

Meeting Minutes

McKenzie PTA General Meeting

November 17, 2009

I. Call to Order and Welcome: President Kimbra Burnside called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes of the October 13th meeting - Minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

III. Principal's Report – Dr. Denise Welter

At future meeting (February 2) Dr. Welter will deliver the State of the School. Two teachers will demonstrate mini SmartBoard lessons at today's meeting. We finished the COGAT testing and results will be mailed to homes in January. We have also finished Parent Teacher conferences. Please turn in the evaluations that were sent via email. They are helpful. Thanks to the PTA for the purchase of the *Habits of Mind* books for the classrooms. After the approval at the last PTA meeting for a larger sum of money to go towards the books, we decided that each class *level* will receive a set of books to share (vs. each *classroom*). They will be divided up between classes at the end of the school year. There are new *Habits of Mind* posters that Julie Johnson, Julie Geyer and Sara Kurensky worked on. Thanks to the PTA for making these possible by funding 3 framed posters per Habit which will be hung throughout the school. Last Saturday there was a fundraiser outside of McKenzie collecting used bikes and scooters. The initiative was organized by students, Nicole and Bennett Basil. Over 220 bikes and scooters were collected and donated to underprivileged kids. Two McKenzie teachers received Gripp Grants, sponsored by the District 39 Educational Foundation. The first grade music program is December 17. Report cards are sent home twice a year: February and June. Conferences are twice a year: November and April. McKenzie will hold an H1N1 clinic in our gym in December. Prior to the date of the clinic there will be parental consent forms that will be sent home. We are not sure yet if it is the mist or shots and we will need parental help.

IV. SmartBoard Presentation – “Lessons in Our Classrooms & Curriculum”

A. Erin Samson, 2nd Grade Teacher: In Erin Samson's second grade class, she utilizes the SmartBoard throughout the day and was able to give several examples to the PTA audience. The kids vote for lunch first thing in the morning by coming up to the SB and indicate whether they will buy or bring lunch. She can put pages of the book on the projector so that all the kids in the class can see. Lessons on the SB vary from vocabulary, spelling, and math.

B. Laura Wooten, 4th Grade Teacher : Laura Wooten also gave the audience several examples of how the SB is used in her 4th grade class with emphasis on vocabulary, adding visuals, having the kids more interactive in their learning, reading, and writing.

V. Faculty Representative's Report – (K-2) Erin Samson & (3-4) Laura Wooten

First grade is writing on how to make a Turkey and sending it to the *Tribune*, studying fiction. **Second graders** learned about Veterans Day, writing recipes, enjoyed a Native American that came to speak and Ms. Siegel's class is going to Skype with their pen pals. In Spanish the second graders are working on the play, *The Grouchy Ladybug* (pictures on the website). **Third graders** are working on measurement, studying Illinois history, reading *Sarah Plain and Tall* and working on Force and Motion. In **fourth grade** they are studying decimals, marine mammal research project, the National Geography Bee will take place after break and they are discussing narrative and expository writing.

VI. Reports of Officers

A. President's Report – Kimbra Burnside – Ladypalooza was held recently and it was a successful event. At the Village-wide PTO they announced that they found a company to help with the private funding of the new science wing at Wimet Jr. High school. The CRC is focusing on 21st century learning with four focus points to the initiative. The Sharing Program is underway. Family Open Gym night is coming up in December as is the Movie Night.

B. Surplus Expenditure Report/Purchase – Eleanor Lipinski, President-Elect As a result of the Survey Monkey that was sent out the McKenzie families and teachers earlier in the year, the results have been sorted and narrowed down. There is a surplus that was remaining from the 2008-2009 school years and we are looking at spending that money. Thus far, we have approved spending towards the Peaceful Playground and we are looking at enhancing this program even further (\$2,000). There is also a recommendation on purchasing four sets of handheld wireless remotes that work with the SmartBoards. There would be one set per grade level (not including Kindergarten). In using this technology in the classroom, the teacher is able to get immediate feedback on their lesson. Cost of these remotes are \$8000 total for the 4 sets. We are also looking at other items such as the needs of the outdoor classroom. A voice vote was held on the paying for the set of remotes. Vote was unanimous to support the spending.

VII. Reports of Committees: The **Benefit Committee** (co chairs: Kimberly Alcantara and Julie Farina) announced the February 6, 2010 McKenzie Benefit will take place at the Lakeview Room, Glenview, IL from 7-12. There will be music, dinner, silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$50 each and this will cover the costs of the event. They are still looking for donation items. Forms to donate should be filled out with wording as you would like the donation to appear in the auction book. They are focusing on items or experiences that people would buy anyway. December 18 they would like to be done soliciting donations. If you are not able to attend the Benefit, you will still be able to buy raffle tickets. There will be class gifts as well as faculty gifts. **Gift Cards** (Lia Chong) will have a table in the front hallway at McKenzie on December 3 and 4 for anyone that wants to place an order prior to the holidays. Orders will be placed weekly during December. The **Sharing Committee** (Kirsten Stadheim) will be delivering gifts to Carmen Buckner School on December 5th. The committee held a glove/mitten and hat drive this year along with the annual collection of gifts and grocery dollars purchased on behalf of the families at the school. **Grocery Dollars** (Tip Walker) are going out tomorrow. Someone asked if they were going to put all the credit cards on Pay Pal and she is not yet sure how that is going to work with the grocery dollars purchase. Participation is up with 211 subscribers. Thanks to everyone for making this a successful year!

VIII. New Business – Next PTA meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2009 at 9:15 AM

IX. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.