

**McKinley Middle School PTA
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2018**

Call to Order @ 12:00 p.m. by Andrea Norris, PTA President

Approve December meeting minutes:

*Motion to approve by Tammy Fox; 2nd by Heather Anderegg

Announcements:

Tier 1: Rachel Morey is one of three parents on the Tier 1 committee and spoke about what the committee does. This group meets to discuss how McKinley can meet the needs of behavior students and set up action plans. One suggestion was to close the hallway doors to cut down on the distractions up and down the hallways. They are also working to revamp the Bear Paw Store by adding more items and being open additional hours. Students can use the Bear Paws that they earn to purchase items at the store or attend a pizza party (100 Bear Paws). They asked for PTA support to help fund a future pizza party, which was tabled until the next meeting to get a better idea of the cost. Per Mr. Martinez the PBIS fund currently has \$2,400 and they've purchased 10 pizzas so far this school year.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance: \$9,197.09

Ending Balance: \$10,329.97

*Motion to approve by Mollie Schlue; 2nd by Sue Millar

Membership Report:

52 members

Committee Updates

Iowa Assessment snacks (April 2-6): Chairperson needed to organize snacks for these 5 days; small time commitment; contact Andrea Norris (ANDREALEWERENZ@msn.com) or the PTA (PTA.McKinley@yahoo.com) if you are interested or would like more info

Staff Party (PTA sponsored) currently scheduled for January 25th, depending on when the Bug Zoo is coming

Conference dinner for staff will be Feb 15th; watch for sign up in the next few weeks

New Business

Timeline on 1st floor is damaged, administration asked if PTA could fund the repair. Estimated cost of \$350. Tabled until next meeting to research if there is an installation fee, what the cost would be to replace all of it, etc.

The Variety Show is an annual talent show/fund raiser and is coming up March 6th. There will be a dinner, auction and bake sale during the show and lots of volunteers and donations will be needed. The Variety Show Committee will be meeting soon, if you are interested in helping please contact the PTA (PTA.McKinley@yahoo.com)

Principal's report

Thank you to volunteers that donated school supplies this week to McKinley teachers and to volunteers that have served as parent greeters before school. Having the greeters has had a positive impact on the students.

Conferences are coming up February 13th & 15th from 3:00-9:00 p.m. both days. A link will be added to the McKinley website a couple weeks before conferences for parents to use to sign up.

Iowa Assessments are scheduled for April 2-6. All make-up tests have to be completed by April 13th.

District Assessments are coming soon. Science (Feb 5-March 2), Language Arts (April 16-27) and Math (April 17-May 4)

Family letters were sent last week via email regarding schedule changes. 7th Grade will be starting a Block Schedule for second semester. 8th grade schedules are changing as well, in order to accommodate time for Mind & Body.

Discussion of block scheduling included:

What is it?

- 3 blocks per day, each core class held 3 times per week

What prompted the change at the semester instead of waiting until next year?

- Lunch times

- Class sizes to be more evenly distributed

- The success the 6th grade has had this year with a similar schedule

What are the benefits?

- Teacher collaboration time

- Opportunities for project-based learning with the longer class periods

- Easier to build relationships/get to know students

- Field trips can be done within the class period and therefore not take students out of other classes

- Allows for deeper discussion/teaching; more hands-on opportunities

- Less times to change classes; passing time is often where behavior issues arise

Concerns raised that substitute teachers may have a more difficult time managing classrooms during longer periods:

- These issues will be addressed by more comprehensive and regimented sub plans as well as assistance from administration when necessary.

8th grade parents raised concerns about when the Mind/Body time is scheduled:

- 8th grade is especially difficult to schedule due to TASL and EO programs at Washington High School. Time of day for Mind/Body is not ideal but simply couldn't find another time to schedule it.

Upcoming Dates:

Feb 13 & 15 – Conferences (PTA will have a table on 2/13 – stop by for updates and volunteer info)

March 6 – Variety Show

March 12-16 – Spring Break

March 19 – PTA Meeting @ noon

April 2-6 – Iowa Assessments

Adjournment 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 19th at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Jennifer Petersen	Laurie Tauber	Jason Martinez	Justin Blietz	Andrea Norris
Rachel Morey	Brian McGrath	Stephanie Helle	Tammy Fox	Kelly Bult
Sue Millar	Brian Christoffersen	Molly Lamb	Lisa Barnett	Michele Wilson
Mollie Schlue	Nikki Skogman	Heather Anderegg	Dan Anderegg	Leah Ferring
Kristie Van Gorkum	Sara Brennan	Jen Steffen	Katie Sorgenfrey	Rob Hruby
Teri Sullivan				