

**McKenny PTO Meeting
Tuesday, November 9, 2021**



Attendance: Michael Havens, *Principal*; Ingrid Aries, *Co-President*; Carrie Andrew, *Co-President*; Abby Terpening, *Treasurer*; Michel Nelson, *Secretary*; Vanessa Centeno, *Parent-at-Large*; Becky Conn; Nancy Hooper; Elsee Meyers; Mindy Swedberg; ON ZOOM - Lauren Memmott

Meeting convened at 6:32pm

Welcome & Introductions

Motion to accept October minutes, seconded, and approved.

McKenny Update (Michael Havens):

- He and the staff loved that the Trunk or Treat event brought people together to celebrate in a safe way
- Jessie Moreno-Graham (PTO Vice President) was hired for the McKenny paraeducator position – she’s doing great and is covering for another position as well.
- Sub shortage continues and the district has a process for those who are qualified to obtain an emergency certification to be a substitute.
- McKenny’s Family Liaison, Charo, is working with the school’s counselor, Heather Daley, to bring families together and they are both doing a great job.
- Conference Week – teachers chose whether to have conferences over Zoom or in person. The staff will look at a consistent approach for spring conferences.
- Veterans Day Assembly – we are not able to bring middle school students back for a visit as usual but they put together a presentation for classes to view
- As the COVID vaccine becomes more available, he is not sure the impact on school safety practices but is hopeful that assemblies by grade level may be possible in the future
- Corey Leach is McKenny’s new administrative professional and is a great person in our front office; she is skilled and solving problems!
- Expanded specialist program – PE, music & art is going strong and student experiences are positive
- He attributes everything going well to a combination of good fortune and a culture of belonging and cooperation at McKenny

- Teachers may begin to ask for volunteers soon if they are comfortable having guests in the classroom

Treasurer's Report

Received \$120 from Kroger for store rewards and \$118 from the state employees combines fund drive

Paid out \$240 in Read a Thon expenses, \$51 for staff appreciation, and a minimal amount for overhead expenses (fee for the McKenny PTO web domain & office supplies)

General

Parent Leader Meeting Recap

Everything must be documented in our PTO minutes and paperwork.

- 1) School property, time, and resources are the school's not to be used for PTO purposes – getting clarification if we can use the school copier and pay back for PTO copies
- 2) Cupboard space – Michael approved the PTO's use of the cupboard in the hallway to store items
- 3) PTO mail should go to a discrete P.O. Box, not delivered to the school
 - a. Lacey Postal is \$144/yr + \$18 set up fee (open M-Sat)

Motion to approve \$167 for PO Box, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Email to PTO membership reaches about 50 families so communications through the school is helpful to reach all families. We have regular FB posts and an updated website that can use promotion so families can access communications. Elise and Nancy suggested Instagram as a good addition to reach more parents. Ingrid will set up a PTO Instagram account.

Updates/Recap

MOD Pizza fundraiser brought in \$331.41. This amount was about half of what was raised last year, but it is easy to set up and for families to participate.

During Conference Week Becky, Ingrid and Carrie put beverages and snacks in for teachers in their conference room and presented Mr. Havens with a gift card to celebrate National Principal's Day.

Trunk or Treat

Vanessa is grateful that families participated, for the volunteers, and for those hosting vehicles. Crowd flow & safety (masks etc.) worked really well, whole families attended (with younger and older children), kids loved that teachers & Mr. Havens hosted cars, and Mrs Hooper and the book fair were a highlight! Mrs. Hooper gave her appreciation for the event.

Suggestions for next time: no candy as an activity, more little prizes for more kids instead of fewer prizes; weather was on our side but Michael said to plan for an indoor option if weather is bad modify and put “trunks” inside.

Thanks to everyone including Vanessa!

Yearbook photos – please use the app for all event photos you want to submit; Ingrid will send email to teachers and staff for photos they take. Yearbook Snap password: McKenny2021

Hawk Wear – Lauren reported that there are shortages of navy blue items everywhere! It was agreed that charcoal grey w/ white logo is a suitable option. Youth and adult sizes will be available. It was decided to use a Google form for orders and ask Charo to spread the word to the families she is in contact with. Payment is by check to McKenny PTO or through Donor Tools on the PTO website (select Hawkwear drop down option). Orders are due November 30.

Read a Thon

Preliminary numbers are in:

82 participants; 56,038 minutes read (over 930 hours); \$6179.35 raised

We expect more forms to come in and for totals to increase.

Discussion about the use of funds – we had stated that specialists including library and playground equipment would be considered. McKenny Music teacher Heather Mathews purchased an additional 8 ukuleles and submitted a \$404 request for consideration.

Motion to approve \$404 for Heather Mathews, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Motion to approve \$1,500 to purchase new books for the library, seconded, and unanimously approved.

New Business

PE teacher Mindy Swedberg is hosting a Family Fitness night on Zoom November 18. The fall game night is not happening, possibly in the spring.

The McKenny Sunshine fund was started during the pandemic to help McKenny families with extra expenses (rent, food, utilities etc.) and it supplements the Principal’s Fund that is a regular resource. Heather Daly has brought other community resources to families as well.

It was decided to keep the Sunshine Fund as a donation choice, Mindy will continue to manage the program

Playground equipment update will occur at a later meeting.

Amazon Smile shopping can help McKenny!

If you are a state employee, please consider adding McKenny PTO as a Combined Fund Drive donation choice. Mary has posted the information on FB.

December PTO meeting: after Michael's update we want to have a social meeting. Please join us for games and conversation!

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm.