

McCornack Elementary

PTO Minutes

October 1, 2007

In attendance: Richelle Brigola, Laurie Freeman, Sara Raffensperger, Bonnie Oberlander, Vicki Hood, Paula McDonald, Danielle Benson, Kallin Benson, Nancy Hill, Judy Davies, Esther Barton, Regina Ligon, Michele Coutts, Debi Cornell, Holly Powell, Hilary Galloway, Ted Corbin, Sally Dierenfeld, Holly Richardson, Laurie Nichols, Karen Olsen.

Volunteer Training: Paula let everyone know about the volunteer training on Thursday, October 4 from 8:30am to 9:30am. The purpose of the training is to instruct volunteers how to use the new copy machine and what procedures to follow in the event a student becomes ill or requires discipline. There will be a school tour following the training for those interested.

Copy Machine: Debi will train volunteers on the new copier. She also pointed out that the PTO should be using the RICO and the staff should be using the Canon. Each person will have their own code, which are different from last year. All codes are available from Diane Cordon in the front office.

Holly also informed the PTO group the old RISO copier now belongs to McCornack. Since we have the new copier, would the PTO group like to donate it or sell it on Craig's List? A parent recommended Craig's List and suggested listing it for Eugene, Salem and Portland only. Debi has most of the information pertaining to the old copier. Paula motioned to list the old copier on Craig's List. This was seconded by Danielle. If it doesn't sell, the PTO will donate it to a non-profit organization.

Artist in Residence/Meet the Masters: Holly gave the updates for the Artist in Residence and Meet the Masters program, because Ms. Katsuda was re-cooperating from eye surgery. Holly reported that Ms. Katsuda did receive the grant for our Artist in Residence. Meet the Masters will begin in January so that it does not interfere with Artist in Residence. There will be a demonstration of Meet the Masters given at the next PTO meeting. Regarding the MECCA afterschool program, all 15 available spaces were filled immediately. There will be another program starting in Spring because of the overwhelming positive response.

Assembly Request: Mr. J has requested \$100 donation for a unicycle assembly. Dustin Kelm, an extreme unicycle rider, will waive his usual \$800 in lieu of a donation. The assembly emphasizes character building and making good choices. Laurie motioned in favor of the assembly. Hillary seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Debi reported that our school enrollment was down to 403 students from the projected 440, so there is extra money in the PTO account. She also reported that most of the teachers have used their allotted classroom monies. Also, the new copier and Smart Boards have been paid for.

Gift Wrap/Fundraising: Debi reported that as of October 1st, gift wrap sales total are as follows: internet \$431 and packets turned in \$3,000. Debi has extended the selling date because of low sales and lack of parents wanting to participate. She also is not sure how much the sale is being promoted in the classroom. With respect for teachers and their time available to teach, she has kept announcements and classroom visits to a minimum. Holly brought up the fact that there have been complaints due to the cost of shipping when ordering on line. Ms. Olsen remarked that the promotion of the gift wrap sale seems to be quieter than in previous years. She wondered if an announcement could be made over the loud speaker in the morning, or before school ends for the day.

Mrs. Richardson wanted to know if a list was available of the students who have not turned in their packets. She would like to challenge her students to sell as much as possible.

Danielle brought in a magazine article for ideas for other fundraisers that are 100% profit for schools. One idea was a variety show featuring parents, students and staff. Mrs. Richardson brought up the idea of a jog-a-thon, spell-a-thon, math-a-thon, etc. All students could participate even if they have not raised funds. Holly ended the discussion by announcing that time would be set aside at the next PTO meeting for fundraising ideas.

Smart Board: Regina introduced the Smart Board! These are now being used in the classrooms by the 4th graders. The 2nd graders have learned about weather, seasons, and weather related terminology. The teaching staff has noticed increased student participation using the devices. Regina has trained all staff on the Smart Boards. There will be another training session offered by the 4J school district.

Future Fundraisers: Holly announced the date of October 29th, for our Papa's Pizza fundraiser. Laurie pointed out that gift certificates may be bought that day as well. The school earns 25% on certificates sold. Last year McCornack families raised \$600 from Papa's.

Auction update- the theme this year will be Rodeo Roundup. This will be a casual event and more affordable than previous years. The hope is that the reduced cost will increase parent participation. Holly has been trying to find venue to host the auction, but three places have fallen through. A meeting is scheduled at the fairgrounds to inquire about Wheeler Pavilion. Tentative dates are February 22, 23 or 29th. Anyone interested in helping should contact Holly. Meetings regarding the auction will start at the end of October. There will be further notice regarding that date. A parent wondered if the date for the auction could be moved to the beginning of the month for those parents/families that get paid once a month.

PTO Domain: Ted inquired about setting up a domain for the PTO. He felt it would be an effective tool for advertising school events, parent information and listing our school enrichment programs. He proposed keeping it simple and easy to maintain. Ted thought it might be as little as \$50 per year to maintain the domain, but would bring exact costs to the next PTO meeting.

Chess Club: Holly thanked Ted and Sandra Corbin for restarting the McCornack Chess Club. The cost will be \$20 which includes a t-shirt, booklet and end of season party. The program will begin in November on Wednesday s from 1:15 to 2:15. The Chess Club is open to all 1st-5th grade students. The Corbin's would like 2 to 4 more volunteers to help. More information will be given at school.

TAG Program: Laurie asked for an update regarding McCornack's TAG program. Ted and Ms. Olsen reported that due to lack of funding and district red tape, there had been a "brainstorming session" this summer. The decision was made to bring enrichment activities into all classrooms with availability to all students. Some examples available are: Chess and French Club, Destination Imagination and writing articles for our school website. This group was looking for alternative ways to provide options for students instead of using school funds and district input.

Ways and Means: Laurie gave the dates of October 23rd (7-8pm) and November 5th (6-7pm) for the next Ways and Means Meetings. The October meeting will provide information for items being presented for voting, while the November meeting will be for voting.

New Curriculum: Holly asked the teachers present how they were doing with the new curriculum. Ms. Barton reported many late nights at school and extra work at home. However, she predicted next year to go smoother and easier. Mrs. Richardson commented on the amount of grading and the lack of chapter books for students. She has found that her students love the program and that she likes it too.

Popcorn Friday: the first Popcorn Friday will be October 26th. The school needs volunteers for this event.

Box Tops: 2800 box tops were collected this summer by students. That gave McCornack Elementary \$280!

Mary Kuhl's class collected the most box tops and they were rewarded with a pizza party.

Misc: Mrs. Davies thanked the PTO for providing money for the teachers and their classrooms. She used her allotment to brighten her classroom with a new paint job.

The winner of our drawing was Richelle Brigola. Meeting adjourned.