

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes January 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 am.

President's Remarks – Karen Bovalina explained that there will be several guest speakers today, including Dr. Freado, Mrs. Chipple and students from the newly elected Student Council. This coming Thursday, Toni Sulkowski will speak on Internet Safety at the PTSA meeting at approximately 9:45am in Room B366 (extension to the auditorium) at the high school. Games (Pictionary, Scrabble, etc.) have been donated to McMurray from the high school's former "Game Day Friday" program. We will send them a thank you.

Principal's Remarks – Toni Sulkowski has put a link to Powerschool on the PTSD website. Also, a hard copy of instructions on how to navigate through Powerschool is being passed around at today's meeting. The email notification feature is not operational yet. The calendar function works best on imacs but will run on other pc's as well. Online registration for high school classes should be operational by the spring. A phone-call emergency notification system is being investigated in response to a two-hour delay due to a recent power outage at the high school. This power outage was the result of an auto accident on McMurray Rd. Dr Hobbs talked about the recent service projects sponsored by the neighborhoods. The Rachel Carson neighborhood made poinsettias and wreaths to give to the patients at local nursing homes. The Appleseeds collected granola and power bars to send to the troops in Iraq. The Polamalu neighborhood made teamwork t-shirts and had a raffle. They donated the proceeds to the Washington City Mission. The students of Clemente Court made placemats for area nursing homes and delivered them. They sang songs for the resident's entertainment. Dr. Freado explained that

the neighborhoods have a steering committee to plan ideas. There were activities in November and December and more to come in January. Powerschool "report card day" is January 24. This will be the first time a paper report card will not be produced. Teachers must have their grades online by January 22. McMurray is looking to make a bigger effort towards "going green". Mr. Keffel has posted entertaining signs around the school to promote conservation. Dr. Freado is investigating recycling in the cafeteria and throughout the building. Deb Antonucci passed a volunteer sheet for the CHIPS program. Training will be held in February. The program will be for 5th and 6th grade students. With parental permission, the children will be fingerprinted, interviewed and sent home with these items and a DNA kit for identification purposes should they become missing. The program runs in March.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The November meeting minutes were approved without correction.

Guest Speakers: Max Lindsey and Riley Crane shared ideas that the Student Council proposed for discussion. They would like to have vending machines in the cafeteria which contain healthy snacks. Students would like ten minutes before school to socialize with their friends. They would like to see recycling bins in the cafeteria. Students would enjoy music as they eat lunch on special days. Students feel there is not enough time to eat lunch. They would like a salad bar option a few times per month. Students would like healthier choices at lunch and be able to play dodge ball in the auxiliary gym during indoor recess. Students do not like being separated from others in their grade and would like to have their entire grade eat together. They would also like a sundae bar at lunch once per month. Student Council would also like to hold a fundraiser so that they could buy more recess equipment. Their second meeting will be held tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report – The report was distributed at the meeting. A motion was made by Gail Schlafman and a second by Deb Antonucci to pay the bills. It was discussed to change the money allocated to the Greenhouse in the budget and rename it as the Green Effort. Deb Antonucci made the motion and Gail Schlafman made the second. The motion passed. The budget shows that we have raised \$10,000.00 this year to allocate. Karen Bovalina proposes funding each neighborhood with \$500.00 for learning support. Gail Schlafman made the motion and Mary Pat Torenzo made the second to discuss the issue. There was discussion about funding both the neighborhoods and student council since we have the funds to do both. Deb Antonucci made the motion to budget \$500.00 per neighborhood (\$2500.00 total). Gail Schlafman made the second and the motion passed. We will give the Student Council a little more time to organize.

1st Vice President – Gina Wells – The box top competition between grades ends January 22. There are two checks issued each year for the Easy Cash program. Many thanks to Judy Lupori and Lori Schwerzler for their outstanding efforts with the Holiday Mart. The Activities Committee has announced that 4th grade movie night is Jan 18 and the movie is Alex Rider. 5th grade movie night is February 1st. National Treasurer will be shown. McMurray student John Michael Palfy lost his mother over the holidays. A fund has been set up at National City Bank for him. Contact Barb Gilmore at the bank to donate if you desire.

2nd Vice President – Lois Maggs - Teacher Appreciation will be a “Grab n Go” Breakfast tomorrow from 8:15 to 8:45am. Cookies have been collected from the students for the teachers and staff to take home with them. The next event will be a Mardi Gras theme in March. We are still looking for a chairperson. Deb Antonucci will plan the last Teacher Appreciation in May. Dr. Hobbs would like to promote better communication with the bus drivers and wondered if the PTA, along with the Character Counts Committee,

would be interested in putting together some kind of breakfast baskets for them. There is registration for After School Classes tonight from 7-8pm in the art room. This Friday afternoon will be the assembly to honor the Reflections Contest winners. Thanks to Linda Van Newkirk and Cheryl Roberts for their help with the program.

3rd Vice President – Lynn Soika – The Talent Show will held April 1 and 2 with rehearsal on March 25 and 26. The Spelling Bee in this Thursday at 7pm.

4th Vice President – Beth Buzzelli – Community Service – There will be a Pajama Drive Jan 28-Feb8. It will be held throughout the school district, with collection bins in every school. We are collecting new pajamas and books to be given to needy children whose parents are incarcerated, as part of a nationwide program. January 22 is the next school board meeting. Please take pictures at the Valentine's Day parties and give to Linda Van Newkirk for inclusion in the yearbook. Please consider signing up for hospitality for the next PTA meeting

New Business – Please consider helping the Washington County Humane Society by going online at zootoo.com. They are in a competition for a grant to improve their facilities. The more visits they receive the more likely they are to receive the funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

These minutes were recorded by Diane Lioon, Recording Secretary, McMurray Elementary PTA.