

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2012



I. Welcome and Call to Order

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

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

III. Principal's Remarks – *Blair Stoehr*

Mr. Stoehr welcomed everyone and thanked the PTA for Spirit Day, Open House and Book Fair. Character Counts week will be celebrated throughout the district with activities centered on the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty and caring. Activities at McMurray include the creation of a Character Quilt, morning reflections on the core values and identification of McMurray Manners. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated 10/22 to 10/26. There will be themed dress up days, signing of the Red Ribbon Pledge and a door decorating contest. Mr. Marquis discussed the McMurray Relay for Life fundraising efforts. For the staff, there will be a jeans week and the Snack Attack Shack to raise funds. The students will have Awareness days when they will wear certain colors and donate spare change. The first Awareness Day is October 18.

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

The minutes approved as written.

V. Guest Speakers

- **Dr. Nina Zetty, School Superintendent-** Dr. Zetty presented an update to her budget meeting from last spring. The last 2 years the budget has been very tight. The three areas to be looked at for additional budget dollars are: how can we generate additional money, dip into savings and cutting expenses. The district has generated additional income by raising taxes to 3.79 mills (they were able to get to this number by applying for exceptions for retirement and special education). \$6,600 dollars was raised by selling advertising. The newly formed Education Foundation has awarded \$7,000 for technology and \$500 for classroom supplies. Another avenue which did not prove as successful was offering adult education classes. Athletic fees and activity fees generated \$109,126 and \$9,725 respectively. Athletic booster donations reached \$40,144. Donations from PTA and individuals were \$51,103. Finally, the district was awarded an Accountability Block Grant. The original plan was to take \$400,000 from savings but due to all the generated income this was not necessary. The district has cut expenses: supplies were reduced by 20%, early retirement was taken by 21 employees (14 were teachers), not all retiree positions were filled and the debt was restructured from 5 million to 3.5 million.

For the 2013-2014 school year, the plan is to only ask for 1.7% increase in taxes. At this point, there is no intention to ask for exceptions. State and federal funding is unknown at this time. The projected cost per student for 2012-2013 was \$11,681. 73% of budget goes to salaries and benefits, 3% to textbooks, supplies and equipment, 11% to debt service and 13% to contract services. Budget challenges for the coming year are retirement increases and healthcare costs. The district plans on continuing athletic and activity fees, generating dollars from advertising, support from the PT Education Foundation and grants and donations. If economy improves, interest income will increase. Hopefully this will lead to more new homes in Peters. The district will continue to look at employee contracts with the hopes of not having to do staff furloughs. We will continue to eliminate stuff. In an effort to reduce utility costs, an energy audit will be conducted. After the 1st of the year, plans will begin for next year's budget. Dr. Zetty said she feels we are doing better financially and that is why she feels comfortable leaving Peters at this time.

On another note she stated that we should know by the second week of December, if pyrite removal is necessary at McMurray. If this does become necessary, it will push back the start of school in the fall for the entire district.

- **Mrs. Miller, 5th Grade Teacher-** Mrs. Miller discussed the Leadership Committee which was started last January. It started as a teacher committee that worked with students in Student Council, teacher recommended students and enriched students. This year it was opened to all students in all grades. They have had a tremendous response. There are now 126 students and 10 teachers. The Leadership Committee has now been broken down into 4 subcommittees: Beautification (gardening & posters), Art (videos on 8 Habits and core values), Media (leadership webpage, newsletters) and Academic (competition for students, researching new books, writing accelerated reader tests). The program is constantly evolving. The meetings for the remainder of the year are October 16, November 14 and December 11. Meetings are held before school at 8:15. On November 1, Mrs. Miller will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to receive a Promising Practice Award.

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

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

- **Halloween Party**– Thank you to the Grade Coordinators. Parties are all planned.
- **Pictures** – Pictures should be here this week. Retakes are scheduled for 10/23.
- **Assemblies** – The first assembly is scheduled for 11/9.
- **Membership**-We currently have 771 members.

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

- **Easy Cash** – Drawing will take place at the end of the month. Please send in Box Tops.
- **Spirit Wear** – Spirit wear will arrive in 2 weeks.
- **Open House** – Thank you for cookie donations. Thank you to Trax Farm for donating apples.
- **After School Classes** – Classes are underway and going well. January will be the next sign up.

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

- **Area Council** – The next meeting is 10/25. They are starting a bowling league. See the Bulletin if you are interested.
- **Spirit Committee** – Spirit Day is lots of fun for students. Mr. Marquis showed a video for the first one. Pride towels were given away.
- **Character Counts/Red Ribbon Week** – Will be 4 days celebrating the Core Values. Be sure to check out the Character Quilt. Red Ribbon Week will be 10/22-10/26.
- **Book Fair** – The Book Fair was fabulous. Thank you to all who helped.
- **Brunch/Dessert with the Principal** – Donations needed.

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

- **Teacher Appreciation** – The first event will be November 8. This will take place on conference day. The theme is “Spuds and Rubs.” There will be a baked potato bar for teachers and back rubs.
- **Reflections** – This is a PTA sponsored creative contest. October 24th is the deadline for all entries.

XI. Old Business

There was no old business.

XII. New Business

- The PV Pie Drive through the Market Day program is going on now. Pies cost \$12 and are donated to Meals on Wheels.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.