

**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES-FINAL**

November 15, 2016

- I. Welcome – President, Christi Harrison
  - Meeting called to order at 9:20am - 16 PTA members, 2 staff members
- II. Approval of October 2016 Meeting Minutes-Minutes were approved unanimously
- III. Faculty Report – Rachel Gerber (see attached Exhibit 1)
- IV. Principal Report - Dr. Denise Welter
  - Thank you for the teacher and staff dinner last week. It was wonderful and appreciated.
  - Thank you also to those who volunteered with book fair and who met with Dr. Lechner regarding the search for the next McKenzie Principal.
  - The school nurse is in need of extra clothes to have on hand for cases when students need to change into clean/dry clothing. We would appreciate parents sending in pants and shirts they were planning on donating - sweatpants are especially helpful.
  - Learning Commons update
    - Dr. Welter and Sally Schoenberg are launching the read-a-thon this week, and students will be coming home with a packet on it this week. The read-a-thon begins over the holiday break and runs through December 4. We hope many students will participate, and the proceeds from the program will help to purchase materials for the learning commons.
    - As a reminder, construction to build our Learning Commons will take place during the summer of 2017. Blueprints should be completed very soon.
    - We are hoping to purchase needed bookshelves using Book Fair dollars.
  - Teachers and staff are in the process of developing parties for students that parents will be able to sign up for at the Parent Party on January 21.
  - Attendance - last year, McKenzie had 66% of students who had positive attendance (9 or fewer absences). We as a district have been calling attention to the importance of positive attendance, and parents have begun receiving monthly reports with updates on absences and tardies. Students should still stay home when their students are sick; we are referring to other absences that can be controlled.
  - Pick-up/drop-off line - Dr. Welter has been receiving a lot of communications about problems with pick-up and drop-off. Communications will be going out from the green committee and in the monitor regarding pick-up/drop-off guidelines and encouraging parents to turn off their engines while waiting in the pick-up line (though drivers should take care not to drain their batteries by running too many electronics in the car with their engines off).
  - Tonight is STEM night. It's been met with such excitement that 100 people have signed up, and we had to cut off participation and create a waiting list. If it's a big success, perhaps we could consider doing it again.
  - Early Kindergarten sign-up - We will once again offer early sign-up. Our office will have extended hours on January 19 and all day on January 20, so that parents can come in to register their incoming Kindergarteners. Letters will go out on January 27 letting parents know whether they have AM or PM Kindergarten.
- V. Executive Board Member Reports and Updates

- President, Christi Harrison
  - Tipping - All PTA chairs should discuss tipping with their exec board liaison prior to any event in order to make sure it is in line with expectations.
- Treasurer, Elizabeth Jensen
  - Reviewed October Financial Report (see attached Exhibit 2)
- Room Parents VP, Louisa Kunzler
  - Teacher/Staff dinner went very well, with plenty of leftovers for lunch the next day
- Fundraising VP, Dori Boneck
  - Parent Party (January 21)
    - A lot of parents have volunteered to host sign-up parties
    - Have met with ClickBid regarding software for event. Parents will be able to bid at the party or at home.
    - Party will be a lot of fun, caterers have been chosen
  - Box Tops - collected \$115 for Carman-Buckner and \$292.10 for McKenzie
- Community Building VP, Amy Gelwix
  - Share the Warmth coat drive collected 171 coats and 338 other items, all of which were delivered to Carman-Buckner. \
  - Share the Love of Reading collected donations of 72 new books, almost doubling last year's contribution of 42 books.
  - Share the Feast and Share the Joy toy drive are coming up.
- Secretary, Michele Epps
  - Nominating Committee update
    - PTA Nominating Committee will select next year's Executive Board Elect slate.
    - Launched email and online form on the PTA website yesterday; more communications will come out this week
    - Nominations will be accepted through November 29
    - Online voting will take place December 6 through December 12
    - Votes will be tallied by December 15 so that Nominating Committee can begin selecting next year's slate immediately after holiday break.

VI. Committee Chair Reports

- Movie Fun Night on December 2nd. Still deciding on movie - leaning towards Polar Express.
- School pictures - Cady Photos
  - Photo prints that parents ordered have started coming in
  - Dr. Welter shared that she had spoken with Cady about feedback regarding some growing pains, and they are committed to improving.
- Variety Show - informational meeting on November 30 at 7:30pm. In process of finalizing songs for the show.
- Junior Great Books - need one more volunteer for a 4th grade group. We have one parent volunteer for that group, but we need a second parent volunteer or the group will not be able to move forward.
- Open Gym Nights will start in January and will be publicized in the Monitor

VII. New Business/Next Steps/Other

VIII. Adjournment - 10:00am

#### Grade Level Reports

##### Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners have been reading lots of new books from the Book Fair! Many of these books were from Mo Willem's Elephant & Piggie series. Inspired by the Wilmette Public Library, the Kindergarteners joined in the election spirit by voting for Elephant or Piggie last week. (Piggie was the winner! 49 votes to Elephant's 36)

They also enjoyed another enrichment opportunity yesterday called The Traveling Museum. They explored items made from natural materials and learned about the daily lives of Native Americans.

Many thanks to the PTA for sponsoring both of these wonderful, enriching events!!

##### First grade

First grade is loving the habitat McKenzie gardens and a big thank you to the Enrichment committee for bringing Julie Zielke to us!

We are looking forward to our new revamped Fine Arts presentation about ocean habitats during the month of December. Sarah Brazee gave us a preview and it looks like so much fun. I'm sure the kids will love it!

First grade brought McKenzie alum Nicole Basil in to speak about her charitable organization, Pedal Power that collect gently used bikes for kids on the honor roll in Chicago schools. She is an amazing, inspiring and well spoken young lady from our own community that makes volunteering and leadership an attainable goal.

##### Second Grade

\*2nd grade recently had an Ignite sponsored event. Last week, Julie Zielke transformed our classrooms into old time school houses to kick off our social studies unit that explores how people live according to their geographic location and across time.

\*Nadine Ibrahim and her intern Ms. Gribbel (unsure how to spell it) led four weeks of the Kindness Program in our classroom that reinforces what they are learning in Second Step. They reviewed telling vs. tattling, using kind words, and what respect means and looks like.

\*Continuing to explore subtraction and shortly will be learning a new math tool, bar modeling, which will be frequently used in third and fourth grades to help students visually explore and explain increasingly abstract seeming math topics

\*Students are already preparing for next month's second grade music performance. 2nd grade music program is on Wed., Dec. 14 at 2:30 P.M.

##### Third Grade

The 3rd grade teachers want to thank the PTA for the delicious dinner they provided on Conference Night. It fit the spot perfectly.

Third graders are beginning their first Social Studies unit of Exploration. This unit's guiding questions include: How can exploration be defined? What does it take to make an exploration successful? and How do explorations affect individuals, communities, and cultures. During this unit, all students will study Lewis and Clark and then study another explorer in smaller groups. In Math, students continue to work on addition and subtraction with multi-digit numbers. They will be applying these skills while learning how to use the bar models strategy to solve story problems. At the end of October, all third graders enjoyed a performance by Ensemble Espagnol. It complemented their study of Spain in Spanish.

#### Fourth Grade

The fourth grade teachers would like to thank the parents for participating in the parent-teacher conferences. It was good to extend our home-school communication in person!

#### A few notes about curriculum:

The fourth graders have been working on double digit multiplication and long division. We are incorporating the philosophy of Jo Boaler and following the precepts in her book *Mathematical Mindsets*.

The students have been finishing up their land and water unit for science. They have learned how plants protect sloped land from erosion and are designing landscapes for their stream tables.

We are near the end of our reading and writing units and getting ready to celebrate their published stories.

"Thank you to the PTA IGNITE program for the watershed presentation and hands-on activity from 'SCARCE' organization."

#### Nurse

Can you ask for size 8-14 clothing donations? I especially need pants (jeans, leggings, khakis) etc...?

#### Tech

First Grade: drawing a picture of a worm's habitat and what they need in order to live (food, air, sun, water, shelter)

Second Grade: working on Sun, Moon, Earth facts in the app called Explain Everything

Third Grade: Keyboarding

Fourth Grade: Forms of Media review and How Can 4th Graders show their Digital Citizenship

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



**Monthly Financial Report**  
**McKenzie PTA, Wilmette, IL**  
**10.1.16 to 10.31.16**

<b>McKenzie PTA Account</b>
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**Beginning Book Balance 10.1.16**                                   **\$   167,114.84**

**Receipts**

Junior Great Books	630.00
Book Fair	3,058.38
Fall Frenzy	10,120.00
Ignite campaign	2,650.00
Birthday books	245.00
GL Scrip - Charging for Cheetahs	20.00
Interest	14.70
Directory - Print	25.00
PTA Membership	175.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,938.08</b>

**Disbursements**

Enrichment Grade Expenses	-7,225.50
Bus Fees	-435.36
Fine Arts	-217.85
Book Fair	-382.18
Fall Frenzy	-2,289.12
Parent Party	-3,003.13
Bank Charge - Paypal Fees	-180.71
Insurance	-67.51
Office Supplies Executive Board	-160.55
IL PTA Dues	-68.00
Room Parents Hospitality	-50.00
Teacher Appreciation Activities	-2.15
New Parent Reception	-473.96
Staff Reimbursement	-958.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-15,514.46</b>

<b>Ending Book Balance 10.31.16</b>	<b>168,538.46</b>
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**Ending Bank Balance 10.31.16**                                   **\$   177,508.68**

**Elizabeth Jensen, Treasurer**  
**Submitted for Audit Committee: 11/1/16**

