

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am.

President's Remarks – Karen Bovalina welcomed all present to the first meeting of the school year. She went on to explain that during PTA Board elections in May, no one came forward to run for President. According to the by-laws, she remained as Acting President until a new one is elected. She stated that we would hold an election today for the office of President. She praised all McMurray staff and volunteers and encouraged parents to get involved. Karen introduced the PTA Board and passed out the listing of committee chairs and asked interested parents to sign up for positions that are vacant. Karen then introduced Dr. Freado and Assistant Principal, Mr. Stoehr, and encouraged parents to attend Brunch with the Principal.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado introduced himself and spoke of his background and experience. He then introduced our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Blair Stoehr. Mr. Stoehr spoke about his past experience and expressed his enthusiasm at being at McMurray.

The minutes of the May 2008 PTA Meeting were approved without correction.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Lindsay explained that the audit had taken place and that there were no exceptions noted. She discussed this year's budget. We need to budget money for the directory since Area Council did not sell as many ads as needed to cover the cost. The motion was made by E.C. Sylinski and seconded by Deb Antonucci. Sarah asked for a motion to pay the bills. The motion was made by Jodi Hannah and seconded by Mary Matsuura.

1st Vice President's Report – Lynn Soika mentioned the Book Fair and asked Denise Gordon for her input. Denise asked all who had volunteered to look at the schedule she passed around and check off that they can make it at that time. Lynn stated that Red Ribbon Week needs another person to assist. She also said that two volunteers were needed for Publicity/Yearbook and that if no one came forward, there would not be a yearbook. Lynn explained that Character Counts Week is October 13-17 and that another person was needed to help out. Walk for Awareness (drugs) and the tailgate on October 26th at 1pm. McMurray Kickoff is Thursday from 6:30-8:30 and many volunteers were still needed. Michelle Bittel stated that there are ½ hour shifts and that lots of cookies were needed also. Lynn encouraged parents to fill out Character Counts nomination forms to recognize someone who does outstanding things for the community.

2nd Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer and Michelle Bittel discussed the after school program and explained that all parents must register their own child. Dance registration is September 27th and Music/Theater is September 10th. Denise Gordon, Volunteer Coordinator, stated that homeroom moms and grade coordinators would be chosen next week. T.L. Parks mentioned that room moms were still needed for all grades and asked those interested to stay after the meeting to discuss. A grade coordinator is also needed for 5th grade. Carol said that Shelly McIntosh is in charge of the directory and that parents should be receiving their family listing in the mail. Only send it back if there are corrections/additions to be made. Ad sheets for the directory were on the back table for those interested. Lynn Thomas stated registration for Easy Cash from Giant Eagle is October 1st. Carol stated that the goal for box tops this year is \$1,008. Geeta Welden mentioned that box tops are to be turned in to the homeroom teacher in an envelope marked with the child's name and grade. An award is given at the end of the year to the grade with the most. Also, Target has online registration and Office Depot gives 5% back to the school. Lisa Briegel stated that after school classes are in need of babysitters. Carol said that membership is currently at 639 and that those who cannot attend meetings can find the meeting minutes posted on the website. Spiritwear orders are due on September 24th.

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo introduced Suzanne Mackay as the Area Council representative. The next Area Council meeting is scheduled for September 25th. Barb said that Open House would be held September 23rd for 4th and 5A and September 25th for 5B and 6th, and introduced Shelli Banko and Kathleen Chaudari as coordinators. Shelli said that lots of cookies were needed and that Simons donated apples. Also two volunteers would be needed for each shift. Teacher/Staff Appreciation luncheons are usually held 4 times per year with a different theme for each. The dates are to be determined. Sue Ralston stated that the Ambassadors did a great job at the August tour for new students, and thanked all who helped. Sally Foster is the Fall Fundraiser, with 50% of each order going to help fund PTA activities. Orders are due September 12th, and can be picked up October 7-8 from 9-3:30, and October 9th from 3pm-8pm in the gym. Suzanne Mackay spoke about Area Council and listed the meeting dates as: 9/25, 10/23, 11/20, 1/29, 2/19, 3/19, 4/23, and

5/21. Karen Bovalina explained that the first meeting will include district administration, the next will include building administration, and that they would continue to alternate each month.

4th Vice President – Michelle Smith encouraged all parents to attend their child's grade-specific Brunch with the Principal. Gina Wells explained that 4th grade will be October 3rd from 10:30-12:30 and that babysitting will be available. The 5th grade coordinator is Deb Antonucci and the 6th grade is Margaret Rauscher. Not as many library volunteers will be needed this year because a part-time clerical person has been hired. Scrabble tournaments will be held every Thursday during lunchtime and volunteers are needed. Michelle explained that School Board Reps were needed. They attend the meeting every 3rd Monday of the month and then report back to the PTA Meetings and the newsletter. Julie Ogburn reported that Spirit Day will be the last Friday of each month and that one student wearing red and white that day will be chosen for a prize. A flyer about this will be sent home. Ann Bondi of the Hospitality Committee thanked the PTA Board for providing the food for the first meeting and stated that volunteers are needed to bring refreshments for future meetings. A sign up sheet was available. Sandy Levin and Jackie Platt volunteered to be Newsletter Committee chairs. The newsletter will be going paperless in the near future. The deadline for the first one is Friday September 12th. Tracy Collins has done this job for 7 years. Gina Wells stated that picture day will be Wednesday September 17th and that 15 helpers are needed. A sign up sheet was sent around. Lynn Soika added that there would be a Bullying program for students and their families, featuring Jay Banks, on October 6th at 7pm.

Old Business – None

New Business – Karen Bovalina accepted the resignation of Lynn Soika as 1st Vice President. Karen asked for a motion to make Carol Planitzer 1st Vice President, in case the President cannot fulfill their duties. Michelle Bittel made the motion and Lisa Smith seconded. Karen stated that to vote for an officer you must be a PTA member. A verbal vote was taken and the motion carried. Karen thanked Lynn Soika for all her hard work. Karen asked for nominations from the floor for the 2nd Vice President position. None were given. Karen presented an amendment to have only 3 Vice Presidents. Michelle Bittel made a motion and Tracy Collins seconded it. The majority agreed via verbal vote. Jodi Lesniakowski then inquired about the 2nd V.P. duties and expressed interest. Michelle Bittel made a motion to elect Jodi to the position. Maureen Brugger seconded it. The membership took a verbal vote and agreed. Karen Bovalina opened the floor for nominations for the office of President. Geeta Welden nominated herself. Mary Matsuura seconded. A verbal vote was taken and Geeta was elected PTA President.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

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