

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

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

President's Remarks – Geeta Welden, called the meeting to order and thanked all the volunteers who have baked for the recent PTA functions. She went on to explain the Blue Moon volunteer program. Geeta mentioned that the Character Counts Recognition Awards would be held on November 19th, and encouraged all present to bring their children to this special event.

1st Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer stated that the Monday dance class is back on schedule for the McMurray gym location, and that a limited amount of Spiritwear is available for purchase at a discounted price. The directory has been delivered to the youngest child in each family. Carol mentioned that Giant Eagle cards only need to be registered once, but should be updated with the child's current school number. Tracey Lusk spoke about the box tops and labels, and stated that \$490 has been raised thus far. She also mentioned that she is looking into a possible rewards program for students/classes bringing in the most. Carol discussed the ABITIBI recycling program and stated that they are currently working on the placement of the two bins. Please save your newspapers for this program. 176 entries have been turned in for the Reflections program. The judging will take place on Wednesday, November 12th. Two volunteers will be needed to keep the tallies.

Guest Speaker – Toni Sulkowski, Director of Technology for Peters Township, discussed current and future technology in the district. She explained that one of the goals for this year and beyond is to ensure all students are taught the same set of skills at each grade level. This also includes developing staff consistency. Toni reviewed some of the programs available to students and some of the technology being used/implemented. She is working toward increasing technological integration district wide.

Student Council – The Student Council PTA Committee introduced themselves and spoke to the group about some of the groups' interests. They discussed their desire to incorporate more healthy food choices into the school lunches. They stated that the school nurse approved of their ideas. They brought this issue to the group to solicit PTA support. Geeta Welden assured them that this idea is something the PTA supports and would join them in any meetings they have with Mrs. Rush. Dr. Freado mentioned that the Student Council money would soon be moved to its own account. The students also mentioned that they have decided to donate any additional money earned by the school store to the Humane Society. Toni Sulkowski encouraged PTA to advocate for the implementation of a student spending account system. She stated that Dr. Zetty has voiced her interest in this and that many other districts are already using these. Geeta mentioned that Mrs. Rush is also interested in this. Toni will relay the parents' interest to district administration. Dr. Freado informed the group that all three cafeteria lines were again open, and that lines are moving more smoothly now. Toni reminded the group that Power School has a "School Bulletin" button that parents should check regularly for updates.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado thanked the group for the wonderful staff/teacher luncheon that was provided on parent/teacher conference day. The staff truly enjoyed it. Also, the Artist in Residence program is under way and going well. Dr. Freado explained the "Write to Learn" software that the school will be implementing. It will emphasize the "6 traits" writing approach.

2nd Vice President's Report – Jodi Lesniakowski told the group that the Red Ribbon Week door winners would be announced in the newsletter and that a photo would appear in the yearbook. The walking program is getting started. Mrs. Konkle will be sending an email asking for more parent volunteers. The PTA is assisting her with this. Jodi stated that yearbook photos are appreciated. Those wanting to help will be able to log onto the yearbook system and upload the pictures directly. Yearbook orders are still being taken. They are considering extending the date for the \$18 price. Jodi mentioned that in February we would be able to send email reminders from the PTA instead of paper reminders. Hard copies will be sent out until February.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

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

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo reported on Area Council and reviewed the principals' reports. The next Area Council meeting will be November 20th. Barb thanked the volunteers who helped out with staff/teacher appreciation. Mary Pat DeRienzo also thanked those who helped and stated that volunteers are still needed for the rest of the appreciation events.

4th Vice President – Michelle Smith reviewed how the PTA Newsletter was "going green". Sandy Levin, the Newsletter coordinator, explained that the January newsletter will be online and encouraged all parents to sign up for Constant Contact so as not to miss out on information. November 11th is the cutoff for the next newsletter and will be the last paper newsletter. In December, the newsletter committee will send out a "dates to remember" email. The newsletter will continue to be published every other month.

Old Business – Dr. Freado stated that he did relay the PTA's offer of support to No Tune Left Behind, as was discussed last month.

New Business – none.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

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