

McKinley Middle School PTO Board

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2016

General Meeting

Call to order

Principal's Report

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. Mr. Warmack is asking social studies teachers to teach a unit on the American flag in preparation for the ceremony.

MAP testing for the middle school is coming up. Senior prom is April 29. High school graduation is May 13 at Central High School. Middle school graduation is May 20.

Last day of school is Thursday, May 26.

First day of school next year will be August 17.

Treasurer's Report

No income or expenditures this month.

PO box renewal is coming up. It was decided that the PO box will not be renewed. The PTO will request a locked box in the office instead.

Grade Level reports

6th grade

End of year event: pavilion in Tower Grove Park has been reserved for May 7.

7th grade

End of year event: pavilion in Tower Grove Park has been reserved for April 23.

Grade representatives to talk with Livia Konkel regarding graduation planning. Middle school graduation is May 20. 8th grade pays for refreshments. 7th grade parents set up, clean up and work the event.

Mrs. Simpson has info on the decorations.

Committee reports

Sunshine committee

Ms. Byrne recently had a baby.

Other Business

MEGSSS

MEGSSS provides advanced math for middle school students. Program implementation has not gone smoothly at McKinley. For instance, this year Academic Lab was shared with MEGSSS. Students didn't always show up to MEGSSS or do their work. McKinley math teachers don't necessarily support MEGSSS.

The program would not be funded by the school next year. The PTO would need to get donations (or a grant) to continue the program. Cost is \$3200 for 12-16 students/grade in the 6th and 7th grades.

Next year Academic Lab will be replaced with study hall so MEGSSS would not be able to have two quarters. MEGSSS courses are online for free, so there was a question about whether there would be a way to get an instructor to teach the online curriculum.

There was a suggestion that MEGSSS could be offered after school (since activity busses are available every day). Another suggestion was that it could be swapped with a study hall.

Pat Matthews will investigate some options to implement MEGSSS at McKinley next year and report back.

Buzzbook and PTO communications

PTO communication has been lacking this year. There is difficulty collecting names and email addresses and compiling them into a usable list.

Myschoolanywhere is a \$400 online solution for buzzbook, volunteer registration, and fundraising. There is a payment system, a "Constant Contact" type communication vehicle, and volunteer registration. Extra fees are associated with online payment. There was interest in trying out the service.

A parent suggested that the PTO include a flyer with the school mailer that goes out in August. Info about the online contact system could be included on the flyer.

Board nominations and elections

Pat Matthews could continue as co-chair, but would welcome nominations. Duties include
communicating with the principal
advising what should gifted education should look like

Jen Myerscough could continue on the PTO board, but not as treasurer.

Time commitment is the most for the chair and the treasurer: approximately 8 hours per month for the chair; approximately 2-3 hours per month for the treasurer.

It would be good to have a mix of parents from different schools and with different ethnicities.

Other parent involvement opportunities

Ms. Taylor is preparing a report for DESE: "Excellent School Plan." Parental input is desired. Interested parents can contact Pat Matthews.

PTO Mission

PTO duties from the charter:

- Provide an enriched environment for students
- Support school staff
- Seek to improve communications between staff, students, and parents

PTO should come up with a case statement for why to join the PTO in order to boost parent involvement next year.

The principal wants input from parents. Parent input helped create the new parent/teacher conference system. Parents have the opportunity to be heard regarding curriculum changes. For instance, Academic Lab was intended for differentiation. Next year the administration plans to have a study hall instead.

Field trips are a form of enrichment. PTO could we fund more. It would be useful to have a PTO committee to study potential field trips.

Parents' requests for the principal

1. Require teachers to communicate electronically and with the same system.
2. Presentation on the Springboard math curriculum. How does it fit into a long term math curriculum (high school, college)?

Adjourn