

# McKenny PTO Meeting

## Tuesday, September 15th, 2020

### Over Zoom

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**Attendance:** Michael Havens, *Principal*; Cherie Andreassan, *President*; Mindy Swedberg, *Vice President*; Abby Terpening, *Treasurer*; Ingrid Aries, *Secretary*; Kameron Durocher, *Community Connections Chair*; Juliet Kwakye, *Directory Co-Chair*; Juliette Knight, *Directory Co-Chair*; Carrie Andrew, *Parent-at-Large*; Can Qu; Mike Reid; Jon Carignan

Meeting over Zoom convened at 6:33 by Cherie

Members were asked to leave their name in the chat to help with recording minutes. Those in attendance introduced themselves and shared how they were feeling. There were many feelings expressed from overwhelmed to hopeful.

**Ingrid read the minutes.**

**\*\*\*Motion made, seconded and approved for accepting the meeting minutes as written for June and August.\*\*\***

#### **McKenny Updates from Michael Havens:**

- **Staff Updates:**
  - **Mrs. Bond** (former 4th grade teacher at McKenny) took an opportunity to move to Pioneer Elementary which opened up the opportunity for **Miss Stanley** to move back to McKenny and back to Kindergarten. **Mrs. Frances** moved to the 2/3 split. **Ms. Lloyd**, who was going to teach the split, returned to teaching straight 3rd grade. *This is why we wait until right before school starts to send out teacher assignments. That is why school supply lists are for grade levels and not teacher specific. Things changed right before the start of school.*
- **Banker Box Distribution:**
  - went really well
  - all were done by noon on Friday
  - all but 50 were picked up on the first day.
  - yearbooks did not go home in the Banker Boxes (as previously discussed) but can in the next set of things going out
- **Packet Distribution:**
  - *Every two weeks starting this coming week* there will be a couple of opportunities for grade level packet pickups as part of their synchronous and asynchronous learning. Pickup will be **Tuesday 12-4** and **Friday 4-6 every other week for packets**. They won't be used until the following Monday.
  - Some school supplies will go out in the next box because shipping was delayed on some. School was authorized to send home the Wonders textbook. This

should help with screen time concerns. Those will get assigned and checked out to students so students can take them home and use them. Use of them is starting the week of September 28th.

- **Library Book Curbside Pickup:**
  - Mrs. Hooper's (our librarian's) curbside checkout will happen **every Tuesday 12-4 and Friday 4-6**). She is working with teachers and students on how to do holds.
- Materials are expected to be used and will be expected to come back.
- **Staff Training Including Equity Training:**
  - The different training sessions that staff members attended were asynchronous. There was a whole-staff training by the Equity Leadership Team discussing racial equity, white supremacy culture, and systemic racism. This was hard mostly because teachers were in the middle of working hard on preparing for the school year during this time. The team will continue to guide everyone and provide training for this year and years to come. There will be more training on these things as well as hybrid learning.

**Questions to Mr. Havens and answers:**

- *How can parents keep up to date on what is going on at school?*
  - Parent connection meetings will address some of this as far as how those teachers will connect with families
  - Updates from the school will arrive in Skyward messages from Michael Havens or Britney Martin
  - Michael created a Schoology page for the whole school which will have access to zoom links for assemblies
  - Reach out to your child's teacher with class concerns or to Michael Havens with other concerns. That is how he's spending a lot of his time.
  - Right now is a lot of Social-Emotional work. Academics will come more later.
  - You can access your kid's assignments or work, you can check out the parent account on Schoology
- One good thing coming out of this unique time is strong collaboration between teachers at schools and across the district. This will endure beyond this experience. Teachers know now more than ever that they can do great things but especially when they work together.
- *What resources are available for families who are unable to support their child during online learning (due to work, individual circumstances, etc.)?*
  - Teachers are not relying on synchronous (live) meetings because not everyone can attend those. A bulk of the academic instruction will be asynchronous (recorded) so that learning doesn't have to happen during typical school hours and children can get support from adults during other hours.
  - Families will be surveyed at a later date.
  - Attendance is being tracked closely both live and interaction on schoology pages. Those that aren't engaging will be reached out to personally by Michael or our school counselor.

- *Late last year there were parent meetings where grade level families could connect. Will there be something along those lines?*
  - Michael is planning to hold grade level family meetings but decided to wait since teachers are having meetings with families this week.
- We are learning to navigate the boundaries with our kids of how much to attend to our kids and their needs. We are all navigating the boundaries of where to step in and when to step away and let them do it.
- The Fifth Grade Team wanted to share how appreciative they were of how supportive families have been. They also were so glad to see how strong attendance was.
- *What more information is being given during racial equity training?*
  - The equity team participated in training from Eileen Yoshina, Manager of Equity in Education Services at the Puget Sound Educational Service District. They did 10 hours of training and did triple that in reading and listening to video content from a variety of sources.
  - They had 2.5 hours to present to the staff so they used some of those same articles and videos to use with the staff. This is the beginning of this work, but really it is more of a focused angle.
  - As a school, we have been working on kindness and inclusion, but there will be more focus on antiracism and understanding the characteristics of white supremacy culture.
  - There isn't a set training schedule. The Equity Team will guide the learning for years to come.
  - Michael is happy to share articles and links that he can.
  - At some point they are hoping to get input from parents.
- Parents want to be included because it is important to hear the wider view of what the kids are experiencing. Juliet shared stories of how her kids have seen and experienced racism. The kids see stuff we don't see. She pointed out that a panel of kids could be helpful too.
- Ours teams will work to find the most appropriate ways to work on this with our students. It will be done in a way that is grade level appropriate and direct. It can't just be about teaching kindness. It needs to point out that things in our systems are racist. It needs to be direct.
- *On a federal level, equity training is being put to a stop. Is this happening here?*
  - No. This training happening at other schools across the district as well. Michael won't let it stop. It is too important.
- There needs to be a way to reach out to parents as well.

**Treasurer Report (Abby):**

- We received more than \$300 in Store Rewards and from the Combined Fund Drive
- More than \$600 to Sunshine Fund

**PTO Updates (Cherie):**

- Welcome back packets went out.

- PTO enrollment numbers are down because most things were received digitally and were easily overlooked.
- We may want to send out more information and let people know that they are signed up.
- Input from Mike that as a new family to it would be helpful to explain more of what is the PTO, what do they do, how do they raise funds, etc. Normally we have a welcome event on the first days of school, Kindergarten Jumpstart, Curriculum Night to share more but we don't have that this year.
  - An opportunity for new to the school and new to PTO parents can be helpful. We would love to have a welcome PTO meeting. Ingrid is happy to host, Michael and Carrie would be happy to help too. We would love to do more with it after a couple of weeks.
  - Michael will be hosting meetings that will help with grade level questions and concerns as well

#### **Directory:**

- Juliet and Julliette were working on the directory. They spoke with Frank who had done it before. This year it will be released as a PDF. It could be updated quarterly. January and again around March/April. People agreed this would be helpful
- *What is the directory used for?*
  - Mostly birthday parties or connecting with friends.
- *Is it okay for people to use this information?*
  - Yes, because they agree to share it.
  - When someone signs up for the PTO, they indicate whether it is okay to share this information or not.
- **Plan:** Cut off receiving information for the first directory by mid-October and send out the directory PDF by end of October. From there, send it out quarterly so new members and new families can be added.

#### **Sunshine Fund Update (Mindy):**

- 9 responses for needs: Most have used the principal's emergency fund which comes from the OSDEF. The sunshine fund is PTO money set aside to help families.
- Mike shared that there is money for non-profits that will allow up to \$4,000 to support people that will be available soon. Thrustonstrong.org will show when this information is available.
- Michael shared that September 23rd will be a fundraiser so hopefully OSDEF will get more funds to support people.

#### **Community Connections (Kami):**

- In response to disconnection and lack of ability to have programs and events
- McLane Elementary started a similar program
- It is a strategic way to put a web of connections from all areas of our school
- People are assigned to groups to connect with people

- Inequities can be even greater because those that have connect with others that have thus leaving out those they don't have even more
- The goal would be to organize it in a web of parents and teachers that are responsible for each grade level and help organize them into smaller groups
- Activities and ideas for kids and families to get to know each other such as paint and sip, fitness/yoga, art class, minecraft, parenting support, family game nights (zoom or in person)
- How you can get involved:
  - Committee: Develop details, generate ideas, promote diversity
  - Class Rep: Reach out/maintain communication with families, attend events and stir up participation
  - An important part would be partnering with staff to reach out to families who are not plugged into school
  - We want to make sure it's equitable and diverse in activities and ideas and so everyone can find a space
- Target to meet next Tuesday to talk more about the details about this and what first steps could be [See below for change in date given over email]
- Maybe we could promote it during grade level ideas
- Don't just invite people we know so that we are supporting EVERYONE
- [More details Kami added via email after to include: *We want to intentionally and creatively connect families and students at Mckenny this year so we will be starting a Community Connections Team. If you are excited about helping families connect and are passionate about equity at our school - come join us for our first planning meeting on **Tuesday, September 29th at 7pm**. If you would like to attend, **please RSVP to Kamy Durocher at [Kamy726@gmail.com](mailto:Kamy726@gmail.com)** and she will send you the link details.*]
- This can start small and grow through the passionate work of small groups
- Kami volunteered to be Volunteer Coordinator

Our next meeting is October 13th (the 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Meeting adjourned at 8:13