

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 am.

**President's Remarks** – Geeta Welden, called the meeting to order and reminded the group that all PTA information will be online as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated that since the number of parents signed up for Constant Contact was initially low, Shelly Belcher sent out a district-wide email reminder. Geeta urged all in attendance to pass along the word to sign up soon. The district has implemented a new online building request form that will track the use of all buildings. Anyone needing to request space for an event can get the form through the appropriate VP. It should be completed and forwarded to Geeta or Mrs. Buck in the front office. Geeta mentioned that an item belonging to a student was recovered during the holiday parties. Anyone who believes their child lost something during the parties should contact Geeta to describe the item. Toni Sulkowski, is investigating POS systems that the district might be interested in purchasing for student lunches. She would like to have 4-5 volunteers join the committee. If interested, please contact her. At the February meeting, we will be choosing a Nominating Committee to help find candidates for PTA board positions for the next school year. In March, this committee will present the PTA with a list of who is running. In April, the vote will be held. Nomination forms are on the back table, and will soon be online. Lisa Anderson suggested that the current board members provide the committee with job descriptions. Geeta stated that the Board would have these for the next meeting.

**Principal's Remarks** – Dr. Freado began by asking the Student Council representatives in attendance to introduce themselves. He announced that the deadline for Character Counts is January 31<sup>st</sup> and that the program will now be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at McMurray Elementary. He stated that last year, Character Counts held a panel discussion for the community regarding the Enron issue and financial responsibility. This April they are planning to hold another. Also, this spring, Bower Hill Elementary will be featured on television for being selected as a National School of Character. Student Council then gave their report: The school store is doing well, but they need more products. The salad they suggested is doing great in the cafeteria. They expressed interest in recycling bottles and Styrofoam trays in the cafeteria. Dr. Freado said that we are now able to recycle mixed-use items, but need additional bins in the cafeteria. He is not sure about the trays, but the Student council can look into this further. Lisa Anderson mentioned that there is a website that can be explored called wastefreelunch.org, which has good information. The students also said that they are looking into a “create a sub” line with the help of Mrs. Rush. Dr. Freado said that it is great to have the kids involved in this and that they will be having another meeting with Mrs. Rush to implement more changes. He said they might also vote on whether lunch/recess should be flipped half way through the year. He told the group that the SADD group would be doing a program again this year with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He stated how proud he is of the Student Council and the positive leadership they reflect. He also asked Geeta Welden to attend the next meeting with Mrs. Rush. Dr. Freado continued by informing the group that Anti-Bullying week would begin January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and that the district will be adopting a standardized anti-bullying policy. The Artist in Residence project will be completed and installed on Friday. PSSA writing testing will begin February 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the Valentines Party was originally scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be moving the date of the party to February 17<sup>th</sup>. Carol Planitzer will email Grade Coordinators to be sure this can be done.

**Guest Speaker** – Officer Dave Stanton spoke to the group about how changes such as technology have affected our children. He is often asked how to keep our children safe, and said that parental involvement is the best way to keep kids out of trouble. Prevention is key, and kids must understand the consequences of what they do. Some ramifications: college acceptance, employment. He also discussed the new drinking law.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** – Karen Bovalina attended for Sarah Lindsay. Karen asked for any questions regarding the register report. None were asked. Laura Sprenak moved to pay the bills. Jodi Hannah seconded. A verbal vote was taken, and was approved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report** – Carol Planitzer stated that registration for after school classes would be held Thursday from 6:30-8:30. Lisa Breigel asked for 4-5 people to help out with this. Carol is currently working on putting together the 6<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirt. She stated that she would inform the Volunteer Coordinators of the Valentine party date change. She also stated that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Celebration would be changed to June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Reflections recognition program has been postponed. New date TBA.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report** – Jodi Lesniakowski told the group that the yearbook cover has been submitted. She sent out reminders Friday and received 57 additional orders. We will be able to add orders until the cover is printed. Anyone who would like to help out with the yearbook, please contact Jodi.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President** – Barb Calfo reported that the next Area Council meeting would be held in the Township Library instead of the district offices. The next Teacher/Staff appreciation luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria.

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice President** – Michelle Smith reported that Cindy Chapman, of the Activities Committee, has planned Movie Nights for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade will see “Night at the Museum” on January 16<sup>th</sup>, and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled for “The Thief Lord” on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Permission forms were sent home. The cost is \$5 and students are encouraged to bring blankets to sit on. She will need

about 10 parents to help with these. The Newsletter deadline is Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. It will only be published via Constant Contact. Contact Jackie Platt or Sandy Levin to submit items. School Spirit day will be held on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Encourage students to wear red/white. There was no School Board report. Michelle was happy to report that Amy James has volunteered to head up Scrabble. The program is up and running. Students can take part Thursdays during lunch, in the stage area.

**Old Business** – The Walking Club is going well. More volunteers are always needed.

**New Business** – Karen Bovalina asked if there were any questions about the updated Standing Rules. There were none. Karen will update the section regarding the building use form.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

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