

McKinley Middle School PTO Board

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2016

General Meeting

Call to order

Principal's Report

McKinley will offer dual enrollment with St. Louis Community College next year. 13 juniors will be enrolled next year. Students take the COMPASS test to get into the program. Students who have taken ACT may not need to take the COMPASS test. 20 students district-wide are allowed in the program. After two years, students graduate with their High School diploma and an Associate's Degree. Metro and Collegiate turned down the program.

McKinley Alumni Association and the American Legion post in Soulard is giving the school an American flag, a 30-foot flagpole, and a light for the pole. There will be a dedication ceremony with the whole school. Students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and the band will play. The administration is inviting the mayor's office and news media. Date for the ceremony has not been set, but it will be sometime toward the end of April or beginning of May.

Class scheduling for 2016-2017 school year: not a lot of change next year. There should be a second year of coding to be offered in high school. Coding will be opened to grades other than seniors. A business course will also be offered as a career pathway.

Dance will be offered, but likely only in the middle school. The school hasn't been able to sustain a full-time staff member.

Discussion regarding LaunchCode CS50x: The program can take up to 100 students. It is a compact, intense computer programming course. It could be an option for high school students who decide not to go to college or for students taking a year off. It would be very difficult to do while in high school. An internship is expected.

Teacher Appreciation

Week of May 2-6 is Teacher Appreciation Week. May 6 is also the first Friday of the month breakfast. There are 45 teachers (54 staff total). During Teacher Appreciation week, the High School PTO usually takes a couple days and Middle School PTO takes a couple days to fill mailboxes with treats, notes, etc.

Suggestions: Kudos bars, "Nuts about you." Send other ideas to Pat Matthews.

Communications

Dave Lloyd has been using the trial period for myschoolanywhere.com to bring in info from thebuzzbook. It is approximately 70% complete. Cost is about \$400 per year.

Nominations for PTO positions in the 2016-2017 school year

Elections for PTO positions will be held at the May 9, 2016 meeting. Nominations are as follows:

Pat Matthews- Co-chair

Jen Myerscough – Co-chair

Nicole Blummer – Treasurer

Communications – Dave Lloyd

Julia Oberheu Tritschler – Secretary

First Month Breakfast – Elizabeth Stephens

Nominations are needed for the following:

Parliamentarian

Grade Level Representatives

Sunshine Chair

Enrichment/Field trips

Grants

Fundraising Chair (Lisa Granich-Kovarik was mentioned as a possibility)

Treasurer's Report

The PO box has been closed. A locked box in the school office will be used for PTO communications.

Approximately \$15,000 was raised

Other business

The deadline for yearbook ads is April 29. There is no charge for design if needed. Artwork is due May 5. Prices range from \$25 for an eighth page ad to \$200 for a full page ad. Contact Diann Cage at dc@dianncage.com or (314) 503-4001.

6th grade representatives are publicizing their event in Tower Grove Park.

Lisa and Frank Kovarik, Lisa Dorner, a middle school teacher, and Dave Lloyd have been talking with Ms. Taylor and Ms. Bednarick regarding gifted education and School for Excellence.

Character education in Advisory: Advisory could be a portion of Academic Lab next year.

Incoming middle school parents have specific concerns about what the middle school day looks like. It would be helpful if Ms. Taylor, Ms. Bednarick or a parent could be at events for incoming families.

On April 30 from 9am-12pm there is a Kennard & Mallinkrodt play date at Tower Grove Park Farmer's Market. There is a need to communicate to incoming students. Dale Greenbury (Kennard PTO) and a Mallinkrodt PTO person should be contacted.

Adjourn