

McKinley Middle School PTA

November 13, 2017

Call to Order @ 12:02 p.m.

Approve October meeting minutes:

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

Announcements:

*Curt Wheeler will be at the December PTA meeting (12/11) to do a 15-20 minute presentation on substance abuse. He will present at the beginning of the meeting.

*The Cedar Rapids Community School District Foundation is hosting a "Lip Sync for Learning" fundraiser this Friday, Nov. 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the CPSP Hall. Ten community leaders, school administrators, and all around good folk will compete to claim the title "2017 Lip Sync for Learning Grand Champion!"

*Looking for volunteers to run the concession stand at 7th & 8th grade girls basketball games. Please contact Andrea if you are interested or want more info: ANDREALEWERENZ@msn.com

Updated Bylaws Vote:

*Motion to approve by Mollie Schlue; 2nd by Lisa Greco

Principal's report

*Forensic Club for 6th grade is in place now through February, then another group will start. Activities include fingerprinting, Field Trips to Courthouse & CRPD Forensics Dept., and will finish up with a 3-week "crime" to solve

*Magnet School kickoff meeting with Doreen Bush to review next steps. Current plan is for McKinley to be a STEAM Magnet school by 2019-2020 school year.

*The Cedar Rapids Garden Club and Gazette were onsite today and, along with 50 6th graders, prepped the areas in the front of the building for the Prairie area where native wildflowers will be planted. Next spring a short fencing will be added. Look for the story in the Gazette soon.

Classroom Learning Environment Discussion

*Parents voiced concerns about behaviors, rules, discipline within McKinley, asking for more information and guidance so they could communicate these things with their students.

*Mrs. Wilson explained the "team" approach they are taking with 6th grade this year. Two teams of approximately 75 students each, follow a block schedule, fewer transitions, fewer teachers, more of a community environment.

*Behavior assessments include all students, 6th through 8th grade and are placed in Tier 1, 2 or 3 depending on the outcome of the assessment. Tier 2 equates to some extra help like point sheets, assigning a mentor, check in/out policy, etc. Tier 3 includes outside resources to help students.

*Major/minor office referral levels are set by District and are based on attendance, behavior and academics.

*Habitual behaviors can be input as a minor office referral so these are included in analysis

*Teams for Tier 1, 2 and 3 are in place and led by staff (teachers, support staff & administration). Tier 1 would like to have a parent member from each grade level. They meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3:00-4:00. Call the office if you are interested or would like more information.

*Expectations are posted in hallways, classrooms, bathrooms and cafeteria

*Short-staffed right now due to long-term subs in place in Art and Science and two staff out on maternity leave. All staff working together to make sure classrooms are covered and students are learning.

*Emphasized emailing your student's teacher with concerns; they are happy to help

Treasurer's Report

*N/A

Membership Report

*52 members

Committee Updates

*Thank you to everyone who donated/helped with the Staff Dinner during conferences

New Business

***Special Projects Update**

*Bug Zoo-6th grade team project that fits into their curriculum; PTA voted last month to fund this at approximately \$320 for Iowa State Bug zoo to come for a 'family night' to be scheduled during 2nd semester.

*Food Pantry-PTA donating \$100 for now; currently a \$600 balance; looking for private donations until corporate donations can be secured.

*Marching Band-seeking funding for enrichment time (45 minutes between school dismissal on Fridays and Marching band start). Funds raised from Variety Show cannot be used for this so PTA will revisit possibly funding this at the December meeting.

*Discussion on student safety at drop off/pick up; Steve Funk called the City to inquire about possibly adding 80 feet of No Parking along McKinley Street, just before the school by the tennis courts; will update next month if he has heard back from the City Engineering Dept.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11th at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Andrea Norris	Sara Brennan	Michele Wilson	Jason Martinez
Tammy Fox	Mollie Schlue	Sue Millar	Amy Foreman
Laurie Tauber	Lisa Greco	Rennie Sarchett	Steve Funk
Kristie VanGorkom	Heather Anderegg	Rob Hruby	Nikki Skogman
Brooke DeWolf	Dennis McDermott	Jennifer Petersen	Kate Ryan
Suzy DeWolf			