

McCornack Elementary PTO Meeting

May 4, 2009

In attendance: Esther Barton, Danielle Benson, Kallin Benson, Debi Cornell, Jean Darmadi, Judy Davies, Paul Elstone, Laurie Freeman, Kimberly Green, Misty Hill, Tasha Katsuda, Mary Kuhl, Debby Laimon, Regina Ligon, Laurie Nichols, Holly Powell, Theresa Rath

Spring Fling & Art Walk Extravagaza

This event was an overall success. Auction of classroom projects (benches/shelves) brought in a profit of approximately \$1,500. There are still four classroom projects to be completed and these will be auctioned at the silent auction during the carnival.

It was suggested that we collect art work earlier next year. This will allow more time for mounting and hanging the art. In addition, PTO hopes to provide more variety next year.

Chapala DC or Bust Dinner

181 people bought tickets for the Chapala Dinner.

Profit from this DC fundraiser worked out to about \$20 per shift worked.

Project Based Learning (PBL)

Room 18 sold all of their beeswax candles. Mr. Olson's CD's sold well and his class had approximately \$100 in donations that evening.

Carnival (5:30-8:30) June 5th

The first carnival flyer has gone home with students. Several new games are planned for this year.

PTO purchased a new 12' x 12' easy-up tent to be used at the carnival and other PTO events.

5:30 Food Starts

6:00 Games Begin

8:30 Carnival Ends

Giant Slide

- Laurie Nichols moved that we fund the rental of the giant slide for the end of school year at \$250
- Danielle Benson 2nd the motion
- Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Jaffarian Retirement

Edward Jaffarian is retiring at the end of this school year. PTO would like to provide some kind of tribute to him.

PTO will host a unicycle show with current and past year's students riding unicycles in the school parking lot on field day. Riders will ride in formation with a banner as part of this tribute.

Paul Elstone stated that he could provide the names of some past riders.

Playground Equipment

The delivery date for playground equipment has been set for May 16th with set-up between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The district is bringing equipment, supplies and three employees. They would like McCornack to provide a minimum of 10 volunteers to assist with set-up.

ACE (A Champion in Education) Awards

McCornack has two staff members who have been chosen as finalists for ACE awards: Regina Ligon & Judy Davies. This award is given by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce.

Foreign Language Elementary Schools (FLES) Grant – Chinese

Mark Olson, Mary Kuhl, Tasha Katsuda & Regina Ligon all traveled to Chicago last week to a National Chinese Language conference.

Regina gave a presentation about how Mandarin fits into a “World Mindedness” approach to teaching. Several points to note include:

- Mandarin is the top spoken language in the world, followed by Hindi, Spanish and English respectively
- English used to be the number 1 second language of foreign students; now Chinese is rapidly becoming the number 1 second language of foreign students
- Studies show that schools that teach a foreign language do better on the English portion of academic achievement tests than do those that only teach English
- Currently 1 out of 5 jobs are being exported to India & China
- Utah’s public schools and Chicago’s public schools are teaching Mandarin
- McCornack is the only school in Eugene currently looking at this grant. Competition for this grant is by state.
- There is one school in Portland which is our competitor for this grant

McCornack must have 75% of teachers support before they will go ahead with this grant. Staff will be voting on this next week.

Kennedy Middle School & Churchill High School support this grant, and if funded will provide ongoing Chinese language programs.

There is no guarantee that McCornack will receive a grant, but if a grant is awarded, we can still turn down the funds. The grant that McCornack is looking at is for \$200,000/year for three years. The money would be used to cover program costs, including a full time bilingual staff member to coordinate/teach Mandarin.

If the grant is awarded, McCornack staff would immediately start writing to obtain a grant for future years. Regina listed several sources for possible future grants.

Below is the tentative schedule if a FLES grant is awarded to McCornack:

Fall 2009	Planning
Winter 2010	Pilot: Grades K-2
Spring 2010	Evaluate Program
Fall 2010	Grades K-3
Winter 2011	Grades K-4
Spring 2011	Evaluate Program
Fall 2011	Grades K-5

PTO Board Elections

Misty Hill	Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Debby Liamon	Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Holly Powell	Ways & Means Coordinator
Danielle Benson	President
Laurie Freeman	Secretary

- Regina Ligon motioned to vote in all members as a slate
- Debi Cornell 2nd the motion
- Vote: Unanimous