

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:24am.

President's Remarks: Karen Bovalina remarked that there was a meeting of the Safety Committee on October 19 in the ESF building. The Safety Committee is comprised of school district personnel, police members and PTA representatives who are addressing safety concerns in the school district. Members of our school district have attended a seminar given by the FBI on safety and response to emergency situations in our schools and community. An emergency response plan is being reviewed at this time by Cara Zanella, Communications Coordinator. Also, a safety audit/evaluation of our school district is in progress. The next Safety Committee meeting is January 11 at 9:30am in the ESF building. November 21 will be an in-service day dedicated to training staff for emergencies. Mr. Bratetich from Bower Hill School has discovered that you can "borrow" artifacts from the Carnegie Museum for a fee of \$200.00 per year. He requests parents help to pick them up and return them. The CHIP program is a way to have a permanent digital interview of your child for identification purposes. In order to implement this free program, Chief Fruecht needs many parent volunteers.

Principal's Remarks: Dr. Freado, along with the Health and Wellness Committee will be setting goals and guidelines to encourage healthy choices for snacks and birthday treats sent to school. At the last school board meeting, Dr Freado addressed his concerns that there is very little classroom space left at McMurray, which is considered large for an elementary school. He feels we need an ad hoc committee to study this issue. As of November 2, our McMurray Neighborhoods have been named to honor persons who have demonstrated remarkable character, such as, Rachel Carson, Troy Polamalu and Roberto Clemente. Dr. Freado thanked the PTA for the Abraham Lincoln assembly. There are still issues to be worked out with grade reporting on Powerschool. They will be solved before the system goes online.

The minutes of the October 9, 2007 McMurray PTA meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Ralston made the motion and Michele Smith made the second to pay this month's bills. The budget shows a \$180.00 deficit due to a bill (extra lighting expense) from the McMurray Kick-off. Debbie Antonucci made a motion to move \$180.00 from the Fundraiser Expense to Kick-off in order to balance the budget. Michele Verner made the second.

First Vice President's Report: Suzanne Mackay attended the PTA Area Council meeting and reported on the impressive turnout for the Walk for Awareness. Officer Dave spoke at the meeting warning children about the dangers of putting personal information on Facebook on the internet. There is a high school fundraiser at Barnes and Noble at the South Hills Village this Saturday. School Directories will be distributed next week. November 29 is the next Area Council meeting. Gina Wells reported that the 4th grade will have an assembly by the Pittsburgh Aviary today featuring live penguins. November 16 is Spirit Day. Children are asked to wear their wristbands from

Red Ribbon Week. The Apples for Students flyer has been distributed. Judy Lupori is the chairperson for Holiday Mart, being held December 1 from 9am-2pm this year. She is looking for volunteers.

Guest Speaker: Teacher and Student Council sponsor, Cyndi Chipple explained the newly formed Student Council of McMurray Elementary. It will comprise two students from each classroom of each grade (one representative and one alternate). These students will meet twice a month in the mornings from 8:15-9am. They will bring concerns and ideas from the fellow students in their classrooms. Some ideas already discussed have been a Mother/son basketball game and a Father/daughter dance. Elections will be held by December 7 to elect a President to represent each grade. The first meetings will be held by mid December. The goal of the Student Council is to give students a voice and an opportunity to make changes in their school.

Second Vice President's Report: Lois Maggs reported that there was a Teacher Appreciation dinner during Conference Day. It was very popular and was suggested that we do it again next year. Thanks to Paula Grey. Two Steeler baskets were raffled off and everyone got Steeler magnets with their tailgate dinner. The next event will be in January and Lynn Corey Roberts is the chair. Cheryl Roberts checked all entries for the Reflections Contest for parent signatures and mistakes made in filling out entry forms. Judging will take place in November and winners announced in January.

Third Vice President's Report: Lynn Soika reported that \$800.00 was collected during Red Ribbon Week. The Character Counts Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. They will address preventing vandalism at the next meeting. Lunchtime Scrabble has been very popular again. Thanks to all of the volunteers.

Fourth Vice President's Report: Beth Buzzelli reported that for a Community Service project, the neighborhoods are collecting money for an angel tree. It is due by November 16. The Fundraiser is over but there are a few boxes of wrapping paper left to be picked up. PTA chairpersons are also coordinating community service ideas with the principals. One idea was to provide the troops with reading materials to be shipped by the VFW. Spirit Wear will be passed out Thursday and Friday of this week. Directories will go home this week with the youngest child in the family.

There is no meeting in December. Next meeting is January 9, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

These minutes were recorded by Diane Lioon, recording secretary, McMurray PTA.