

McKinley Middle School PTO

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2015

PTO board and attendee introductions

Principal's Report

October 13, 6:30-7:30pm in the Auditorium

There will be a presentation by Principal Warmack regarding McKinley High School. There will be a 15 min presentation by the principal, Q&A with McKinley students who stayed for high school, and a Q&A with the principal. Jazz Band will perform.

Teen Town will be October 30, 7-9 pm.

Saturday, Nov 7 is the tentative date for the high school Homecoming dance.

Parents have asked if the high school curriculum could be posted on the website so potential students can look at it online. Tracy Bednarick has already put the curriculum brochure on the website.

Principal Warmack will come in 7-9:30am on Friday, October 16 to pass out report cards for kids that didn't get them at Thursday teacher conferences. Teacher conferences need to be made by calling in to the office.

Teen Town

Mr. Gutzler is in charge of Teen Town for the middle school. He needs a parent volunteer to be the main point person to direct volunteers and act as a liaison with Mr. Gutzler. The parent would organize volunteers who will help decorate, set up, work during the event, and help clean up. Clean up usually finishes before 9:30 pm. Dates for Teen Town in the 2015-2016 school year are October 30, February 12 and April 15. It's useful for one parent to be the liaison for the full year. Ticket price is about \$2-3 in advance and \$3-4 at the door; price includes a drink and snack.

The PTO will get back to Mr. Gutzler with a parent volunteer.

Treasurer's report

No money has changed hands since last month so there is nothing new to report. The budget has not been prepared since the PTO has not decided what to funds.

Fundraising

Typical PTO fundraiser has been to ask for donations. Donations can be tax deductible and people can use matching funds from their employer if available. A percentage goes to the grade; some goes to general PTO funds. Some goes for 8th grade activities.

Suggestions for items the PTO could support:

- Bus fund (\$364 per bus). Two busses would be needed for each grade. Approximately \$2200 would get every grade one additional field trip.

- National Honor Society induction ceremony (including medals). Cost: approximately \$100
- Teacher wish lists: projectors \$300, document cameras \$150
- Yearbook: these are cheaper if we provide them for everyone and easier to administrate. Cost: \$8.50 per student (approximately 355 students – approximately \$3020 total)
- Telepresence robot – holds an iPad and could be controlled remotely and sit in on a class for a student who is ill. Cost: approximately \$750
- Science Olympiad: the school is funding now; but they could use donations.
- MEGSSS is taken care of for this year by the school.
- Honor Fund: for Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, academic or attendance recognition. These might be used for gift cards or similar token of recognition. The school would administer the fund and use at their discretion. The PTO could give the school a prioritized list. The principal could report at PTO meetings what the school spent each month.
- Soccer nets (\$50/each) \$100. (Soccer parents could fund this separately).

Discussion:

Some parents thought that the yearbook cost seems like a lot of money. Tracy Bednarick, McKinley Instructional Coordinator, said middle school children really appreciate the yearbook, and it would be much better if they all had it rather than just a few.

Funds raised by the PTO would be for PTO-funded items and activities. For instance, grade level events are paid for by the PTO.

Parents suggested that if we explain specifically what we are trying to do with the donations, it might be easier. The letter should state what various donation levels would cover. We could mention the fact that the education is free, and donations help provide an enriched educational experience.

Parents suggested a friendly competition such as percentage participation by grade.

There could also be a “Penny Competition” in which the children take part in the fund drive.

Some parents said that parties with an academic theme have a low priority. Jen Myerscough mentioned that these are a low cost item.

Last year 90% of grade donations went to the grade level. The 8th graders need about \$4500, which accumulates from year to year. If we are changing fundraising goals and techniques, we may need to define a different percentage that goes to the grade. The PTO board will look at the budget and recommend a system.

Pat Matthews noted that most of the PTO work over the last few months has been focused on big changes with the district and the school. The fundraising effort will come together in the next month.

Several parents expressed an interest in fundraising opportunities such as Amazon Smile, Shoparoo, Schnucks and Target. Currently the Schnucks program for McKinley goes to the principal's account not the PTO account. Jen Myerscough stated that those programs are difficult to maintain and track. The PTO would need research on those types of programs to get them started. It would be best if one parent handled these programs. Interested parents may talk to the board.

Buzz Book

Claralyn Bollinger provided a link to a Google form to fill out Buzz Book information. The PTO will discuss how to distribute the link appropriately.

Adjourn