

McCornack Elementary PTO Meeting

October 5, 2009

In attendance: Esther Barton, Danielle Benson, Kallin Benson, Cardona, Angel, Ted Corbin, Debi Cornell, Judy Davies, Margaret Del Cartio, Laurie Freeman, Kimberly Green, Sarah Haines, Marina Hajek, Misty Hill, Kim Hove, Tasha Katsuda, Mary Kuhl, Debby Laimon,, Regina Ligon, Jen LeCavalier, Laurie Nichols, Bonnie Burns Oberlander, Karen Olsen, Hong Pan, Holly Powell, Theresa Rath, Percy Rodriguez, Ann Sheppler, Kelley Teige, Jen Tucker

Technology Presentation

Regina Ligon gave a presentation on technology at McCornack. She emphasized that technology is just one tool that the school uses to reach students. She also showed how the use of technology helps to engage students in learning by having hands-on activities. McCornack currently has the following;

- 14 Digital Cameras
 - 11 SMART Boards
 - 2 Airline Slates
 - 2 Scanners
 - 1 Automated Student Response Systems (clickers)
 - 123 Desktop Computers
 - 57 Laptop Computers
 - 30 eMac Desktops
- All classrooms have a digital projector & document camera

Regina showed a video presentation that she has created for students to learn rules when using technology. The video includes a RAP song to get the students excited about following rules.

All McCornack students spent the first week of computer lab reviewing/learning rules. The second week was spent learning/reviewing how to navigate through windows and how to use a mouse.

Regina ended the presentation with a hands-on "clicker" experiment, where all meeting attendees were given clickers to vote with. Voting outcomes were presented on a SMART Board.

Tasha Katsuda presented a draft of the McCornack Technology Plan. She stated that teachers are continually being trained to use technology. Tasha also noted that technology is moving quicker than we have funds to cover.

Jog-a-thon

Danielle Benson noted that the McCornack jog-a-thon was delayed this year due to poor air quality. The jog-a-thon took place on September 24th and was a big success, thanks to the many volunteers who helped.

Pledge envelopes are due Monday Oct 12th. A portion of the proceeds from this event will help to fund technology for the school. The jog-a-thon wrap up assembly is scheduled for October 16th at 8:15 am in the gym. All are welcome to attend.

Ways & Means Meeting

The ways & means meeting has been moved to Tuesday, October 27th at 7:00 pm. This is a time when proposals for PTO funds are requested. Proposals for PTO funds should be submitted to Holly Powell (Ways & Means Coordinator) by the 20th of October. Holly will then meet with Tasha to review proposals before the Ways & Means meeting on October 27th. The PTO board will meet to come up with goals for the new school year. Everyone attending the Ways & Means Meeting on the 27th will discuss & vote on which proposals they would like funded. Proposals approved at the Ways & Means meeting are then presented at the PTO meeting on November 2nd for final approval.

Procedure for Future Ways & Means Proposals

1. Proposals should be submitted to the Ways & Means Coordinator 30 days before the Ways & Means meeting.
2. The PTO Board will meet with Tasha to come up with goals for the year and review proposals.
3. Proposals will be presented at the Ways & Means meeting and voted upon by all attending the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and be part of this voting group.
4. Final approval of proposals will take place at the following PTO meeting.

Popcorn Friday

Our next Popcorn Friday is scheduled for October 30th.

Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, November 21st in conjunction with the book fair. In addition, the DC or bust group will be selling Crispy Crème Donuts.

District Budget Shortfall

Tasha presented information about a district meeting that she attended earlier today where it was announced that the 4J districts is predicting a 2-15 million budget shortfall in the next year. The amount of the shortfall is based on the passage/failure of tax measures. There is a possible shortfall of \$30 million the following year. Again this depends upon the passage/failure of tax measures.

Ann Shepler asked how parents can educate the public and work to fund schools. It was noted that several groups advocate for children's education. Tasha said that one good group is "Stand for Children". In addition, it was suggested to contact our State Representative, Val Hoyle who is a former McCornack parent.

Monthly School Assemblies

McCornack is planning to hold monthly school assemblies to showcase students' activities.

Walk & Bike to School

The next walk & bike to school day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th.

McCornack 3rd Grade Garden Club

Ted Corbin announced that McCornack will be starting a garden club for 3rd graders. Flyers will be sent home at the end of the week.

Unicycle Club Continues

Ted Corbin has stepped up and kept McCornack's Unicycle club alive! The group will have several performances this year.