

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

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

President's Remarks – Geeta Welden, called the meeting to order. Geeta introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Beverly Hall.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Beverly Hall, Director of Curriculum, spoke to the group about the curriculum in the district. She handed out the document “Framework for 21st Century Learning”, and discussed her vision of preparing our students for the future, while still holding on to the community’s core values.

President's Remarks (contd.) – Geeta introduced the Student Council, who gave their monthly report. They explained that they were extending the “Mutt Money” collection, to benefit the Humane Society, for one more week. The winning class will receive a party. The council members will be meeting with Mrs. Rush again next week to discuss additional cafeteria ideas and food changes. The student store has made money and some of the profits may be used to upgrading the store. They mentioned perhaps installing a pop machine or vending machine. They would also like to borrow the PTA popcorn machine to see if popcorn sells well before purchasing their own. The 2009–2010 PTA Board elections then took place. Karen Bovalina read the by-laws regarding elections. Each nominee was stated, and the group was asked for additional nominations. None were given. The slate was announced. President – Lisa Briegel; VP 1 – Carol Planitzer; VP 2 – Barb Calfo; VP 3 – Andrea Michalski; VP 4 – Margaret Rauscher; Treasurer – Nan Campbell; Asst. Treasurer – Jodi Hannah; Secretary – Joanne Jaworski. A verbal vote was taken and the slate voted in unanimously. Geeta then stated that she had a copy of the Standardized Testing results for the entire district if anyone was interested in seeing it.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado revisited the traffic concerns. He noted that 5 minutes have been gained using the new morning drop-off procedure, and that the afternoon dismissal procedures were going well. For now, both will be monitored. He also stated that several parking spaces were freed up by moving several buses. This summer they will move the storage unit and will look at redoing the parking spaces. With the new walker policy, there have been fewer walkers after school. Dr. Freado said that the 4th/5th grades will be utilizing a new Language Art curriculum and that the 6th grade will be utilizing a novel-based series. Sarah Lindsay suggested that the “goal” class for 7th graders become part of the 6th grade curriculum. They would be much more prepared for 7th grade and would have better organizational skill going in. Dr. Freado agreed that more time should be spent on organizational skill at McMurray. He then discussed the district wide Art Show taking place on May 15 and 16. Annette Burk will set up on May 14th and can use helpers. Finally, Dr. Freado reminded the group about the panel discussion “Ethics in Business” that will take place on April 29th.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Lindsay asked if there were any questions regarding the register report. None were asked. Sarah moved to pay the bills. Jodi Hannah seconded.

1st Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer thanked Michelle Bittel for handling the dance recital this year. She also mentioned that there was \$1,500 in Spiritwear sales. The merchandise should be delivered April 17th. The volunteer committee needs volunteers to help with the 6th grade “Spring Celebration” event. A committee has been formed for this and all are welcome to join. A flyer regarding this will come home soon.

2nd Vice President's Report – Jodi Lesniakowski told the group that the Relay for Life committee, consisting of herself and Mary Pat DiRenzo, is in need of volunteers for the event, scheduled for May 30th/31st from 2pm to 8am. They also need water for the participants as well as a canopy. They will be holding a bake sale at the Talent Show in order to raise funds for the relay. The next Book Fair will be a 50% off sale. See Maureen Breugger if you are able to volunteer.

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo reported that the next Area Council meeting would be held on April 23rd, at 9:15am. McMurray Day preparations are under way. The event will be held on June 8th (rain date June 9th). Barb thanked Mary Pat DiRenzo and the other volunteers who stepped up to help with the April Teacher/Staff appreciation brunch. She stated that the next Teacher Appreciation Brunch would be held May 27th.

4th Vice President – Michelle stated that the Newsletter deadline would be May 15th, and that items must be submitted to the appropriate V.P. The next spirit day will be April 24th. Scrabble has finished up for the year and was a great success. The next School Board meeting is set for April 20th at 7:30.

Old Business – none.

New Business – Sarah Lindsay told the group about the pajama drive, which will be held April 22nd – May 1st. There are bins in each of the schools for students to place new pajamas and/or books, which will be donated to the local shelters. They are in need of all sizes, especially teen and adult. Last year they collected 856 pair of pajamas. Geeta stated that the next PTA meeting will be held on May 12th and that all 3rd grade parents are welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

These minutes were recorded by Joanne Jaworski, Recording Secretary, McMurray PTA.