

**McKenny PTO Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2021**



Attendance: Michael Havens, *Principal*; Carrie Andrew, *Co-President*; Ingrid Aries, *Co-President*; Michel Nelson, *Secretary*; Vanessa Centeno, *Parent-at-Large*; Jessie Moreno-Graham; Becky Conn; Nelly Zapata; Cherie Andreassen; ON ZOOM - Marny Howell; Lauren Memmott; Heather Mathews

Meeting convened at 6:32pm

Welcome & Introductions

Motion to accept September minutes, seconded, and approved.

McKenny Update (Michael Havens):

- Second month of school is going relatively smoothly. It's very challenging to find substitute teachers and paraeducators, virtually none are available, and Mr. Havens and specialists have had to fill in. There is a program to become emergency certified so that a McKenny parent can be a substitute. If you are interested, please contact the Olympia School District Human Resources Department.
- Through COVID Emergency funding, each school in the district will receive an additional paraeducator.
- Corey Leach was hired as McKenny's administrative professional and brings strong skills to the position.
- Last Friday was a staff day with professional development on social/emotional development and equitable practices. They examined student recognition practices and how students are recognized for positive contributions. The Golden Hawk award and in the moment life skills rewards are suspended and being reconsidered for more equitable recognition.
- McKenny's new counselor, Heather Daly, started Friendship Groups to bring students together to strengthen connections and support each other.
- McKenny's Family Liaison, Charo, would like to reach out to families for upcoming Hawk Hangouts; Ingrid will provide fliers to her.

Treasurer's Report

- Family Photo Fundraiser raised nearly \$1,000 minus credit card fees – thank you Janice Houghton and participating families! Funds raised will go toward a new piece of permanent playground equipment.
- Paid McKenny t-shirt order of \$957
- Two teachers submitted receipts for their \$100 annual allowance for additional classroom supplies

Action Items

Open Vice President Board Position

Motion to approve Jessie Moreno-Graham for PTO Vice President board position, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Open Chairs, Volunteers Needed

Hawk wear coordination – Lauren Memmott volunteered

Teacher Appreciation – Becky Conn volunteered

Game Night – this event is on hold until larger gatherings are allowed; if an online Game Night becomes a possibility, Nelly Zapata volunteered

Thank you to all who volunteered to lead activities and to Jessie for accepting the VP position!

Updates

- Hawk Hangouts – Jessie reported that the students had lots of fun seeing each other outside of school, families and parents enjoyed the opportunity to connect. Family Liason, Charo, attended which is appreciated. The events helped raise awareness of the PTO also. Next Hangouts will weather dependent.
- School Directory will be distributed next week - Marny is coordinating, we have a little over 50 members which is less than previous years however we changed the structure of PTO memberships dues so many may not know this is a benefit.
- McKenny Librarian, Mrs. Hooper, sent the PTO a thank you note for the books she was able to buy from the funds PTO donated to the library and she created a display in the library with those books and a sign.
- Yearbook photos will now be easier with an app; please ask the adults you are with if taking photos of students for the yearbook is ok before posting.
 - Yearbook Snap password: McKenny2021

New Business

- MOD Pizza Fundraiser October 13: Carrie reported that 20% of orders go to McKenny. Orders can be placed online or in store, but please mention your order is for the McKenny fundraiser so we receive the donation.
- Trunk or Treat, October 29: Vanessa said sign-ups are going well, the event has 12 cars to date. McKenny's mascot, Spirit, will make an appearance! Candy & trinket donations are appreciated and will be accepted at the school entrance on Thursday, Oct 29 from 8:15 – 9:00am and from 11:45am – 12:15pm (this is conference week and early dismissal).
- Read-a-Thon, October 24 – November 7: Michel reported that plans are in place to have pledges accepted online again and prizes are being gathered. It was decided to set the school fundraising goal at \$5,000, which was the amount two years ago, and to have funds raised go to support all of our specialists who have expressed need, including the library to expand its collection of non-fiction and equity/inclusion books, AND towards a new piece of permanent playground equipment to replace one that was removed for safety reasons. Attendees agreed that sending packets home with students the Friday before the Read-a-thon is sufficient lead time.
- Playground equipment research – Jessie is researching options and found that it requires coordination with school district and the Dept. of Health and must meet accessibility requirements. Ideas include a climbing item or outdoor musical instruments. Minimum cost is around \$10,000.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 pm.