

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 14, 2008

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

President's Remarks – Newly elected PTA President, Geeta Welden, called the meeting to order and introduced herself to those who have not met her yet. She also asked the rest of the PTA Board to introduce themselves. Geeta thanked all members for attending and encouraged their participation. In addition, Geeta asked if all members who speak at the meeting would please state their name for the records. Geeta informed the group that the Safety Committee began an audit of PTHS in the spring and that it was ongoing. She mentioned that Carrie Weaver, of the Peters Township Library, would be holding a meeting about college financial planning November 6th, and that flyers with the details were on the table in the back of the room. Finally, she reminded the group that PV Haunted Hallways would take place October 30th, 5:30-7:30.

A misspelling was discovered on the September PTA Meeting minutes, and was corrected. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Guest Speaker – Annette Burke, McMurray Art Teacher, spoke about the Artist in Residence program. A professional artist will work with McMurray students for 15 days to complete a tile mosaic that will be installed in the hallway near the PTA room. She stated that they would work to get as many students involved as possible. She also asked that parents bring extra ceramic tiles, glass or old plates to the art room to be used for the project. The project was made possible through a grant from the Peters Township school district and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. The project will begin November 3rd and will be unveiled in January.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado thanked the group for their support of the anti-bullying effort and the Jay Banks program.

He stated how important this is to our school, and that it gives the students the opportunity to learn from it. Lisa Anderson stated that the Jay Banks program provided the audience with great tools to handle bullying. Dr. Freado told the group that the website is jaybanks.com. He also called to attention the great job No Tune Left Behind does for our school as well. Dr. Freado informed the group that Mrs. Chipple said the Student Council Liaisons were not quite ready, but would be attending PTA meetings soon. Character Counts week will be based on the Pyramid of Success, and Dr. Freado suggested the parents ask their children about this. He said that Teen Outreach was also involved and would be implementing "Respect Cards". An optional essay contest will also be conducted.

Dr. Freado introduced Andrea Gearhart, Peters Township High School Chemistry teacher, who is the SAD group sponsor. SAD is not just students against drugs, but is students against destructive decisions in general. The group will be taking part in the Walk for Awareness October 26th. The club, consisting of 215 members, conducts many programs aimed at encouraging kids to make responsible decisions. Dr. Freado thanked Andrea for her leadership in this area.

Dr. Freado asked for questions from the group. Beth Gamble asked for the status of projects being developed for non-chorus kids. Dr. Freado stated that they are in the process of setting these up now.

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

1st Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer stated that the Monday dance class would need to change locations, as the gym is needed for Middle School basketball. Spiritwear will be delivered to classrooms next week. Carol thanked the volunteer coordinators who came forward to help this year. The directory will be delivered the last week of October to the youngest child in the family. Helpers will be needed. Carol asked the group to remember to re-

register the school number for their Giant Eagle card. Lisa Anderson stated that she thought this only needed to be done if you are switching schools. Carol said she would check into this. The school number should also be changed to McMurray for Target cards. Carol mentioned that box tops collection sheets were on the back table, along with Reflections information. Reflections forms are due by October 30th. Current membership is 824. Carol said that the unavailability of the gym would also affect the music/theater program. Laura Spernak volunteered to contact the Athletic Director to see if this space issue could be resolved.

2nd Vice President's Report – Jodi Lesniakowski stated that Character Counts flyers were sent home last week. Maura Kelly said the school would be collecting for the Peters Food Pantry and the Washington County Women's Shelter. Boxes are in the lobby. Students can donate non-perishables or make cash donations to be used for Giant Eagle gift cards. The shelter is in need of coats – all sizes except Adult Male. Jodi said that the Walk for Awareness kicks off Red Ribbon Week, and that students will be decorating doors and collecting change to go to the Character Counts Organization, which has no budget. A flyer will be going out Wednesday. Carol Planitzer mentioned that a volunteer list was going around. Cookies are needed for the walk. Jodi thanked the Book Fair coordinators, who in turn thanked all helpers. The fair yielded \$19,258 in sales. The library gets 25% of this. Mrs. Owens purchases about 200 books for the library. In addition, we will be able to have a ½ price sale in the spring. Jodi thanked everyone who helped out with Kickoff this year, especially Lynn Soika, Michelle Bittel and No Tune Left Behind. Gym teacher, Mrs. Konkle, received a grant from UPMC to start a Walking Club at McMurray. Volunteers will be needed to walk with the kids. A sheet was sent around. The program will start in November. A flyer for the yearbook will go home soon. Barb Kerner and Louise Pollard are the coordinators. Jodi explained that this year's book would be 120 pages, instead of 68. This will allow all the students to appear in the book. It will sell for \$18. The Middle School yearbook is 72 pages for \$20. Those interested in helping at home or by taking photos should contact the coordinators.

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo reported on Area Council and explained the Dr. Zetty's goal for the year is to work toward excellence. She referred to the Four C's: Character/Caring, Communication, Cooperation and Continuous Improvement. The next Area Council meeting is October 23rd. Sally Foster has been distributed. We fell short of the \$30,000 goal. We had sales of \$17,396 and earned \$8,698. Because of the low sales, we may need to have another fundraiser in the spring so that there are enough funds for next year. Online orders can still be placed until June 30th. The group agreed that online ordering is very simple and convenient. Barb thanked all coordinators and volunteers who helped make Open House a success. The Teacher/Staff Appreciation committee will hold its first event on November 10th.

4th Vice President – Michelle Smith stated that the 6th grade Brunch with the Principal is scheduled for October 24th. There is a lot of student interest in Scrabble, but, to date, no one has volunteered to chair this. Scrabble, therefore, is on hold. Picture makeup day is October 28th. A flyer will be going home. Gina Wells mentioned that students retaking their photo should bring in the old pictures and \$5. School Board Rep., Calvin Clark, had to leave the meeting early, but said that the PV PTA will be making a motion for the board to be proactive in resolving the space issue there. Sandy Levin, the Newsletter coordinator, explained the Constant Contact software and how the PTA will be able to email information and newsletters to parents. Sign-ups will go home soon. November 11th is the cutoff for the next newsletter and will be the last paper newsletter. Geeta mentioned that hardcopies of the newsletter would be available in the office for those without email. Email information for the next newsletter to Sandy at DJPLATT@COMCAST.NET.

Old Business – None

New Business – Cindy Marynak suggested that No Tune Left Behind t-shirts might be a good idea for raising funds for the band. Maura Kelly also said that helping with the CD was also an idea. Geeta said that all ideas should be discussed with the Character Counts coordinators. Dr. Freado said he would keep the PTA informed if the band is in need of anything.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

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