

## McKinley CJA PTO Meeting Minutes

OCT 2024

- **Welcome – 6:30pm**

- PTO members present: Eleanor White, Krista Bohler, Amelia Garcia, Elizabeth Allen, Aryn Rehbein, Jessica Schunke
- Admin present: Dr Polkinghorne
- Total present: ~20

- **Admin Updates**

- Update from McKinley admin – Dr Polkinghorne
  - Conferences
    - This semester, the teachers used the systems that they already had in place; next semester there will be consistency in the system used for booking time slots
  - Cafeteria Food
    - PAC visited and provided feedback
    - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade combined lunch is very large, compared to 6<sup>th</sup> grade – discussions on how to reduce 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are ongoing, including having some 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders eat with 6<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Supply issue was resolved, students may not get their 1<sup>st</sup> choice but there will be hot lunch available for all. Looking into ways to get precounts for specific meals, etc to try to allow students to get what they want
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher
    - Candidate is in the final stage of being processed; waiting for final background check to come through (state requirement). Dr Polkinghorne will be following up.
  - Shadow days for prospective 9<sup>th</sup> graders / open house nights
    - Shadow days are going, Dr Polkinghorne will communicate to parents
    - McKinley is hosting an Open House for parents of current 8<sup>th</sup> graders on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (on the school calendar) for parents interested in McKinley HS for Fall of 2025
    - Tours will be October 17<sup>th</sup>
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade application essays
    - Understanding that essays will be worked on in Ms Rao's class
    - Dr Polkinghorne will follow-up to ensure that is correct
  - Minga
    - App used for student requests for Hall Passes / Bathroom visits, etc
    - In-House system – using to track frequent requests to leave class, tracking total out of the classroom, etc
    - Consequences – same as normal if you are out of class for extended period within reason
    - Special circumstances – can be addressed with teachers/admin as they come up
  - Picture retake day
    - Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
    - Comment that there has been a repeated issue with picture day conflicting with religious holidays
  - Transportation
    - No update other than a new Transportation Director is reviewing routes
    - A few shifts in cabs have occurred recently
    - If you need a carpool, try posting on the McKinley FB pages as other families may live in your area
  - Bookfair
    - Ongoing – students visit in their ELA classes, lunch, etc and during parent/teacher conferences
  - NJHS
    - Next meeting is Thursday, 10/17 @ 7am
  - Admin Attendance to Saturday MS sports – admin is looking to address this
  - Upcoming Events from Admin:

- October 24-25<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the History Museum
    - Mr Baker – 8<sup>th</sup> grade rep
      - Request for volunteers to help chaperone and on buses (not needed, but inviting parents to come)
      - Times: ~9:30-1:30pm
    - Need to be approved volunteer to chaperone
  - October 25<sup>th</sup> – HS Homecoming @ McKinley gym
    - PTO is providing some support
    - A spirit week leading up to Homecoming will be announced
    - \$15 per ticket, cash only – students can purchase tickets during lunch
  - October 28<sup>th</sup> – opera event for selected students
  - November 20, 21, 22 – Freaky Friday Musical
- **Discussion**
  - Parliamentarian recommends adding language for a minimum quorum to the bylaws
    - Currently the bylaws state: "Members present constitute a quorum. A majority vote of one-half (1/2) plus one (1), of those in attendance at the previously announced monthly MCLA Middle and High School PTO meetings, shall be necessary for the passing of any motion."
    - With the current wording it could be as low as 3 members. Example addition: "with a minimum of 9 members present"
    - Need to have an odd number to avoid a tie
    - Please review and we will vote on this update at the November meeting
  - Observation that parents don't know there is a PTO or how to donate to the fundraiser
    - PTO will ask admin to email a flyer about the PTO to the High School Families
- **Budget/Treasurer's Report**
  - Update from Treasurer and Budget info
    - Donations – up to \$7,490 out of \$25 fundraising goal
      - Budget will be shared via platforms
    - Teachers can request funds/grants via the Google Doc
      - The doc was shared with teachers/staff by Eleanor
- **Important Dates**
  - Review of previous events
    - Teen Town - ~225-250 kids attended
    - Thank you parent volunteers!
    - Spring Teen Town will be held in March
  - Grade specific meet-ups
    - Class reps can plan outside of school activities for each grade level
    - Example: ice-skating at Steinberg
      - Eleanor will look into holding this event again
  - Upcoming events/Important Dates
    - Week of October 14<sup>th</sup> – P/T conferences
    - October 17<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Dinner provided by PTO
      - Sign-up Genius sent on FB
    - October 18<sup>th</sup> – No School
    - October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fundraiser at the Golden Hoosier
      - Please tell your server that you are with McKinley!
    - October 25<sup>th</sup> - High School Homecoming
    - November 5<sup>th</sup> – No School (Election Day)
    - November 11<sup>th</sup> – No School (Veteran's Day)
    - November 11<sup>th</sup> – November PTO meeting
      - Possibly at Barr Branch Library – Eleanor will look into it

- **Volunteer Opportunities**

- PTO Board for 2024-25 school year
  - Vice President
  - Beautification
  - DEI Chair
    - (Previous chair transferred schools)
- Teacher Appreciation donations
  - First Friday Breakfast/Lunch
  - Snacks for Teachers Lounge
  - Teacher Appreciation week
- Chaperones for field trips and school events:
  - Become an Approved Volunteer!
  - The process is now online: [Nimble \(hirenimble.com\)](https://www.nimble.com)
  - Check volunteer status by emailing program director: [Romel.Jackson@slps.org](mailto:Romel.Jackson@slps.org)

- **Important Dates and upcoming information**

- McKinley Calendar: <https://www.slps.org/Page/10294#calendar152972/20231009/month>
- District Calendar: [SLPS 2024-25 Student and Family Calendar English.pdf](#)

- **Communication**

- Sign up for Membership Toolkit
  - Membership Toolkit is the site the PTO uses for our school directory
  - [McKinley CJA PTO - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](https://www.membershiptoolkit.com)
- Join HS or MS Facebook pages, or grade specific pages
  - MS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/214650668582110/>
  - HS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MCLAHSParents/>

- **7:21pm - Meeting Adjourned**