Call to Order @ 12:02 p.m. by Steve Funk, President

Thank you:
* Staff Conference Dinner (2/14) and for providing Friday staff appreciations

Membership Report
* 43 members

Approve January Meeting minutes:
* Motion to approve by Andrea Norris; 2nd by Leah Ferring. Approved.
* No meeting held in February due to scheduling issues

Principal’s Report
* Variety Show Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Tickets $5, for sale in the office.
* June 5th is the last day of school (as of now); 8th Grade Celebration will be that day, time TBD
* Magnet Lottery closed but looking to extend another month due to all the inclement weather
* Spring break is next week, March 18-22nd
* HRS survey: responses from 28 families
* Hy-Vee receipts due April 1st. Keep bringing them in as we’ll start collecting right away for next year
* STEAM Festival rescheduled to April 4th due to inclement weather. Volunteers still needed.
* Just a reminder to please not park in the fire lanes at McKinley
* Team of students working w/Mrs. Karam will present request for funds for outdoor learning center at the April PTA meeting.

Committee Updates
* Variety Show: This Thursday! Volunteers and donations still needed; see links on website to help.

Treasurer’s Report
* Balance as of 02/28/19: $8,707.60

New Business
* Formed nominating committee of Steve Funk and Laurie Tauber to solicit volunteers for PTA Board positions for next school year. If interested please email: PTA.McKinley@yahoo.com
* Audit committee, consisting of Leah Ferring and Andrea Norris, will audit the PTA budget/account at the end of the year before transferring to the new Treasurer.
* Discussion regarding the behavior rewards taking place Friday afternoons. The reward system was in place before the district opted to make up missed school time on Friday afternoons. The rewards were moved to the afternoon instead of breaking up learning time in the morning. This Friday is the last week of it as it is part of the “Road to Spring Break” incentives.

Meeting Adjourned @ 1:09 p.m.
March Staff Presentation/Discussion “Enhanced Learning Opportunities”
Discussion on PACT at McKinley and the difference between Middle School and Elementary PACT Programs. Also talked about the EO and TASL programs that McKinley 8th graders can participate in at WASH. Some summer learning opportunities include NewBo summer camps, College for Kids at Coe, Kirkwood KICK program and many more. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Mrs. Karam at McKinley. Or check out this link: https://awesome-table.com/-L-HRg543mYuzdyaesr/view

Next meeting will be Monday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:
Andrea Norris  Jason Martinez  Laurie Tauber  Steve Funk  Sue Millar
Kelly Bult  Leah Ferring  Jennifer Petersen  Stacy Karam  Molly Lamb
Tanya Schneidermann
PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC AND CREATIVE TALENT

What is PACT?

PACT – The Program for Academic and Creative Talent offers a variety of challenging activities for students with exceptional academic and creative talents. Students may receive programming through differentiated curriculum or small group clustering during the school day or after school.

How do students become involved in PACT activities?

Students scoring at, or above, a given percentile on the Iowa Assessments in any of these categories: Reading Total, Math Total (includes computation score), Science Composite, and Complete Composite are eligible to receive PACT services. Students learn about activity options and decide which activities they would like to participate in throughout the school year. Their teachers then nominate students for specific PACT activities. A student nomination will be based on exceptional academic strength and motivation in the area covered by the PACT activity. For instance, exceptional language arts and literacy students should be nominated for Mock Trial, Writer’s Workshop, or Junior Great Books. Parents are encouraged to share with classroom teachers and PACT staff their insights about their child’s exceptional areas of academic and creative strength.

What kinds of activities or services will be available through PACT?

Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities that extend their thinking to higher levels. Such activities include, but are not limited to: Mock Trial, National History Day, Math Olympiads, Optimist Speech, Invent Iowa, Future City, Writer’s Workshop, etc.

Who teaches PACT activities?

PACT Managers, building staff members, outside specialists and resource personnel will deliver services.

How often do PACT classes meet?

PACT class schedules vary according to the nature of the activity. Some meet daily in place of a regular class, some meet twice weekly, some once a week, and some may meet after school. It depends on the type of activity that is offered.

How do I find out more about PACT? I have some specific questions I need answered.

Call your building PACT Manager, Stacy Karam (558-4692), or email stikaram@cr.k12.ia.us.
McKinley PACT Course Descriptions

**Acting Troupe** - Acting troupe is a great opportunity for students who love to perform for others. Students will read, practice and perform plays and study the art of acting. (6th-8th)

**Book Club** - Once a month, join Mrs. Karam for lunch as we discuss a book. The book of the month will be posted outside the classroom door. (6th-8th, depending on the building schedule)

**Field Trips** - Field trips are a great way to be involved in PACT without taking time away from your regular coursework.

- **International Day** - International Day is a one-day event sponsored by the University of Iowa. Each year there is a new theme. Students attend a keynote speaker with their group, then spend the rest of the day attending breakout sessions on topics that interest them. Up to 30 students may attend. This event is reserved for 8th graders only.

- **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day** - This is a special day at Collins International during Women in Engineering Week. Five eighth grade girls are selected to participate in this event, which is designed to show girls possible careers in engineering.

- **Iowa Youth Writing Project** - This is a day designed to develop the writing skills of approximately 30 seventh and eighth graders. Students attend workshops specific to their favorite genres, and the day ends with a large group sharing session. Students are also given the chance to submit a piece of writing to a group publication.

- **Open Minds, Open Doors** - This is a one-day conference held at Coe College intended to encourage middle school girls (grades 7-8) to pursue career fields in science, engineering, technology, and math. Girls attend hands-on workshops conducted by local professional working women.

**Future City** - Students will use SimCity software to design their own city. Students will also create a physical model of their city, write an accompanying essay, and present at a competition. This is a team project, and students will work in groups of three. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders may participate in this activity.

**Game Exploration (Brain Games)** - This is a time, typically over students’ lunch hour, that is entirely devoted to exploring games. Games may include: checkers, chess, Stratego, Gravity Maze, various card games, Boggle, Scrabble, etc. The idea is that kids are choosing from a selection of games that will develop their thinking skills. This course is offered to students in grades 6, 7 & 8.

**Genius Hour** - This is an hour each week set aside for students to work on a project of their choosing. Students will submit a project plan, and after receiving approval, spend time each week working toward a final project. These projects are shared at the end of the course. This course is offered to grades 6 and 7.

**Invent Iowa** - The Invent Iowa program encourages students to creatively think and solve problems through the invention process. Kids will design and create their own original inventions, and may submit them to the annual competition in February. 6th and 7th graders may participate.

**Junior Great Books** - This course is for students who love to read and discuss. Each week, students are given an essay or excerpt from a novel to read. At the following class, a discussion ensues. This course is offered to 6th graders.
Leadership - This course examines the definition of a leader, the study of leaders throughout history, and the positive and negative impacts of leaders on various societies. Students gain leadership skills and strategies. The course culminates with each student leading the class through a leadership lesson. 8th graders only.

Math Olympiad - This class deals with non-routine problem solving strategies in math. The program runs from late fall through spring and is for 6th graders only.

McKinley Archives - Students research McKinley's rich history, organize our school's historical documents and artifacts, and give tours to students, their families, and the general public. 6th graders are given tours, 7th and 8th graders may participate in the archives class.

Mock Trial 1 - This is a simulation of a real trial. You will learn about the law, study an actual trial, and play the defense counsel or the prosecution. This is held in the spring, in preparation for Mock Trial 2, which involves a competition. 6th grade only.

Mock Trial 2 - Mock Trial 2 involves the study of America’s justice system. You will study an actual trial, learn legal vocabulary, be assigned a role, and participate in a simulation of an actual court case. This activity culminates with a competition in November. 7th and 8th graders only.

National Geographic Geography Bee - This is a competition sponsored by National Geographic. You will learn more about the world than you ever dreamed! Students begin the competition in their social studies classrooms, then come to the PACT room as they progress through the competition. 6th-8th grades.

National History Day - This is a competition that involves primary research focused on a yearly theme. Research is then presented through display, a paper, a documentary, or theater. Students can work individually or with a small group. All grade levels can participate.

Optimist Speech Competition – Students will write a speech based on the current year’s theme, learn and study good speaking skills, and practice giving their speech for multiple audiences. They will then give their speech at a local Optimist Club meeting in February or March. 6th-8th grades.

Photography – In this class, students analyze the qualities of good photographs, take lots of photos, use photo-editing software, and print and display their photos. 7th grade only.

World View - Students will have the opportunity to learn about issues going on around the world, then discuss them in class. Topics may include: lack of clean drinking water, pollution, human rights, birth/death rates around the world, individual responsibilities in a society. The course culminates with a service learning project. 7th grade only.

Writer's Workshop - Students will have the opportunity to write both fiction and non-fiction, covering a variety of self-selected topics. Students will read and discuss their work with others. There will be a strong emphasis on giving and receiving feedback. All grade levels may participate.

PACT courses will be offered from this list based on student survey results. Please note that additional courses may be offered if there is enough interest. Remember to list your additional interests where it indicates on the survey!