

## **McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.

**President's Remark** - Lisa Briegel was not present due to family illness. Meeting was conducted by Carol Planitzer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Carol thanked Margaret Rauscher for organizing the refreshments for the meeting and thanked those who baked or brought refreshments in. She announced that all chair positions had been filled except for Hospitality.

**Principal's Remark** – Dr. Freado was not present. Principal remarks were made by Assistant Principal Mr. Stoehr. Mr. Stoehr thanked all committees. He said Dr. Freado was visiting AB Combs School in North Carolina, which is a school that has implemented The 8 Habits of Highly Effective Educators. Mr. Stoehr gave an update on the H1N1-3 confirmed cases and 5 cases of Influenza A. There are hand sanitizers in each classroom as well as 1 organized hand washing per day.

**Guest Speakers** –Mrs. Casciola, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher as well as the facilitator, informed the membership that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have group parties with music and dancing. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have a compact 50 minute class schedule. No more spelling tests-spelling is embedded in the Language Arts as well as in all other subjects. She told the membership that the field trips consist of going to the Symphony, Pittsburgh Zoo and the Nationality Rooms at Pitt. At the end of the year the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have their big celebration of Spanning the Globe.

Also present were representatives of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade student council. The student council is working on having the students dismissed at the end of the day by grades. They started the student store, which will sell school supplies and they are trying to get a salad bar and deli bar in the lunch room.

### **Minutes were approved as written**

**Treasurer's Report** – Nan Campbell thanked Jodi Hannah for all her help. Jodi gave an update on monies raised through fundraising then she asked for a motion to pay the bills. Deb Antonucci made the motion and was second by Karen Bovalina.

**First Vice President's Report** – Carol Planitzer told the membership that the final draft of the Directory was completed and sent to the printers. She gave an update on PTA membership-currently we have 704 members and last year membership was 850 members. Carol reminded everyone of the newsletter and weekly bulletin dates. Spirit wear would be delivered next week.

**Second Vice President's Report** – Barb Calfo went over Dr. Zetty's goals for the district staff and students from the Area Council meeting. The staff this year is working toward excellence in leadership and character education by utilizing the 8 Habits of Highly Effective Educators by author Stephen Covey. The District is down to 2 companies for the point of sale with electronic lunch cards. Barb reminded people to notify the school secretary of any telephone number changes so that Global connect is always current. She reminded everyone that the next Area Council meeting will be Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> with the building principals at 9:15 am in the Administration building. Barb thanked Maureen Bruggar and Sandy Levin for their hard work on the book fair. She also thanked Jennifer Gaudlip for chairing the Open House committee and thanked everyone who donated cookies, pretzels, apples and volunteered their time. She gave an update on the Sally Foster and cookie dough sale. Sally Foster so far has raised \$16,116, which consists of online sales \$2,090, cookie dough-\$5,758 and gift wrap \$8,268. The budgeted goal is \$20,000. Orders can still be made online until June 30, 2010. Pick up dates for Sally Foster will be Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 9-3:30, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 9-3:30 and Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 3:00-7:00. Orders will not be sent home on the bus. Mary Pat DeRienzo sent around a sign-up sheet for the Teacher Appreciation dinner which will be held the night of Parent/Teacher Conference, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Food should arrive around 3:30 for dinner at 4-5:00pm.

**Third Vice President's Report** – Andrea Michalski reminded everyone of the Character Counts 10 Anniversary at 7:00pm at the Middle School Auditorium. Senator Murphy is sending a representative to give proclamation. There will be music and refreshments. Box top sheets are available in the PTA room. Andrea thanked Rena Mesogitis, Jodi Nelson, Michelle Bittel and No Tune Left Behind for a successful McMurray Kickoff. She also thanked Beverly Opferman for stepping up and chairing Reflections which is due November 4<sup>th</sup>. People can go to the website for PTA link for theme and rules. They can also be found in the PTA room.

**Fourth Vice President's Report** – Margaret Rauscher went over the dates for Brunch with the Principal: 4<sup>th</sup> grade is October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade is October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is October 29<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Kolesar suggested someone take notes at the various brunches and post them online. Red Ribbon week is 10/26-10/30. Stickers will be handed out to students and 6<sup>th</sup>

grade will have a visit from the High School SADD students. She announced that the hospitality committee is in need of a chairperson. Next spirit day is 10/30.

**Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business** – There was discussion concerning buses being over crowded. Reminder that there were no plastic weapons allowed for Halloween and costumes had to be brought to school not worn on the bus. Dressing up was optional.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

These minutes were recorded by Cathy Vargo, Recording Secretary, McMurray PTA.