

McMurray Elementary PTA Minutes – October 9, 2007

Welcome: President Karen Bovalina called the meeting to order at 9:25am.

Principal's Remarks: Dr. Freado introduced sixth grade students Derrick Stewart, Gina Vilsack, Ava Shahdadian and Brenna Sweeney. The students explained the morning "jobs" they have performed in school. Some of them are morning greeters, morning announcers, office helpers and math facts tutors. These jobs give the children the opportunity to assume a leadership position. Each 6th grader will have a chance to participate. Dr Freado mentioned the Walk for Awareness on October 14th. Please come and bring the family. SADD members from the high school will have a message to share and the marching band will lead the walk. Also, on October 16 from 7-8:30pm in the McMurray LGI, Darrius Carlins and Dr. Huffman (father of a chemically dependent son) will lead a panel discussion on alcohol abuse.

Guest Speaker: District Fire Chief, Noel McMullen, better known as "Fireman Mac" spoke about fire safety in the schools. He speaks to the children in the primary grades. The Kindergarten students come to the fire station. Grades 1-3 come to visit the fire house and learn how to escape a burning structure. Grades 4-6 are taught how to be responsible and prevent fires. The fire station offers free home inspections, free car seat safety inspections and free fire extinguishers to all residents. Their number is 724-941-4176.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting were approved. No corrections or additions were made.

Treasurer's Report: Sarah Lindsay distributed the report. Sue Clark made a motion to pay this month's bills. Debbie Antonucci seconded the motion and it carried. Danielle Ward resigned as McMurray PTA Treasurer. The executive board appointed Sarah Lindsay as Treasurer and Theresa Rhen as Assistant Treasurer.

Committee Reports:

1st Vice President: Gina Wells spoke about the President Lincoln impersonator who will be visiting the school at the end of October to give assemblies, workshops, and be interviewed during the morning announcements. Picture re-take day is Nov. 5. Spirit Day is October 26 during the lunch periods. Easy cash and Apples for Students programs get started October 31. Flyers will be sent home with students. The Giant Eagle registration number for McMurray Elementary is 0836 and can be done online. Area Council PTA's next meeting is October 18 at the ESF building.

2nd Vice President: Lois Maggs talked about Teacher Appreciation, which will be held November 8 on Parent-Teacher Conference day. It will be a dinner with a Steeler Tailgate theme. Paula Gray is the coordinator. Please call her to volunteer. The Newsletter deadline is November 13 for the November/December issue. Thanks to Simmons Farm for donating apples for the Open Houses. To enter the Reflections

contest go to the PTSD website to download the entry form. Entries are due by October 31. Rose Tennent and Cheryl Roberts are the chairpersons.

3rd Vice President: Lynn Soika thanked Denise Gordon and Maureen Brugger for running the Book Fair this year. Next week is Red Ribbon Week, with fun activities for the students. Monday, students are asked to bring in a canned good for the food bank. Tuesday they are asked to bring in spare change for Character Counts. A letter will be distributed on Friday with the schedule of daily events. Sunday at 2pm is the Walk for Awareness. November 11, 2007 is the Character Counts Awards here in the LGI at McMurray. Thanks to Joanne Malstrom for maintaining the bulletin boards at the school lobby with the student's birthdays. Lunchtime Scrabble will begin October 18 on the stage in the gym. Sixth grade Brunch with the Principal is this Friday.

4th Vice President: Beth Buzelli announced that the Community Service chairperson is Karen Cashman. She will collect music books and dance costumes from students for recycling. The fundraiser sold \$28,000 in wrapping paper and made a profit of \$14,000. Help is needed on October 23 to distribute the orders. Many thanks to Barb When for organizing this event. Another thanks to Michelle Verner for running the hospitality for the PTA meetings. The deadline for the yearbook order form is November 9. Please see Linda Van Newkirk for the form. Spirit wear orders will arrive in November and be distributed to the children in their classrooms. Thanks to Linda Van Newkirk for the photos and information she had placed in the Almanac this month.

Old Business: A volunteer to maintain the fish tank in the school office is still needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 41am.

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