

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 8, 2008

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

McMurray students Rachel Hobbs and Brenna Sweeney presented Mrs. Laura Brannen with flowers to thank her for organizing the very successful Talent Show this year.

President's Remarks – Karen Bovalina stated that there were 68 acts and 160 students participating in the Talent Show this year. She is in the process of setting the PTA calendar for the coming school year and welcomes any information that should be included. She is also editing the current list of committee chairs and is taking suggestions for these positions.

Principal's Remarks – Dr. Freado said that the newly formed Student Council will meet again tomorrow. Since the students are testing today, they have requested that he ask the PTA, on their behalf, if the PTA wants to be repaid the \$300.00 given to the Student Council earlier this year. The consensus at the meeting was that the money was intended to be seed money to get the Student Council started and should not be repaid. The vending machine in the cafeteria is a very popular idea among students. Student Council is also looking into a way to improve the snack bar.

There will be a letter coming home to the parents of incoming 3rd grade students, 4th grade students and 5th grade students outlining procedures for the formation of classroom lists.

The principals have been looking at a new way to schedule the building, utilizing a flexible block schedule. Dr Freado will present this new system at the May PTA meeting. Special thanks to Linda Van Newkirk for taking and publishing pictures of McMurray students. She organized and took an aerial shot where the children formed "08" for the cover of the yearbook.

The minutes of the March PTA meeting were approved without correction.

Treasurer's Report – Michelle Smith made a motion to pay the bills for this month. The second was made by Kathleen Lawlor.

New Business – Debbie Antonucci, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of PTA officers of McMurray Elementary PTA for the 2008-2009 school year. They are:

President – open

1st Vice President – Lynn Soika

2nd Vice President – Carol Planitzer

3rd Vice President – Barb Calfo

4th Vice President – Michelle Smith

Secretary – Joanne Jaworski

Treasurer – open

Assistant Treasurer –open

Debbie called for nominations from the floor for each office. There were no nominations made from the floor. The slate will be posted in the PTA room. Debbie requested job descriptions for each position.

The PTA Bylaws have been revised by Michelle Dawson. The PTA is required to revise them every 5 years. The Bylaws were passed throughout the room and will be posted in the PTA room. We will vote on them at the next meeting. Funds from the “Green Effort” will be used to purchase two benches and landscaping in the front of the school.

1st Vice President – Gina Wells reported news from the recent Area Council meeting, where Assistant Superintendent Nina Zetty spoke on changes made to the middle school and high school curriculums. The Acting Superintendent, Dr. Di Imperio introduced himself and said that he welcomes input from the community.

We have collected approximately 2,200 Easy Cash points, which the administration and faculty will use to choose items from a catalog by April 15. We have collected \$840.00 in box tops. The Spirit Committee has been using a lottery-style system to give away prizes. The 5th grade assembly featured Greg Kinney “York”, slave of Lewis and Clark. Cartoonist Joe Wos will be here for the 6th grade on April 15.

2nd Vice President – Lois Maggs gave thanks to Cindy Chapman for planning the March 27 Teacher Appreciation. The theme was “Spring Break,” with BBQ lunch and sunscreen gifts. The next lunch will be Thursday, May 22. Debbie Antonucci and Cindy Chapman will chair. McMurray Day is May 30. A new idea for McMurray Day is to have a dunk tank and collect donations for the Relay for Life to participate.

3rd Vice President – Lynn Soika asked for volunteers to help with the 4th grade lunch this Friday, which is Career Day from 11:45am-12:20pm. Thanks to Laura Brannen for her many hours of work dedicated to the Talent Show. We will be collecting spare change from the students for the Relay for Life until May 30. We need volunteers to collect money from the classrooms at 3pm each day. Mr. Keffel will be Team Captain for McMurray’s Relay for Life Team. Lynn Soika will be co-captain. Team t-shirt decorating will be organized for May. Look for info at www.relayforlife.com. We need volunteers to make posters, a thermometer (to gauge our goal), and to collect change. The Spring Book Fair (half price books) is next week. Denise Gordon needs a few more volunteers. Scrabble needs money to purchase trophies. Linda Van Newkirk made a motion to move \$200.00 from Recess Relief to buy the trophies. Julie Ogburn made the second.

4th Vice President – Beth Buzzelli reported that Dr. Di Imperio was introduced at the School Board meeting as the acting interim Superintendent of the school district. The Community service project benefitting the Washington Arts collected 121 dance costumes. They had a recital two weeks later. We need a chairperson for the Sally Foster fundraiser next year.

Guest Speaker – Police Officer Dave Stanton spoke about Internet and Student Safety. He stated the following facts: There are no restrictions where convicted child molesters are permitted to live. Thirty-five percent of abused children have been abused by their parents. Sixty-five percent of abused children have been abused by a trusted adult. Sixty-one percent of 13-16 year olds have pages on Facebook – half of these have posted photos of themselves. Seventy-one percent of children have received messages from strangers over the internet. Officer Dave suggests that parents visit the website www.safechild.org for advice on the basic rules of how to keep their children safe today. Beth Buzzelli thanked Officer Dave and Deb Antonucci for implementing the CHIPS program at McMurray Elementary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04am.

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