

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 10, 2009

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

President's Remarks – Geeta Welden, called the meeting to order. Geeta allowed Kristin Taylor to speak first about the Girl Scout Bronze Award project her troop is undertaking. Kristin stated that a flier would soon be sent home explaining that they are collecting items for the Humane Society. The troop would appreciate any donations. Geeta clarified that, although the by-laws call for a 5-person Nominating Committee, we were only able to obtain 3 individuals willing to volunteer. Mary Pat DiRenzo then read off the slate of officers the committee found: Secretary – Joanne Jaworski; Assistant Treasurer – Jodi Hannah; Treasurer – Nan Campbell; 4th VP – Margaret Rauscher; 3rd VP – Andrea Michalski; 2nd VP – Barb Calfo; 1st VP – Carol Planitzer; President – Lisa Briegel. These nominees will be posted in the PTA room until April, when the vote will be taken.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado stated that he would be meeting with Mrs. Rush on Wednesday at 10:15 to discuss some of the suggestions the Student Council has brought forward. He then discussed the after school walking situation and the student injury that took place the prior week. He stressed that we all must try to communicate the seriousness of this issue to other parents and to the children as well. He said he plans to meet with Dr. Zetty and the Township to discuss possible solutions to the issue. Discussion took place regarding suggested ideas, including having the area policed, installing a crosswalk, and communicating the dangers of walking via the Internet. Dr. Freado then revisited the parking issue and said that the design of the parking spaces will be evaluated over the summer. Sarah Lindsay also suggested that the school require that parents who are picking up car-riders after school should park, and not just line up in the aisles, as this is very dangerous. Student council representatives spoke to the group about the possibility of selling Spiritwear, as well as several other fund-raising ideas for charities. The children will be attending the meeting with Mrs. Rush later in the week.

Guest Speaker – Elizabeth Somerville, Director of Special Education for the Peters Township School District spoke to the group about the various programs available and those being planned for future implementation. She stated that creating support systems for all students is the most important goal. She also informed those present that monthly meetings are held to provide information about the various services provided by the district. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 11th, at 10:00.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Karen Bovalina asked if there were any questions regarding the register report. None were asked. E.C. Selinsky asked about the fundraising shortfall. Carol Planitzer stated that fundraising will be reviewed next year and that we had enough funds this year. E.C. Selinsky moved to pay the bills. Jodi Hannah seconded.

1st Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer stated that the volunteer coordinators were busy planning the 6th grade "Spanning the Globe" event. Marcia McCracken will not handle the directory next year, since her last child is graduating. A new committee was formed: Sue Clark will be chairperson, with Shelli Banko handling advertising, and Sandy Levin and Mary Lou Jacobs in charge of the family listings section. Carol stated that she would be in charge of individual school/township listings. Regarding Easy Cash, Carol mentioned the Campbell's Soup label total is now 3,731 and Box Tops had now raised \$1,003. Tracy Lusk handles both of these. Carol also thanked chairs Carolyn Gentile and Jody Cervenak for the Reflections assemblies held on February 23rd.

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. Also, the yearbook staff is in need of several quality photos from McMurray Day last year. See Jodi for either of these.

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo reported that the next Area Council meeting would be held on March 19th, at 9:15am. She also informed the group that Mina Allison has scheduled several assemblies for the 6th grade that will demonstrate various aspects of the culture in Pittsburgh. Finally, she stated that a Teacher Appreciation Brunch would be held in April. Details to come.

4th Vice President – Michelle Smith reported that the feedback regarding the Bulletins has been very positive. She also reminded the group that the Newsletter deadline was the 13th, and that items must be submitted to the appropriate V.P. Thus far about 500 individuals have signed up for Constant Contact. The next spirit day will be March 27th.

Old Business – none.

New Business - none.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

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