

McCornack Elementary PTO Meeting

September 8, 2008

In attendance: Esther Barton, Danielle Benson, Kallin Benson, Sandra Corbin, Debi Cornell, Judy Davies, Laurie Freeman, Hillary Galloway, Kimberly Green, Marina Hajek, Misty Hill, Nancy Hill, Vicki Hood, Kim Hove, Tasha Katsuda, Mary Kuhl, Debby Liamon, Regina Ligon, Laurie Nichols, Karen Olsen, Holly Powell, Sara Raffensberger, Theresa Rath, Linda Stiegler, Gina Wadsworth

Holly Powell opened the meeting and welcomed all attending. Current board members were introduced: Holly Powell (President), Danielle Benson (Vice President), Debi Cornell (Treasurer), Laurie Nichols (Ways & Means Chair), Sara Raffensperger (Fund Raising Coordinator), and Laurie Freeman (Secretary)

Childcare

Child care will now be included during PTO meetings. Parents will need to show identification when checking in and out for children.

Local Option Levy

Patty Hensen (a former McCornack mom) who is a member of "Stand for Children" talked about upcoming measures that will appear on the November ballot. There are seven measures that will appear on the ballot. She said that two measures are good for kids and five measures are potentially damaging because of hidden costs.

The Local Option Levy 20-137 is a local property tax that goes directly to support our kids' schools. This is not a new tax, just a renewal of our current funding. This levy provides 10% of the 4J districts funding, which is equivalent to funding 160 teachers.

Stand for Children's group is advocating for Measure 56 & 57 as well.

PTO Update:

Watermelon Feed: The watermelon feed Scheduled for September 16th from 6:00-7:30 pm. There will be a sunflower seed spitting contest (as watermelon seeds are hard to come by with all the seedless watermelons). In addition, several groups will be present at the watermelon feed including cub scouts & brownies. Edwin Jaffarian will be presenting information on several after school programs that McCornack will be offering.

Olympic Theme: McCornack will be using the Olympic theme for most of its activities this year.

Jog-a-thon: The jog-a-thon assembly kick-off is to be on September 16th at 8:30 am in the field. The jog-a-thon replaces the gift wrap fund raiser and 100% of proceeds from the jog-a-thon will go directly to the school. The track will be 200 yards (1/8th mile) and will be painted by the district. Water stops will be available. Parent volunteers will be needed on the day of the event.

Possible Churchill track athletes to come and show kids various track events. PA system will be outside and we will have music playing when the kids get out there. Incentives for the jog-a-thon were discussed. The grand prize for the student who brings in the most money will be a Ninetndo Wee.

Information on the Jog-a-Thon will be placed on the McCornack Website.

Box Top Volunteer: Holly announced that we need a volunteer to take over the “Box Tops for Education” program this year. This involves creating monthly flyers and doing in-house promotions of the box top program.
Gina Wadsworth volunteered and will work with Debi Cornell to get started on this. Gina has requested a schedule for dates that PTO would like flyers sent out.

Volunteer Coordinator: McCornack’s volunteer coordinator, Angie Elstone has taken a new job and will be unable to work as the volunteer coordinator this year.

- Regina Ligon moved to vote in Vicki Hood and Misty Hill as Volunteer Coordinator co-chairs
- Mary Kuhl 2nd the motion
- Vote: Unanimous

**Meet the Masters
Art Program:**

A meeting will be held, Monday, September 29th for parents and any volunteer interested in learning about this program. McCornack will be using the Meet the Masters art program this year with two artists presented in the fall and two artists in the spring.

PTO Survey Results: Danielle Benson presented information on this survey. Survey results can be found on the McCornack website under “PTO Parent Survey results”.

Principal Update:

**Project Based
Instruction:**

Tasha Katsuda gave information on project based instruction, where students are given the task of finding solutions to real world problems, such as creating eco-friendly solutions. This is something that the school would like to showcase at the end of the year.

Recess Pilot Time:

The staff is piloting recess before lunch this year. This has been done the first week of the 2008-09 school year. The reason for this pilot is that children often get stomach aches from running around on a full stomach and some students do not finish their lunch because they are in too big of a hurry to get to recess. So far, several staff members are finding that students come back much calmer with this schedule. Staff will discuss whether to continue this schedule.

**International
Walk to School Day:**

Marina Hajek noted that there is a meeting on September 17th regarding International Walk to School Day. Edwin Jaffarian will have more information soon. This is an international program where schools can register over the internet to be counted among the millions of Walk to School participants around the world. The International Walk to School Day takes place on October 8th.

Holiday Bazar:

PTO will be hosting a holiday bazaar on December 6th in conjunction with the book fair. This is not planned as a major fund raiser, but simply to draw community members in to the book fair. The bazaar will be held in the cafeteria & gym with tables renting for \$20 per 8ft table and \$30 for two 8ft tables. A booth application form is available for vendors on the McCornack website.