

McKenzie PTA General Meeting
September 13, 2011

1. Call to order and welcome 9:16 a.m.
2. Approval of May, 2011 meeting minutes
3. Principal's report – Dr. Denise Welter.
 - a. Introduction of new Asst. Principal, Lori Naumowiz. She will split her time between Central and McKenzie.
 - b. School update: McKenzie has 546 students attending classes this year. Largest student body among elementary schools in district. Specials teachers are moving around within district. Lynsee Whitman now @ HMS. Sarah Kapadia is @ McKenzie filling Lynsee's spot. New Science curriculum starting this year with hands on projects. Follows 2 years with a consultant. Also ties in the CONNECTED which teaches students to live and work in 21st Century.
 - c. Thank you to PTA for gift of headphones. Will travel with them around school and to next grade.
 - d. Performance Series assessments happening in September. Provides first data point of the year for longitudinal data for each student. Kindergarten tested in reading. By 2nd grade, kids are taking Performance Series in Sept, Jan, and May. Use the data to flexibly group students. ISATs from last year will be mailed home Friday.
 - e. Tardy policy. Parents will get an e-mail from school if child has accumulated 5 tardies. Just a communication that a pattern is starting.
4. Faculty Representative Report – Sue Epler. Kindergarten: getting to know each other. Reading buddies. Letter of the week. 1st Grade: Habitats including working in Garden. Enrichment money previously used for field trip will go towards Julie Zelcke who will be coming in. 2nd Grade: Sun, moon and stars. 3rd Grade. Plants unit. Flexible grouping starts. 4th Grade: Longer term writing using 6 criteria framework and new writing rubric. Land and water in science. Geometry in math.
5. Officer Reports
 - a. President – Jennifer Konz-Alt. PTA gift of headphones for each student. Bookfair volunteers needed
 - b. VP Communications – Deb Sokol. Paperless communications goes through 1) Monitor. Has a new deadline of 3pm Wed. 2) Website. Submit request form found on website for both Monitor and website. Will get a confirmation if it goes through. Infrequent e-mail blasts can also be used for communication. They are reserved for special thing: things with a lot of information, reminders, or if something changes. This goes through Denise. Can also use banners to advertise events.

Shari Gottlieb is the webmaster and graphic designer. Available to help with communication issues. She introduced new website and welcomed feedback. The website will expand on any event mentioned in the Monitor.
 - c. Treasurer – Michele Irvin. Discussed new items in budget: PTA gift maintenance. Also the differentiation between fun raisers and break even events. Budget for year was approved.

6. Committee Reports
 - a. PTA Membership/directories – Kris Hagen. Sign for PTA membership. Time is expiring.
 - b. Gardens – Lara Waechtler. Thanked summer volunteers including 7 families and Cub Scouts and Brownie troupes. In full bloom now. Had 1st classroom last week. Need more volunteers – use sign-up genius.
 - c. FAN – Kathy Freedman. Supports entire New Trier Township. Has 2 missions: to educate parents on parenting issues and to connect parents. PTA supports then with \$500. Most events are free. Event for Sept is “So Sexy So Soon” on 9/27 @ Faith Hope & Charity.
 - d. PLN – Heather Hehman. Sabine Shulz is co-chair. McKenzie’s own version of FAN. Kick-off event is on 10/4 at 9:30 and 11am @ MEC and 10/5 at 6:30 – 8pm. Will look at year 2025 when our kids will be entering their adult lives. What will their world look like?
 - e. Benefit – Emily Zivin and Rebecca Lieber. Will be Feb 4 @ Skokie Double Tree. Theme is “Going Places”. Soliciting donations. Will have sign-up genius.
 - f. Birthday Books – Rebecca Lieber. \$1400 in donations already. Can pay for it now up front with PTA membership and yearbook.
7. Pass 39 – Jennifer Nash. District-wide, run by parents. For families with kids with IEP’s. Various topics discussed and social events.
8. Adjournment 10:34.