

McKenny Elementary PTO Board Meeting  
November 7, 2011  
6:30 pm, McKenny Library

**Board Present:** Jocelyn McCabe, President  
Michelle Johnson, Vice President  
Kim Wodka, Secretary  
Melissa Johnson, Past President/Parent Representative  
Casey Wyatt, Parent Representative  
Cary Carlisle, Parent Representative  
Sharon Whitehead, Parent Representative

**Committee Chairs Present:** Jennifer Phibrook, PTO Bulletin Board  
Gini Niles, PTO Directory

**McKenny Staff Present:** Brendon Chertok, Tim Brewer, Ruth Middlebrook, Janet O'Halloran

**Absent:** Katy Bradley, Treasurer  
Tara Hays, Parent Representative  
Rhoa Rafeh, Parent Representative  
Stephanie Hacker, Parent Representative  
Deb Rutherford, Parent Representative

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from October 3, 2011 meeting approved

**Old Business (Jocelyn McCabe):** Jocelyn has been playing phone tag with Morris Sandvig regarding his after school tutoring proposal. Brendon states he also has not connected with Morris since the last PTO meeting. Jocelyn will continue to follow up on this topic.

Wendy Carlson is working on ordering a cooling vest for the mascot.

Jocelyn also reminded PTO members that the board is collecting donations to make a memorial contribution to GROWL (Great Respect of Winning Legends) on behalf of Gary Johnson.

**Update from McKenny Elementary (Brendon Chertok):** Sherri Russell has been hired as the P.M. Kindergarten teacher and also will continue in her Classroom Enrichment position. Her hours in Classroom Enrichment are unchanged since this was initially a part time position.

Brendon welcomed Asha Suresh as a representative from McKenny Site Council. The Site Council is a management committee comprised of school staff, parents and community members that focuses on improvements within McKenny and giving the school a voice within the community.

Brendon also shared the results from the online Spring 2011 Parent Survey. The survey had 49 responses. It primarily painted a positive picture of perceptions from families within the school. Brendon pointed out one item of concern — the number of responses to “My child's school has a workable plan for helping low achieving students.” The school is looking into this sentiment and addressing this area further. He was pleased to see respondents agreed with the statement, “My child's school gives recognition to students who demonstrate positive behaviors” since this was a high focus last school year. The survey results are posted on the McKenny website and in the school hallway.

**Rachel's Challenge:** Brendon discussed the Rachel's Challenge program which Kim Doughty would like to bring into McKenny. Rachel was the first student shot and killed during the Columbine tragedy in 1999. Her father has set up a program focused on a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. This will be introduced at the November assembly. Begin to look for chains linking around the school to show the program's impact on McKenny students.

In collaboration with the McKenny Site Council Brendon introduced a new program, the Margaret McKenny Academic and Social Excellence Book. This book will be used to recognize and record staff, students and community members who have gone above and beyond to improve McKenny. There will be a box in the school entry if you would like to make a nomination for the book.

**Ruth Middlebrook Presentation:** Ruth is the McKenny Social Service Coordinator. She works as the school psychologist, school counselor/social worker, works with student council, coordinates friendship groups and assists with crisis situations that may arise during the school year just to name some of the roles she plays in McKenny. Ruth discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steps Program. A program aimed at violence prevention, problem solving strategies and dealing with anger.

Ruth also discussed her role in the Adopt-a-Family program which focuses on McKenny families who need assistance during the holidays. This year, instead of asking donors to select a gift tag from the giving tree, she may encourage donations of gift cards, which would allow the families to select more personalized items. The PTO may consider donating to the Adopt-a-Family program this year.

## **New Business:**

**Capitol Fundraising Project (Jocelyn McCabe):** The PTO is looking for a Capitol Fundraising Project. Ideas collected in the suggestion box at the Fall Social/Hawk Hoedown included addressing the drainage issues on the playground field, playground equipment, a science lab and a computer lab. During the meeting ideas were mentioned including funding for bringing in outside assemblies including possibly an author in residence or building benches for around the field. Brendon will bring this issue up at the next staff meeting for additional feedback. Jocelyn stated we may need to set up a Capitol Fundraising Project Committee at the next PTO meeting.

## **Committee Reports:**

**A. Directories (Gini Niles):** Directories were delivered to students today. Current PTO membership includes 117 families, 4 staff members, and 5 business members. The online registration option was not well used and may not be necessary in the future. There was discussion re: whether you had to be a PTO member to be listed in the directory. This year only members are listed, but in the past you could sign up to be in the directory without being a member. Jocelyn will review the application and work with Gini and the board to alleviate any confusion over this next year.

**B. T-Shirt Orders (Sharon Whitehead):** Sharon has ordered 200 McKenny wear items including 80 t-shirts for new staff and students. She is anticipating ~ \$400 out of PTO budget to pay for the shirts for new staff/students. Delivery is anticipated before Thanksgiving break.

**C. Fund Run (Kim Wodka):** The Fund Run was a big success! Net profit was \$6143.89, up over \$860 from last year.

**D. Fall Social (Casey Wyatt):** Thanks to all who volunteered and assisted in making the Fall Social a success. Special thanks to Babette Carlson (Stewart's Meat Market), Tara Hays (Food Service Equipment) and Aaron McDonald (Ferrous Entertainment) for their contributions to this year's event. Special thanks also to the Starbucks stores in Yelm and on Pacific (in the Albertson's grocery store) for their generous product donations, too.

Brendon stated the Hawk Jail is in need of some repair prior to the next time it is used.

**E. Greeting Cards (Jocelyn for Deb Rutherford):** Greeting cards are moving forward. Artwork has been collected from the classrooms. Order forms will come home soon.

**F. Staff Appreciation (Cary Carlisle):** Cary took care of staff appreciation in Oct. She is looking for a little help from some "crafty" parents for November Staff

Appreciation. Will look at doing a fun week filled of activities in May during Teacher Appreciation Week.

**Announcements:**

- Movie Night – Nov. 18, “Cars 2”
- December Movie Night will include pizza on Dec. 2. Cary will review admission pricing for this event, as it includes pizza but NOT the craft (as was done last year).
- Next PTO meeting is Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- The PTO-sponsored Pacific Science Center Assembly is scheduled for Jan. 19

Janet O'Halloran wanted to let the PTO know she has received a grant to bring the South Sound Drum and Dance Group to McKenny.

She is also again asking for parent involvement in the Nov. 28 special session called by Gov. Gregoire to address budget shortfall considerations. McKenny families are invited to join Superintendent Lahmann, OSD building principals and McKenny staff at noon on Nov. 28 on the Capitol Campus for *Standing Strong and Standing Together for Public Education*. There will also be a flashlight rally after school Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> on the Capitol steps. The theme is, “Wear Red To Support Public Ed.”

Janet and Tim provided those in attendance with copies of the proposed budget cuts and provided addresses for our local legislators. Jocelyn will post a link to these sites on the McKenny PTO web page.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.