

McCornack Elementary PTO Meeting

January 12, 2009

In attendance: Esther Barton, Kallin Benson, Richelle Brigola, Debi Cornell, Judy Davies, Laurie Freeman, Kimberly Green, Misty Hill, Vicki Hood, Tasha Katsuda, Debby Laimon, Regina Ligon, John McNamee, Laurie Nichols, Holly Powell, Theresa Rath

Holly opened the meeting with introductions of board members and new attendees.

TAG (Talented & Gifted)

Kimberly Green gave a presentation on McCornack's TAG program.

There are two ways that a child can qualify as a TAG student: intellectual & academic. TAG students tend to think outside of the box and are often gifted in the area of reading and/or math.

Students are referred for testing based on parent & teacher referrals. In addition, staff reviews students' district and state assessments to see if students should be further tested. Currently McCornack has identified approximately 50 students as TAG. About 25-30 of these students are already deemed TAG eligible. The others are being further tested.

Kimberly reviewed the process for identifying students as TAG which is outlined on the McCornack Elementary website. To look at this process you can go to:

<http://schools.4j.lane.edu/mccornack/>

click on STAFF

go to KINDERGARTEN AND click on Kimberly Green Web Page

click on TAG

Intellectual Ability:

A blanket NNAT test is given to all 2nd grade students in the 4J school district. The NNAT is a non-verbal assessment which tests students' ability to predict patterns and spatial reasoning. The test is also given at other grade levels with parent and/or staff referral.

Grades K-2 are not automatically TAG eligible from the NNAT test. A test score of 8 or 9 is evidence that they should meet with a district psychologist to determine eligibility.

Grades 3-5 are automatically TAG eligible if they score an 8 or 9 on the NNAT test. No further testing is required in this case.

Academic Ability:

Students are TAG eligible if they score 97% on district or state assessments. This academic score is specific to a subject (math or reading). Staff looks at test scores along with classroom work in determining academic eligibility.

**If a student is deemed TAG Eligible they will have a TAG plan each year. This plan is updated each year, usually at parent/teacher conferences.

Principal Update

Tasha relayed information about the school budget for next year. At the district level there is a massive economic shortfall. Current projections indicate that the 4J district will have a \$3.5 to \$11 million shortfall in the 2009-10 school year. There is no plan to make changes until the district has more information.

Some possibilities include: closing schools, cutting programs, no new hires, and layoffs

Currently the district has asked that McCornack give back 2% from monies budgeted for the current school year. This is roughly \$1,000 and has already been given back. It is possible that more will be asked, but no decisions have been made at this time.

4J Math Adoption Process

The district is already in the process of adopting a new math curriculum. Total cost to adopt this program is projected at \$1.5 to 2.5 million.

Playground Structure

Tasha announced that Costco will be donating a playground structure, geared toward younger students, in the spring.

Assemblies

The winter music assembly has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 15th at 1:30 pm

The Human Dignity Creed rededication has been scheduled for Friday, January 16th at 9:00 am

Writers Workshop Program

Writing has become a building focus for McCornack. The school has purchased and will be adopting the writing program that had previously been approved to be funded by the PTO. This is the program that Judy Davies presented at the November 3rd Ways & Means Meeting.

State Assessments (3rd to 5th Grade)

The First round of state testing is scheduled to take place next week. Students will have the opportunity to repeat and improve their test scores in a second round one month later and a third round two months later. Students who are close to meeting and/or exceeding will have the opportunity to improve their scores.

Holiday Bazaar

The holiday bazaar was an easy fundraiser for the PTO. Holly reported that the bazaar was not as busy as we had hoped. It was decided not to advertise in the Register Guard this year. Holly stated that this is something that should be done in the future. Net profit from the bazaar totaled \$1,500.

Meet the Masters

Next round is scheduled for the middle of February.

Albertsons Card

As of February 8th, all Albertson's Card holders need to re-register their cards in order for their schools to be credited for purchases. McCornack currently earns \$80-\$90 per quarter.

Applebees Pancake Breakfast

Applebees will be hosting an all you can eat pancake/fruit and drink fund raiser on January 24th from 8:00-11:00 am. Tickets are \$5/each. McCornack gets \$3 from each ticket sold. Tickets will be available at the McCornack office this week and will be available at the door.

Rivalz Bar & Grill

This December fund raiser earned \$160 (30% of total sales). Rivalz has offered to let McCornack hold additional fund raising events: one Thursday each month.

By-Laws

It was noted that a committee needs to be formed to review the PTO by-laws. By-laws need to be reviewed every two years.

Carnival Committee Meeting

Meeting is scheduled for February 2nd at 6:00 pm before the PTO meeting.

Holly noted that Action Rental has gone out of business. This is the rental company that we have used in the past for the snow cone machine and cotton candy.