

# McKenny PTO Meeting

## Tuesday, April 13, 2021

### Over Zoom

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**Attendance:** Michael Havens, *Principal*; Cherie Andreassen, *President*; Mindy Swedberg, *Vice President*; Abby Terpening, *Treasurer*; Ingrid Aries, *Secretary*; Marny Howell, *Value Village Coordinator and Facebook Coordinator*; Juliet Kwakye; Kamaron Durocher; Jon and Julie; Dorothy Espedal-Johnson, *5th Grade Teacher*

**Meeting over Zoom convened at 6:31.**

**Ingrid read the minutes.**

**\*\*\*Motion made, seconded and approved for accepting the meeting minutes as written for February.\*\*\* No minutes from March because we didn't meet.**

#### **McKenny Update (Michael Havens):**

- Annual review of School Improvement Plan with School Board
  - Meetings kept getting moved or cancelled (due to technical difficulties and Board Meeting) which was why the meeting took place when our March Meeting was scheduled (but cancelled)
  - Michael shared our plan and our elements at the meeting
    - Highlights related to PTO:
      - Purchase of books for library books related to equity and diversity
        - Mrs. Hooper started surprise bags and includes these books in these bags
      - Food Bank work
    - Shared at the meeting about "Students will be compassionate and kind."
      - Other school leaders know this is valued and important at McKenny
- Many changes at school:
  - Kids at every grade level at school
    - 8-12 students in each class
  - Distance learning students in 3-5 had to move to other schools: Centennial, Pioneer, Hansen, and Boston Harbor
    - McKenny is coordinating with these schools as needed
    - Invited to assemblies and special events
    - Including 5th graders in any end of year type events
  - 15 more students will be rejoining us from online in the next week or two
  - Students will continue for 2 days per week with the potential to combine cohorts and have students attend for 4 days per week
    - Three foot distancing is easier at McKenny than at some schools

- We are part of a system so this could affect how soon we return
    - Michael has offered that McKenny could pilot having kids returning because this is possible at our school
    - No current timetable, but a lot of interest in this
  - How does this work with lunch where still kids need to be 6 feet apart?
    - Possibility: adding more lunches
    - Possibly relocating Y-Care to another classroom or portable or something to use gym
    - Maybe using stage, hallway, playshed?
    - It is the biggest complicating factor
  - Extending school year or summer programs? Talks about fall?
    - Next year, we wouldn't need to take Y-Care into consideration
    - No extension to the school year
      - Changing the length of the teaching contract can't be done
    - Summer programs are conversations that district leadership are discussing
      - Requires some people willing to work on this
      - Requires compensation
  - Beginning a budgeting process:
    - Opportunity for input on budget
      - Community forums
        - Get and give information
      - Survey of preferences
      - **Please participate in these opportunities and share your ideas**
      - We will be getting some extra relief/recovery funds so this is really important!!!
        - There are some kids who have excelled, some who have gained as much as usual, many have not gained as much as they would have
        - Funding is to help with kids who have lost out due to lost instruction time
      - Timeline is pretty short so we need people to be aware and participate
      - An equity tool will be used in making decisions such as this
        - Need to make sure and make correct voices are heard
          - Can't force people
          - Can only invite people to participate
  - Superintendent Murphy will be at our next meeting
- **Treasurer Update (Abby):**
  - Not much has changed
  - New:
    - Teacher support line:

- About 5 teachers have turned in receipts and gotten reimbursed their \$100
        - Paid for Zoom
    - No check from MOD yet
      - Over \$600
    - Sunshine Fund
      - No needs lately
    - Teacher Reimbursements seems to be going well and it is appreciate
      - Teachers were able to purchase things that helped the feel safer in the school
- **Apple Tree:**
  - Michael looked into and it doesn't look like something that will benefit McKenny students
- **Upcoming Dining events:**
  - Tomorrow is Chipotle
  - May is Panera
- **Yearbook:**
  - If someone wants to put in the time, but only if someone wants to take it on
  - That is the only thing keeping it from happening
- **Value Village Update:**
  - New leader and more changes happening
  - Next Date: May 22nd 11:15
    - Marny is potentially unavailable so someone else would need to be available
  - They want us to predict how many black and white we will have for them
    - White bags are cloth goods and black bags are other items
    - Problem: we don't have storage
    - 2 weeks in advance so that they can now if they will have enough trailer space
    - They offered that we could create a google page where people could pledge
  - It is a lot more work than it used to be so everyone agreed we should cancel the event
  - If someone else wants to take it on that would be great
  - **Event will be canceled**
- **Flower Bulbs**
  - Potential fundraiser for next year
- **5th Grade End-of-Year Celebration:**
  - Dorothy requested funds for end-of-year 5th grade celebrations
  - ***Motion made, seconded, and approved to give \$600 for 5th Grade teachers to use money towards end of year celebrations as they see fit***
  - ***Another motion made, seconded, and approved for the board to be able to add money to this as needed***
  - Graduation Ceremony? Not known yet

- Dorothy needs more pictures of 5th graders
- **Reporting of equity events (Ingrid)**
  - Big takeaway from the meeting: Diversity is a fact. Equity as a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome.
    - We need to think about the actions that we take to include others and create a sense of belonging so that anyone showing up at a meeting feels like they belong.
    - Empathy interviews were also encouraged as a way of gathering information
  - There was a sense that all district PTO/PTAs want to do more to be more inclusive, including the possibility of changing the name so that it isn't just about parents
- **How do we connect?**
  - Juliet suggested just sending out an email that is just about saying hello to connect with people
  - Kamy suggested that meeting people after school at pickup is helpful

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00**

**Next Meeting: May**