

McKinley Middle School
PTA Minutes December 11, 2017

Call to Order @ 12:01

In Attendance:

Steve Funk	Rachel Morey	Brian McGrath
Stephanie Helle	Tammy Fox	Kelly Bult
Colin Flynn	Sara Morey	Adam Zimmerman
Eric Christensian	Dave Franzman	Brooke DeWolf
Lance Greco	Lisa Greco	Nikki Skogman
Leah Ferring	Kristie Van Gorkum	Mollie Schlue
Beth Pappendick	Jamie Rogers	Lura McBride
Anne Deutmeyer	Dennis McDermott	Willie Guy
Christina Ditch	Jason Martinez	Justin Blietz

Andrea Norris

Approve November meeting minutes:

*Motion to approve by Mollie Schlue; 2nd by Beth Pappendick

Approve max \$350 for stem class to be offered between dismissal and beginning of band.

*Motion to approve by Suzy DeWolf; 2nd by Kristie Van Gorkum

Announcements:

*Tier 1 is looking for parents to volunteer . They meet the first and third Tuesday of every month from 3:00- 4:00. See Andrea Norris if you are interested.

*Bylaws approved by both state and national PTA.

*Letter received from anonymous writer regarding behavioral issues at McKinley- any PTA member who wants a copy of the letter can contact andrea and one will be provided.

Principal's Report:

*Librarian has donated a Maker Space including Bee-bots, code beading, and recycling activities

*McKinley book fair will be at Barnes and Noble Thursday December 14th

*Empower Family night was very successful

*Hills Bank donated a tree in McKinley foyer

*Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association and Mercy Hospital donated hats, gloves and scarves

*Kim Seward received a \$2,000 donation for McKinley pantry which should get us through to the end of the year

*McKinley Band participated in a holiday event at Mercy Hospital.

*Project Hope is visiting the University of Iowa

*Students with perfect attendance will be enjoying a pizza party

*Gabby Granadillo will be recognized in Des Moines

Presentation by Curt Wheeler

- *Perception of harm from students is decreasing
- *Curt encouraged families to drop off all unused medications at any police station in Linn County. No questions asked.
- *Electronic smoking devices on the increase. These can be very dangerous when used with added oils.
- *Encourage open dialogue with children.
- *Kratom is a new substance currently being abused. Sold locally. Standard dose is a stimulant, but people are doubling and tripling it for opiate affect.
- *Curt encouraged parents to support local tobacco free parks initiative

Anonymous Letter Discussion

- *Mr. Martinez recognizes work needs to be done
- *Parts of letter are true and some parts he disagrees with
- *Staff is working hard on climate and culture
- *Staff feeling good about progress being made
- *Power Point Presentation
 - How can we get better?
 - 3 main areas; Academic instruction, Classroom management, Community Engagement
 - *Parents participated in an exercise writing attributes of a successful building.
 - clear expectations
 - respect
 - proactive communication
 - honest communication
 - ability to speak without fear
 - parent involvement
 - success strategies for every student
 - safe environment
 - order
 - common expectations
 - teacher safety
 - *Items in letter that are not surprising to Mr. Martinez, although they do not happen every day.
 - bad language
 - fights
 - disrespectful behavior
 - truancy
 - *Systems to handle poor behavior
 - detention
 - suspension
 - out of school placement
- (with support from law enforcement and District)
- 7 Levels of Intervention a general guide to handle behavior

*Discussion on parent help. It was decided that parents would be appreciated in the morning to stand outside with students before they are allowed in the school. Parents offered help in classrooms and hallways, as well.

*Carlos Grant answered a question regarding the shortage of subs. This is a national issue. There is currently a task force addressing how to encourage subbing and make them feel more welcome.

*Willie Guy talked about his role in the building. He discussed how important the kids are to him and his peers and their passion for making McKinley a safe and welcoming place to be.

*Discussion- Concern that learning is being compromised with so much focus needing to be on behavior.

-Mr. Martinez led conversation about going back to basics.

-Learning targets

-Rules and Procedures

-Community Engagement; students, parents, staff and community

*Next Steps

-Teachers refocus on non negotiables

-Collect data

-Create coaching assignments

-share the data

*Short discussion on large turnover at Mckinley for 2017/2018 school year.

-Retirement

-Moving

-Most had to do with McKinley turning into a magnet school and teachers not being comfortable with that process.

*7th grade moving to block scheduling second semester, 8th grade not feeling like it is the right time.

*Question about excessive movie watching. Expectation is that movies should only be happening as a learning tool in short snippets.

*Discussion about District involvement. Dr. Grant is in McKinley a day or two each week. Culture/Climate district representatives are involved as well (Adam Zimmerman)

*Question about how urgent the District finds the climate at McKinley. Answer was that no one believes McKinley is "a ship on fire", however parent feedback to administration was that the school may be more "a ship on fire" due to lagging academics. Several families are discussing moves to alternative schools and many families developing a no confidence vote.

*Discussion on academic readiness for Washington High School.

-no note taking

-no papers

-little testing

-no homework

Adjournment 1:40pm

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8th at 12:00.