

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

I. Welcome and Call to Order

II. President's Remarks – *Lisa Briegel*

Lisa began the meeting by sharing with the room that former McMurray principal, Dr. Freado's father passed away last week. The PTA is sending a card and taking a collection to send to Family Hospice & Palliative Care. Lisa proceeded by introducing our guest speaker, Dr. Monsour.

III. Guest Speaker – Dr. Mary Monsour, Director of Staff Development and Instructional Technology Integration spoke about PSSA Testing. She began by explaining what her job encompasses, which includes overseeing Federal programs, monitoring grants, new teacher induction program, staff development, and all assessments. During her presentation she covered the following topics: what are PSSAs, how are PSSAs measured, how do I interpret the PSSA results, why did my child score "advanced" on the test but is not in the advanced classes in school, how does the school use the results, and why do we test our students? For more information on the PSSAs Dr. Monsour directed the assembly to navigate the PA Department of Education website (Go to programs, O-R, then PA System of School Assessment). Mr. Stoehr presented information based on how the PSSA data is used at McMurray Elementary.

IV. Principal's Remarks – *Blair Stoehr*

Mr. Stoehr began by thanking the PTA for the Reflections assemblies. He also thanked the McMurray PTA and PV PTA for working together to make the Talent Show and PV Idol a success. He reported that there will be another Bistro in April and the staff will be utilizing a sound reader with red, yellow, and green lights that indicate sound levels. He will be taking typical sound levels at lunch then testing at the Bistro, awards will be given to the lunches with the green sound level. Mr. Stoehr briefly discussed the educational board meeting which includes the revision of art, English, and science. During the board meeting Mr. Stoehr and Mr. Marquis proposed a new technology program (engineering) at McMurray. Mr. Stoehr also shared that in 6th grade the Spanish program will become more rigorous but remaining a FLEX program, concentrating more on the written word as well as the oral.

V. Reading and Approval of Minutes – *Rochelle Saxon*

There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as written.

VI. Treasurer's Report – *Nan Campbell, Jodi Hannah*

Nan asked for a motion to pay the bills. Andrea Michalski made a motion to pay the bills and Michele Szewczyk seconded the motion.

VII. First Vice President's Report – *Margaret Rauscher*

Margaret reported on Area Council that occurred on February 24th. At AC Dr. Zetty reported that in the fall parents will be able to have one log in on Power School for all their children. She also shared the new school calendar for the 2011 -2012 school year is on line, Margaret also reported that at AC Shelly Belcher spoke about the new welcome wagon site with a "Did you know?" section. Margaret also discussed the presentation of school picture photographers that occurred at AC in February. The next Area Council meeting will include the building principals and will be on March 24th. Margaret asked Andrea Michalski to speak about McMurray Day plans. Andrea shared some of the committee's needs. There is some help that is needed ahead of time including some donations including: 24 boxes size of garbage cans, old tennis balls (200), 8 clean 5 gal buckets, bushel baskets, canopies, etc. McMurray day will be June 6th.

VIII. Second Vice President's Report – *Carol Planitzer*

Carol reported that the March/ April newsletter will be emailed in two weeks; all articles are due March 8th to mcmurraystar@verizon.net. Carol also shared that the Sixth Grade T-shirt orders are due March 9th.

IX. Third Vice President's Report - *Sherie Lammers , Lisa presented*

Lisa Briegel reported for Sherie that the Talent Show is Wednesday and Thursday (March 9th & 10th) this week at 6:30pm in the MPR.

X. Fourth Vice President's Report - *Christine Belfiore*

Christine reported that the yearbook orders were due March 5th and the yearbook committee is working hard to complete yearbook. She also discussed the Box Top program and shared that Robin Ferrari collected a lot of Box Tops at 5th grade Movie Night and will be collecting again for 4th grade Movie Night. Christine shared that there were some behavior issues and not enough volunteers at 5th grade Movie Night and these issues will be addressed before the 4th grade Movie Night on March 18th. She also thanked Mary Pat and other volunteers for their work and donations for the Teacher Appreciation lunch.

XI. Old Business

There was no new business.

XII. New Business

Andrea Bosco addressed the assembly; she is the editor of the Peters Patch, an AOL company based in NYC that began in Peters Township on November 30th. It is a daily article posting and every Thursday a Whiz kid is highlighted. The Patch collaborates with the school district and the community. Moms are some of their biggest readers. Andrea would like to create a Moms Council with a once a month meeting. Anyone interested can email Andrea at andrea.bosco@patch.com The Nominating Committee presented the slate for next year's officers:

President – Rochelle Saxon

1st Vice President – Christine Belfiore

2nd Vice President - Michele Szewczyk

3rd Vice President - Jennifer Lopus

4th Vice President - Michelle Hoffman

Treasurer – Mary Jean Nobers

Assistant Treasurer - Cathy Vargo

Secretary – Amy Pugliano

Mrs. Bair came to request that the McMurray PTA provide volunteers for the Friday May 6th Washington County Elementary Band Festival PTHS and hosted by McMurray Elementary. Students are chosen based on ability, behavior, and over all musicianship. Volunteers are needed to handle registration, break time (snacks), ticket sales, and program handling. A volunteer sign up sheet was passed. When Mrs. Bair left the assembly voted whether to donate the snacks for the event (approx \$400). Laura Gray made a motion to donate the snacks and the motion was seconded by Andrea Michalski.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

These minutes were recorded by Rochelle Saxon, Secretary of the McMurray PTA.