dollars** – Tip Walker announced that she also has grocery gift cards for sale, esp. for The Grand.

#### **11. New Business – Next meeting March 10, 2009 at 9:15 am**

#### **12. Adjournment – Julie Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.**