

McKenzie PTA General Meeting

April 13, 2010

- I. Call to Order and Welcome.** President Kimbra Burnside called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes of the March 9, 2010.** Minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

III. Voting of the Executive Board Slate 2010-2011 – Kimbra Burnside

Prior to voting on the full slate of Executive Board nominees, Deb Sokol was nominated and voted on to the slate for VP of Communication by voice vote. Motion was unanimously approved to vote in the following to the 2010-2011 Executive PTA Board for McKenzie Elementary:

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

Please **register students**, starting April 15th and pay fees for next school year. Make sure all information is correct as the directory is printed using this information and this helps determine class sizes. ***I Teach, I Learn***, parent community night is May 9. You can register on the district website. Thank you to the **Variety Show** for all its hard work on producing the 30th show! Thank you to the committee that held the women's social, **Pretty In Pink**. Received a **thank you from Connie Bergmann** for money for the second graders to attend the additional music field trip. The **Spring Luncheon** is coming up and a signup is being passed around for volunteers to provide food. Keep an eye on the **bulletin board** for signups regarding Field Day, Last Day Coffee. **Coming up:** Movie Fun Night, Bike Safety Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, PTA Spring Luncheon.

IV. Report of Officers –

- A. President Elect Report - Eleanor Lipinski** Eleanor gave an open position update including: Kindergarten Enrichment, Fall Coffee co-chair, End year co-chair, Grocery Dollars delivery, Ice Cream Social, Ladies Night, Last Day Coffee, Monitor Editor, School Picture Coordinator, Variety Show Producer and Director, Yearbook.
- B. Budget Report – Sheri Herd** Most fundraisers are hitting their targets. We will plan on carrying a surplus as a revenue line next year.
- C. Kirsten Stadheim – Outdoor Classroom/Gardens** Kirsten is looking into the gardens and their requirements. At the next meeting she is looking at presenting some items/\$ amounts in order to vote on spending some of the surplus.

V. Principal Report – Dr. Denise Welter

Dr. Welter was also encouraging parents to **register their students** for next year. The administration is already **working hard on the numbers toward class size** and working within the set ranges (K-2: 24 max. students, 3-4: 27 max. students). Currently there is a question as to whether there will be a 5th section of Kindergarten based on enrollment. There are only 75 enrolled at this time. There could be 5 sections of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades with 4th grade moving to 4 classes. They need 5-7 more students to make a 5th section of 4th grade. During the summer, the district will be funding the **painting of the peaceful playground** on McKenzie blacktop. The PE teachers are learning to teach these games in class. The request was made for a parent with architectural drawing background in CAD design to help with the layout of the PP playground. Take a look at Central School layout for an idea of what this might look like. **Meet and Greet** is Wednesday, August 25th and the first half day is August 26th. **Kindergarten Orientation is April 22** for parents only at 6:30. **Upcoming** is Bike Safety Day, Outdoor Ed parent Meeting already took place. The **30th annual Variety Show** moved the audience to tears to hear of the rich tradition created here at the school from those that started the show. Thirty years ago they wanted to try something different than the Spaghetti Dinner that had been done each year as a fundraiser.

VI. Faculty Representative Report – Jessica Torf - 3rd Grade Teacher

1st Grade: Finishing science unit on matter. Thanks to the PTA for funding Judy McKee who assisted in teaching this unit. They are looking for a person with background in astronomy to help in the same way.. **2nd Grade:** Studying air (rotation of teachers), writing workshop/poems, Bike Safety coming up **3rd Grade:** Rocks and minerals, immigration with Heritage Day on May 6, going to see Fire in Boontown. **4th Grade** Myths and science fiction, astronomy, decimals and percents, band/orchestra field trip to Highcrest, geography quiz show. **Technology:** cutting/pasting (1st), fractions (2nd), graphs (3rd)

Concern was raised of people walking their dogs on the back playground during non-school hours. This is supposed to be a No Dog Zone. Dr. Welter suggested calling the Village also suggesting there needs to be better signage communicating the fact that there should not be dogs on school property.

Field Day (June 4) signup was passed around. 3rd/4th grades will be in the AM and 1st/2nd in the PM. Kindergarten has their own.

VII. The WJH Experience – Dave Palzet, WJH Principal Mr. Palzet spoke about general information on Wilmette Junior High as well as transitions from Highcrest to the Jr. High. The school is home to 800-850 students, depending on the year. An example of how classes are divided and organized: 7th grade is broken down into 3 home room teams with about 125 students/team (A, B, C). Students rotate to different teachers for the various subjects. It generally takes about 3 weeks for the 7th graders to transition to the new school from Highcrest. One area that teachers have been working on is communication with the parents. Principal sends a weekly letter home. Each teacher is responsible for their team website, including: homework calendar, contact information for the teacher, worksheets uploaded, and access to parent portal which is an online grade book. The goal is student accountability. On placement, they encourage parents' input. The school offers a complete arts experience. There are 6 6-week experiences in 7th grade and in 8th grade the student selects 4 to dig a little deeper. Four languages are offered (Spanish, Latin, German, and French). One difference is that the students dress for PE in Jr. High. Technology is infused into the classes vs. a separate technology class. They are now providing more after school competitive sports: Wrestling, Track & Field, and Cross Country. These are non-cut sports. There are also many clubs offered by the PTA after school. The Jr. High also offers academically supported programs such as a Math Resource Room during lunch and a Homework Assistance Program after school.

VIII. Reports of Committees

A. CRC – Karee Wallach – The CRC is a group consisting of a group of administrators and parent volunteers that research various important topics regarding schools and education ("District 39 Think Tank"). They look at various topics in-depth. Last year it was 21st Century Learning and Environmental and they look into how to best address the needs. What does this mean and how is it being rolled out? In June the Board of Education presented a 5 year plan with 21st century learning skills. These skills are integrated in the core subjects and are blended so they are not all learned at one time. The entire presentation can be seen at Wilmette.39.org.

Examples include: having a global perspective, technology threaded throughout lessons, doing projects with kids at other schools in other parts of the world. Attributes of a 21st century learner are: digital natives, global perspective, creative, flexible, taking good risks, persistence, self awareness, collaboration and integration of information. Denise also interjected that we will be using the CRC learning as a platform for the PLN.B.

B. Outdoor Classroom - Kirsten Stadheim Last fall, we opened up the gardens during recess to students. Planning on doing the same on Wednesdays and Fridays during May. There are 2 shifts that parents can sign up to help at. First shift is for 1st and 3rd graders and second shift is for 2nd and 4th graders. May 4 and 20 are weeding days.

C. FAN - Jill Sutherland –Upcoming on April 21st at New Trier High School is John Cacioppo, speaking on *Widening our Circle of Compassion: Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection*

D. Last Day School Coffee - Jasmine Hauser Passing around a signup sheet, event is Wednesday, June 9th.

E. Lia Chong – Gift Cards – Trying to sell through the inventory: Claire's, I Tunes, Bath and Body, Amazon \$100, Shutterfly, TB Maxx/Marchalls/Homegoods

VIII. New Business – Next meeting Tuesday, May 11 at 9:15 am. – Final meeting of the year!

IX. Adjournment – 10:37 am