

McKenny PTO Meeting Tuesday, September 14, 2021



Attendance: Michael Havens, *Principal*; Carrie Andrew, *Co-President*; Ingrid Aries, *Co-President*; Abby Terpening, *Treasurer*; Michel Nelson, *Secretary*; Amanda Winslow, *Volunteer Coordinator*; Vanessa Centeno, *Parent-at-Large*; Jessie Moreno-Graham; Whitney Gonzalez; Marny Howell; Becky Conn; Heather Matthews

Meeting convened at 6:33pm

Welcome & Introductions

Motion to accept June minutes, seconded, and approved.

McKenny Update (Michael Havens):

- Thanks to PTO for their support over the past year and a half and at the start of this school year with welcome decorations and table, beverages for staff and teachers.
- The district (OSD) enhanced specialist programs at McKenny this year are: Music 2x week with Ms. Mathews, PE 2x week with Mrs. Swedberg, and art 1x week Mrs. Stengen (library with Mrs. Hooper is a continuing specialist offering).
 - Michael created a consistent master schedule to accommodate the extra time periods which need to be at the same times of the week.
- Mrs. Neely, school counselor who was with OSD for 50 years, retired. This position is important in schools with only one administrator and provides support to the Principal as well as the student body. Mrs. Daly is the new counselor and is .8 full time employee (FTE)
- Each OSD elementary school now has a Family Liaison, especially for those families who need support engaging with the school. Charo Portaro will be working in the school and in the community for .5 FTE
- McKenny now has a school psychologist, Ms. Healy, to assist students with special needs at .2 FTE
- Mrs. Judah, previously a 4th grade teacher, took a position as math specialist at Hanson Elementary. Her departure coincided with low kindergarden enrollment, so Mrs. Pendleton (formerly Ms. Stanley) moved from kindergarden to 4th grade.
- Britney Martin, Administrator Manager, is leaving for another opportunity so that position will need to be filled. Michael and the school will miss her!

- It has been a smooth start to school year. Lunch logistics work so students can use gym for PE class and recess uses a little bit of support services time so kids can get their wiggles out. Time on the playground is about the same as previous years.
- It is unfortunate, but there are no assemblies or concerts at this time.
- Main goals are to keep everyone safe, educate students, and incorporate as many fun activities as possible in safe ways.
- Kindergarteners seem excited to be here!
- Questions for Michael:
 - Will CISPUS, the 5th grade outdoor science experience, happen this year? Probably not because COVID-19 protocols will probably still be in place. There were also previous liability concerns and many families were opting out so the future of this activity is unknown.
 - Will the playground remain as is? One playground piece that had rotting wood was removed, no replacement planned. Playgrounds are part of district expansion plans and usually involve PTO enhancement funding efforts. See additional playground discussion under budget.

Action Items

- The PTO needs to formalize with a vote that we are not charging dues for membership.
 - **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.**
- Calendar of events was reviewed for approval (see attached). The PTO's goal this year is to connect families.
 - Notes:
 - Some events are tentative, depending on safety protocols
 - Hawk Hangouts at LBA park are for families to get to know each other, if there is interest we will continue to schedule them
 - Mr. Havens will ask McKenny's Family Liaison to promote with the families she has contact with
 - The December PTO meeting is scheduled one week earlier than usual to accommodate the winter holiday season
 - MOD Pizza fundraisers, popular last year, are set up
 - We have three fundraisers this year: Read a thon, Carnival and Boosterthon Fun Run
 - Trunk or Treat fall event is a go with safety protocols
 - Considering having the Zoom Talent Show again, many students participated with a variety of talents and lots of families tuned in!
 - **Motion made, seconded, and approved.**

Annual PTO Budget

- Reviewed line items for approval.
- The PTO will consider adding Zoom with in-person PTO meetings to encourage more families to participate

- This year the PTO Board added line item to provide specialists funding and increased teacher support from \$100 to \$150/year
- Question: is amount in savings able to be used? We had been saving for readerboard but that project is on hold because it was recently quoted between \$25 – 40K and zoning restrictions for space and message frequency are onerous. PTO historically has keep a large amount in savings; last year we used some savings to cover loss of in-person fundraising events and help more people in the community that had pandemic needs. It was decided to continue to discuss balancing the needs and size of our savings at future meetings. (One idea if we decide as a PTO to fund playground equipment: playground outdoor musical instruments)

McKenny's music teacher, Ms. Mathews, is waiting to hear back about a grant request she submitted for ukeleles and another grant to fund world instruments. PTO could support the music program by providing funding to repair and replace instruments and music books.

- **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the budget as proposed.**

Treasurer's Report

- Abby reviewed income received and expenses (see attached budget)
- It was decided that \$1,500 be divided equally amongst specialists and Michael will work with them to move it amongst programs depending on needs. Classroom teachers will each receive \$150 for classroom needs.

Updates

- A question: can we find other funding for school supply lists so families do not need to pay? Michael said the school supply list issue is complex and will be discussed by school staff; the topic is also part of the district's and school's equity discussions
- Hawkwear (the McKenny t-shirts provided by PTO to kindergarten and 1st graders at the back-to-school event) ordering was redesigned to pre-order shirts before the start of school; went over well with students and families!
- McKenny Yearbook contract is signed and Sarah Lankford is the yearbook chair again

New Business

- **Volunteers Needed!**
 - If you are interested in chairing or assisting with these events/items (as much or little time as you would like) please email mckennypto@gmail.com or talk with any PTO officer.
 - School directory – Marny volunteered to coordinate
 - Hawk Hangout coordinators for each grade group who will be onsite at LBA park
 - Mr. Havens will take McKenny banner to park, Amanda will check with city about using the covered area
 - Amanda volunteered to be the K/1 Hawk Hangout coordinator

- Teacher Appreciation – recognizing and organizing treats throughout the year for teacher and staff
- PTO bulletin board in entryway of school – need creative person
- Read a thon – want to be a planning team member?
 - Using 99Pledges again as the online system for families
 - Students can collect pledges or just capture their reading time; prizes awarded for both activities and for participating
 - Mr. Havens will donate a fun activity as a prize
- Photo fundraiser – need onsite volunteers to coordinate families getting photos at LBA park; thanks to Janet Houghton for volunteering her photography skills and time
- Fall Social/Trunk or Treat – Vanessa will co-chair; seeking a 2nd co-chair
- Vice President – this position is still open and, with co-Presidents, you can be part of the PTO board without a big time commitment

Question – what is Sunshine Fund? Created a couple of years ago to support families in need; this is in addition to Principal's Fund. Application and donation function on PTO website <http://www.mckennyppto.org/>

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 pm.