

# McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, September 11, 2012



### I. Welcome and Call to Order

Melanie called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

### II. President's Remarks – *Melanie Hutnik, Suzanne MacKay*

Melanie and Suzanne introduced themselves.

### III. Principal's Remarks – *Blair Stoehr*

Mr. Stoehr welcomed everyone and thanked the PTA for the beginning of the school year events...new student orientation, picture day, Kickoff. PTA is a great way to get involved and be informed. He observed a moment of silence for 9/11 in memory of those lost and in honor of those serving. Mr. Stoehr presented a Welcome Back video which also highlighted McMurray's achievements in the 2011-12 school year. This year's school theme is based on the book "One" by Kathryn Otoshi. This is a deceptively simple color and counting book that turns into a lesson on bullying. Blue is a quiet color. Red picks on Blue. The other colors don't like it, but don't know what to do. One comes along and shows all the colors how to stand up, stand together and count. Another video presentation introduced new and returning staff. Included in the goals this year is to bring the core values...respect, responsibility, honesty and caring into everything at McMurray. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are also a priority in all areas of the curriculum. Some of these skills include critical thinking, communication, media literacy, initiative and global awareness. Dibels, RTII, Google Docs, Intranet are all tools used to determine strengths of students and areas that need improvement. Every student has a Data Portfolio that is used for conferences, IEP meetings, etc. McMurray will be continuing to use the 6 day schedule. There are special area grading changes in place for the school year...Art, P.E. and Music will all be on a year long grading system. The teachers have established 14 small learning communities. With the help of Box Tops, 2 iPad labs have been established. One is in the Library and the other is used in Art, Music and P.E. Overall building goal for the year, is to lower barriers to learning.

### IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes – *Amy Pugliano*

The minutes approved as written.

### V. Guest Speakers

- **Mrs. Runco, Food Services Director**- Mrs. Runco presented the new National School Lunch Program. She reviewed what constitutes a serving and explained the changes for the upcoming year. A big part of the new initiative is to have less carbohydrates. Some of the menu changes include more beans, fruits and vegetables, in addition to changes like having scrambled eggs and sausage instead of pancakes. Currently, they are beginning the process of reviewing the a la carte snack program. She is willing to work with families and if you have questions or concerns please contact her at [runcol@pt-sd.org](mailto:runcol@pt-sd.org) or 724-941-6251 ext. 7226.
- **Chief Fruecht, Peters Township Police Chief**-Chief Fruecht addressed the on going problem of unattended students acting inappropriately at local businesses after school. He cited incidents that have occurred at Farm House Coffee and the Dairy Bar. Recently there have been fights and large groups of unruly children at these locations. In addition, kids are playing dangerous games like chicken on Valleybrook Road. He has asked parents for help in curbing these behaviors and encouraging values in our children.

### VI. Treasurer's Report – *Lisa Argent, Krissy Rackley*

Lisa asked for a change in standing rule 4A. This allows for the President, Treasurer and 2 other Board members to have check signing privileges. Mary Ulan made a motion, Kelly Keane seconded the motion. Vote unanimous in favor of change. Motion to approve budget was made by Gina Hansen and seconded by Kelly Keane. Budget is approved. Donations are going very well. Thank you for your generosity. Motion made by Wendy Edgar to pay bills and seconded by Kelly Keane. Motion carried.

## VII. First Vice President's Report – *Christine Belfiore*

- **School Pictures**– Thank you to Marcy Judy and Kristi DeVentura. Pictures went well. Retakes are not yet scheduled but will take place sometime in October.
- **Yearbook** –The staff will be meeting with different vendors to decide the best company for our Yearbook needs.
- **Assemblies** – The Zoo and the Aviary are scheduled and we are working on additional assemblies
- **Volunteer Coordinators**-Coordinators are meeting tomorrow to determine homeroom parents and grade coordinators.
- **Membership**-Thank you to Mary Ulan for her hard work. Currently we have 709 members. We still have memberships coming in. Last year's membership was 730.

## VIII. Second Vice President's Report – *Michele Szewczyk*

- **Easy Cash** – Please be sure you have signed up with your Giant Eagle Advantage Card and have selected McMurray Elementary. All money from these activities directly impacts the students. Box Tops contributed to the 2 iPad Labs.
- **Spirit Wear** – Samples will be available at Open House.
- **Open House** – We need cookie donations for both evenings.
- **After School Classes** –Registration is this Thursday from 7-8PM. Please contact Serena King if you are available for helping with registration or have questions.

## IX. Third Vice President's Report – *Jennifer Lopus*

- **Area Council** – The first meeting is September 20.
- **Spirit Committee** –Have received 6 All Sport student passes and field hockey towels for Spirit Day giveaways.
- **Hospitality** – Thank you to Marsha Molinero for coordinating today's Hospitality.
- **Character Counts** – October 2 next meeting, October 22 -26 Character Counts week, October 23<sup>rd</sup> Awards Ceremony.
- **Book Fair** – Volunteers are needed. Please contact Ann Lilley. All money raised at the Book Fair goes to the Library for purchase of books, AR tests and other activities.
- **Brunch/Dessert with the Principal** – This year all three grades will meet at the same time with the Principals for either Dessert in the evening or Brunch during the day. Babysitting provided upon request.

## X. Fourth Vice President's Report – *Peggy Daniels*

- **Library Volunteers** – Kristi DeVentura is the chair. The schedule is being finalized and will be distributed shortly.
- **McMurray Kickoff** –We had a great turn out. Thank you to the chairs, Ria Kartsonas and Michelle Hoffman.
- **New Student Orientation** – We had about 30 families participate. Student Ambassadors toured the new families. Thank you to chair, Mollie Breier.
- **Reflections** – This is a PTA sponsored creative contest. October 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for all entries.

## XI. Old Business

There was no old business.

## XII. New Business

- Dr. Zetty will be the guest speaker at our next meeting.
- Mrs. Miller will be speaking about the Student Leadership Committee at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.