

McKenny PTO Board Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2023



Attendance: Carrie Andrew, *Co-President*; Ingrid Aries, *Co-President*; Becky Conn, *Vice President*; Jessie Moreno-Graham, *Volunteer Coordinator*; Janelle Cromwell, *Secretary*; Amanda Villani, *Treasurer*; Whitney Gonzalez, *Parent at Large*; Collette Paulson
Megan R. Blocker, Jeff, April Goodman,

Via Zoom: Tess Roth, Ben, Jenny Fuller, Mindy Swedberg, Whitney Gonzalez,

Meeting convened at 6:30pm

Welcome & Introductions

Motion to accept December

McKenny Update:

- **Return from Winter Break:** The transition of two week break to go back to school is going well.
- **Outdoor School:** Mr. Havens is very involved in planning for outdoor school district wide. McKenny will attend May 15th - 17th.
- **District Budget:** Number of students drive the school budget. Enrollment has been growing in past years and peaked in 2018/2019. Enrollments have declined in 2020 – 2022. McKenny is now at the same levels from 2014. We have been able to provide more services for students through federal money. The district budget will have to be reduced. Encouraged parents to voice their opinions on what services are important and what they value.
- **Learn All About Kindergarten Day:** McKenny is hosting on March 4th, 2023. Invite all incoming kindergarteners and families to attend.

Budget:

- Amanda reviewed the current budget. New format for budget spreadsheet. Current balance of PTO Bank Account: \$8,802.68 in the bank. We have received a couple of teacher reimbursement requests.

Olympia Elementary Community Collaboration:

Collete gave an update on their latest meeting. Reviewed potential and past programs introduced in the school. 2021 they brought in an author. They are trying to bring someone from a Squaxin tribe for a future program.

Discussed the family liaison role and possibly not bringing that role back next year. Trying to make sure we have a good foundation for equality across the school district. Working on cross district partnerships.

Book Study Opportunity – Mr. Havens shared an opportunity to join a book study for Parents, Community and Staff members from McKenny and Boston Harbor. The book is “ So you want to talk about race” by Ijeoma Oluo

Movie Nights: Collette & Jesse discussed most recent movie night. Had another great / successful movie night. Estimate that they made \$400. We need to limit the students to McKenny only - no older siblings. Encouraged staff and parents to volunteer. McKenny is the only school that is a drop off. Scheduling next movie night in February.

Olympia School District Board, Hilary Seidel (OSD Board Rep)

Hilary discussed information and budget from the OSD board.

- School Board is the largest body of elected individuals – mainly volunteers
- Every school district has a 5 elected members from different areas in our region. We have 4 student representatives that act as non-voting members.
- Two formal board meetings per month. Board members cannot comment on public comments unless it is on the agenda.
- The Boards job is to provide oversight. Main areas include:
 - Adopt and review school's policies.
 - Give direction and approve budget.
 - Supervise and hire superintendent.
 - Give vision and direction to school district through strategic plan.

Hilary discussed a couple of budget issues and predicted a 2023 deficit of \$17million. 3 big issues include:

1. State does not pay for all staff that they recommend be in the building.
2. State does not accurately fund what it costs to staff schools.
3. Local levy helps pay for special education but only 13.5% of funds can go to special education, district has over 17% special education services. We are in a deficit. Might lift the cap by 1%.

Best way for families, parents and community to make an impact and change is to advocate for change. Hilary would like to educate and help families communicate their concerns to elected officials. Hilary will provide emails samples for families to voice their concerns.

Hilary is planning to start a policy committee. She feels that the board needs to take more responsibility on reviewing and writing policy instead of staff. She also discussed the equity

policy committee. Website has more information on these groups. Tool kit is available on website to lead a focus group to discuss equity.

Boosterthon – Mr. Havens, Carrie and Janelle have their first call with Boosterthon this next week. We discussed focusing on raising money for art supplies, golf set for PE, music class equipment, library books, back to school supplies to support all kids. Discussed partnering with another school to spread kindness and compassion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 pm