

McMurray Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.

President's Remark - Lisa Briegel introduced the members of the board. Lisa opened the floor for nominations for the position of Secretary. No other nomination except for Cathy Vargo. Cathy was voted in a secretary. A sheet was passed around for open committee chair positions.

Principal's Remark – Dr. Freado welcomed the parents and introduced Amelia Yates the Art teacher to explain Day of Service and Remembrance which will be held Friday, September 11, 2009. She is working with the 6th graders making placemats and bowls. There will also be a collection of non-perishable items for the Food Bank.

Guest Speakers – Dr. Freado introduced Dr. Zhuang of the CDC. Dr. Zhuang gave an overview of the H1N1 flu. He explained the 3 ways the flu is transmitted-contact with contaminated surface then touching eyes, nose and mouth, coughing and airborne. He encouraged parents to keep their sick kids at home, wash hands often and cover mouths with tissues. The flu shot will not be available until mid-October at which time the CDC is expect the next wave of the flu. He encouraged the school nurse to wear a mask when attending to a sick child with a fever and for the school to screen for children with fevers. Dr. Freado informed the PTA that the school has purchased 3 automatic dispensers which are for hand sanitizing. He had a discussion with staff and janitorial staff to take precautions-there will be one organized hand washing, desk cleanings and attendance will be monitored.

Mrs. Schinosi, a 4th grade teacher as well as the facilitator, welcomed the parents and went over the permission slips for chorus and instruments. She explained why the students will not have to make up the work they miss when they are pulled out for chorus however they will need to make up the work when they leave class for instruments. She explained that the specials are on a rotation. The teachers are being flexible with homework until September 14th at which time incomplete homework will have to be finished during recess. They are not allowing birthday treats instead she offered an alternative such as donating a game to your child's classroom. She informed about the curriculum change for Language Arts all grades and that 4th grade will have Spanish twice a week and student will also have Science and Social Studies at the same time. Absent work-affects all grades-parents need to email their child's homeroom teacher by 12:00pm and the work will be in the office for pickup between 3:30 – 4:00pm that day. The work will no longer be sent home with a friend; however the parent can have a friend pick up the work in the office at the end of the day.

Minutes were approved as submitted

Treasurer's Report – Nan Campbell presented the Audit report. She took questions regarding the 2009 -2010 Budget and made a motion to approve. Deb Castellone made the motion and Lisa Anderson second. Nan also asked for a motion to pay the bills, and Maura Kelly made the motion and Deb Antonucci second.

First Vice President's Report – Carol Planitzer stated that the newsletter is bimonthly and the weekly bulletins would be emailed every Thursday. She encouraged everyone to sign up to receive them via email. Most of the PTA order forms are available thru the links on the McMurray website except for Spiritwear. Gina Wells stated the school pictures would be taken Monday, September 14th. She is still in need of 4 volunteers to escort students in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. Carol Planitzer informed everyone that Spiritwear order forms are due September 23rd and the sample wears were for sale in the back. Volunteer Coordinator forms were due last Friday, September 4th however they would be accepted today. Due to the lack of homeroom parent volunteers for 6th grade there will be repeat homeroom moms. There is still a need for 3-6th grade, 1-5th grade, and 2-4th grade homeroom moms.

Second Vice President's Report – Barb Calfo stated that the first Area Council meetings will be held at 9:15am on September 24th. Dr. Zetty and the Administration will be attending. She urged everyone to attend these meeting. The Administration and school principals alternate. Minna Allison is committee chair for Assemblies. She is scheduling PTA funded assemblies that are educational and entertaining. She also discussed the fall fundraiser which is Sally Foster and the cookie dough sale. Order forms are due September 28th. The goal for the fundraiser is \$20,000. The PTA receives 40% of the cookie dough and 50% of Sally Foster proceeds. She reminded people that the students are discouraged from going door to door. Volunteers are still needed for Open House which is October 1st for 4/5A and October 8th 5B/6 6:30 – 8:30pm. The Yearbook staff is in need of volunteers. Yearbook order forms can be found on line and are \$18. After December 1st the price will be \$21 and no extra books will be ordered. Barb thanked Sue Ralston, Deb Smith and Jodi Hannah and the 6th grade ambassadors for their help in making the program a success in welcoming the new families in the Township and students to McMurray Elementary.

Third Vice President's Report – Andrea Michalski went over registration dates for: Creative Experience, Dance and Enrichment classes. She went over Easy Cash: Box tops, Campbell Soup Labels Abitibi, Giant Eagle-Apples for kids and Target and Office Depot. The money from the Easy Cash helped purchased 3 traffic markers and 1 megaphone. McMurray Kickoff will be held September 10th and are still in need of volunteers and cookies. There is not an alternative date if it rains.

Fourth Vice President's Report – Margaret Rauscher went over the dates for Brunch with the Principal: 4th grade is October 16th, 5th grade is October 23rd, and 6th grade is October 29th. She announced that the hospitality committee is in need of a chairperson. Jodi Hannah and Deb Smith will chair the Library volunteers. Jodi Hannah said that there were some changes in the way the volunteer would be scheduled. Because Mrs. Owens has a library aide, they will only need afternoon volunteers on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday but they will need volunteers all day Tuesday and Friday. They are looking for volunteers that would be available twice a month. Julie Ogburn, who is the chair for Spirit Committee, announced that students should wear red and white the last Friday of every month.

Old Business – There was no old business to discuss.

New Business – Geeta Welden reminded everyone that Red Ribbon Week will be the last week in October. Debbie Castellone asked Dr. Freado for an update on President Obama's address to the schools. He stated that it would not be shown live; however they were evaluating the content and if it was decided to show the speech parents would be notified in advance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

These minutes were recorded by Cathy Vargo, Recording Secretary, McMurray PTA.