

# Meeting Minutes

## McKenzie PTA General Meeting

### January 12, 2010

**I. Call to Order and Welcome:** President Kimbra Burnside called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

**II. Approval of Minutes of the November 17, 2009 PTA meeting** - Minutes were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

### **III. Presentation:**

**A. "K-4 Spanish Program" – Alisa Kusnitzow and Lynsee Whitman** (McKenzie Spanish teachers)

The Spanish presentation kicked off with a video of two third grade students presenting a recipe in Spanish. Both teachers presented an overview of the Spanish program at the elementary school grade levels. Each grade has Spanish for 20 minutes/day (other than kindergarten that adds the Special to their schedule two times/week) and they accomplish quite a bit in that time period, mirroring the topics in the curriculum.

Kindergarten – work on numbers, letters, colors

1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Adjectives, family, Mexico, community unit, time, bartering (Mexican Market)

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – ladybug unit (Grumpy Ladybug play), Peru/Incas, Arctic unit, starting to speak in complete sentences

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Answering questions, touch on grammar, plant unit, living museum integration

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Vocabulary words, complete sentences, key verbs and grammar points (ready for HC), South American countries and capitals

**B. "5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Language Program" - Stacy Binder** (Highcrest Spanish teacher)

Stacy spoke about the World Language Program that is offered at Highcrest. The incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders can choose from 4 languages that they will stick with for 4 years. Language options include: Spanish, French, German, and Latin. Classes are 40 minutes long each day and communication becomes the focus (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). All languages cover the same topics, including culture, grammar (spelling, punctuation, and accent) and assessment (homework, class participation, projects). Current fourth graders must select their language for the following years online between Jan.22 – Feb. 5 on the World Language website. A PowerPoint/video presentation was given to give the audience a flavor of each language offering at Highcrest.

### **IV. President's Report - Becky Littman (Assistant to the Principal)**

The H1N1 clinic that was held prior to winter break was successful. Thank you to all of those that volunteered to help. McKenzie has received the four sets of the smart response handheld devices purchased by the PTA and they are in use. Grades 2-4 has been tested for reading (2/4 grades) and math (4<sup>th</sup> only) with the Scantron tests. Reminder: there is no throwing snowballs after school due to lack of supervision. Also, do not leave your cars in the carpool lane. If you should need to leave your car, please move it to a parking spot. Upcoming next week is the Kindness Connection projects in the classroom, PLN will meet January 26 in the library, January 29<sup>th</sup> is an early release day at 12:15. Parents can pickup packets in office for incoming kindergarteners. Report cards will go home on February 8. The next PTA meeting will be an evening meeting at 7pm where Dr. Welter will present the State of the School. At 6:30 that evening, Dr. Welter will discuss COGAT scoring with interested 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents. Faculty updates: Stephanie Freed is returning from maternity leave and Katie Highdecker will be leaving. Third grade teacher Erin Brighty had a baby boy. Julie Wade is leaving to have a baby at the end of March. Mr. Fowler's wife is due in March/April and he will be out for a couple of weeks at that time. Cindy Dougherty (Functional Academics) is expecting in early May.

### **V. Faculty Representative's Report – Chris Porter (Art Teacher)**

**Kindergarten** is learning about magnets, MLK Jr. **First grade** is learning about how to make connections, story elements, Judy McKee is returning to help teach a unit on matter, using the new remotes. **Second graders** had a very successful holiday bazaar, making pillows for the Kindness Connection. **Third graders** are working on a motion unit, biographies, Illinois history and ISAT readiness. In **fourth grade** they are studying regions of the world, double digit multiplication, marine mammals, nonfiction text, Debbie Miller is coming from Alaska, making foreign language decisions for next year. In **Technology**, they are working on a minimovie in Kidpix (2<sup>nd</sup>), internet safety (3<sup>rd</sup>) and marine mammal research (4<sup>th</sup>). In **Art**, they are doing a snowmen and penguin project (1<sup>st</sup>), stitching project (3<sup>rd</sup>) and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade they have started their weaving project. Special **thanks** went out to Ellen Hummel who has been helping Chris with teaching the kids knitting for the past several years.

### **VI. President's Report – Kimbra Burnside**

The Nominating committee is looking to replace the following positions on the PTA Executive Board for the next school year: President Elect, Secretary, VP of Communications, VP Fundraising, Treasurer Assistant, and Enrichment Assistant. Contact Lisa Hoffman (chairperson) with names of those that might be interested in being on the Nominating Committee as well as those interested in being on the Executive Board. Thanks to Julie Geyer, Sara Kurensky and Julie Johnson for

creating the Habits of Mind posters hanging in the entryways to the school. Tours of the New Trier campus are available if you are interested in taking a look prior to the February 2<sup>nd</sup> vote. Check the websites for dates.

#### **VII. President Elect Report – Eleanor Lipinski**

Thus far we have spent surplus money towards the Peaceful Playground program, Habits of Mind (books, posters) and 4 sets of handheld remotes that coordinate with the Smart Boards. The goal is to spend the money quickly and wisely. While there is still some money remaining, other options for spending the money include: outdoor garden, request for additional Enrichment activity, pod area activity for indoor recess. Vote was held with unanimous support to fund (1) second grade trip to the Lake Forest symphony, not to exceed \$1500 (2) Indoor recess pod area games and activities. The indoor pod area that is used for indoor recess houses a supply of game options and activities for the various grades to use. It has come to our attention that the selection and storage could use some updating and replenishing. Prior to bringing this to the PTA meeting, Kimbra and Eleanor reviewed what was in the pod and how it was stored. Discussion took place on various options for updating these games. Suggestions included: having families donating games from home, getting a wish list from teachers on what they might include. Vote was held with unanimous support of spending up to \$250 toward the pod area for storage and/or games after getting a more complete list of what to add to the pod area.

**VIII. Reports of Committees: Book Fair** (Lisa Hoffman) – Theme for this year is *All You Can Read – Book Diner*. The Scholastic book fair will take place February 9 – 11. Hours are 8:30 am – 10:00 am and 3:00 pm – 8:30 pm. There will be story time in the evenings as well as the ability to drop loose change to raise book money for Carmen Buckner. Funds raised from the McKenzie book fair will go to our library. See Carolyn Streett if you are interested on volunteering. **PLN** (Julie Johnson) On Tuesday, January 26, 9:30 – 11. The Parent Learning Network will gather to review a 20 minute video lecture by Sir Ken Robinson on Creativity. Please take an article or find the link on the internet to review prior to the meeting. The **Benefit** Committee (Julie Farina) announced the February 6, 2010 McKenzie Benefit, Growing Minds, will take place at the Lakeview Room, Glenview, IL from 7-12. There is a raffle for 2 Oprah tickets and a \$250 gift card. Still in need for volunteers for this event at check-in and check-out as well as decorating. There are also ways to help underwrite a portion of the event as explained by Julie. Information about this was to be sent home through Backpack Express. Jill Sutherland announced upcoming **FAN speakers**:

- (1) January 21 at WJH, 1-2:30 is a lecture on *How to talk to your Teens about Sex*.
- (2) Friday, January 29, 9:30 – 11, *Secret to Children's Academic Success*, Greenbay School Auditorium, Winnetka, IL.
- (3) Tuesday, February 23, 7 pm William Damon speaks about *Cultivating Your Child's Moral Compass: Empathy, Ethics and the Path to Purpose* at Misner Auditorium, Central School, 620 Greenwood Ave. Glencoe IL.

**Gift Cards** (Lia Chong) announced a \$1476 profit thus far. Thank you to Jane O'Malley for help on the flyer. Consider purchasing gift cards for your Valentine's gift needs.

**IX. New Business** – Open Gym Night is tomorrow. Next PTA meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7 pm.

**X. Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.