



MCNEAL ELEMENTARY PTO MINUTES

November 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by PTO President, Sarah Ford, at approximately 5:48 pm.

In attendance:

Principal Sheila Waid

Board Members: Sarah Ford (President), Jessica Chmielarski (Vice President), Erica Ward (Treasurer) and Sheena Jordan (Secretary)

Attendees: Elena Vergnais, Kristen Nibert, Jennifer Fearin, Dawn Schmid, Lindsay Milner, Jaimie Marco, Sarah Lilly, Danielle Terribile, Donna McCrane, Brittany Simunovic, Danielle Carter, Maria Ade, Stephanie Tretolo, Anthony Tretolo, David Havasi, Petra Pearsall, Teresa Johansen, Alex Benson, Lora Sevarino, Kathryn Flesche, Caitlin Saviano, Angela Gulbrandsen, Angie Hughes

Meeting Report and Agenda:

President's Report:

President Sarah Ford gave Opening Remarks
Minutes from the October meeting were approved and seconded by Donna McCrane.

Color Fun Run:

We have changed our incentive prizes for this week after getting feedback from parents. ANY donation between Monday 8pm and Tuesday 8pm will get a snow cone at recess on Wednesday. ANY donation between Tuesday 8pm and Wednesday 8pm will get a wildcat bracelet on Thursday. Students who reach their \$200 individual goal will get to take an individual picture with Gilbert (in addition to a whole class photo). Any family that cumulatively raises \$400 will receive a personalized brick that will be placed in the courtyard.

We have gotten some feedback about this year's fun run and wanted to address those concerns.

-It was brought to our attention that the red Snow Cone syrup has red 40. We will be looking for a healthier option for red snow cone syrup in the future.

-Snow cones in the morning, giving students a sugar rush for teachers. We are using recess time to distribute, so that students are not pulled from academic time. Due to this, unfortunately some students will have the snow cones in the morning on these rare occasions.

-Lots of sugar 3 days in a row with snow cone prize, Carousel's and then popsicles after color run. PTO will be looking into other options to reduce this in the future, but kids are loving it.

-Parents are concerned about \$100 for a snow cone. The \$100 is going to the many things that PTO is purchasing for the good of the school. The snow cone is only an incentive to help make students want to raise money.

-Some parents are concerned that not all students could raise enough money to get a snow cone. This feedback brought us to change up the prizes for this week to be more inclusive of students (see new prizes above).

-Some parents question the \$200 student goal increasing from last year's \$100 goal. Last year, we noticed that we only had approximately 50% of our students participate in the fundraiser. So in order to reach this year's goal, we increased the recommended (not required) student goal to \$200. We do still have class goals that get a variety of prizes as they reach milestones. They are synergizing as a class to reach those goals. The individual student incentives and goals are needed to help the class reach their cumulative goal.

-Color Fun Run is taking the place of Boosterthon. With Boosterthon, students were called up individually by name for making their fundraising goals. This not only singled out students that didn't raise funds, but it took lots of academic time away from teachers. We have also learned from last year (our first Color Fun Run) and made improvements on how we are structuring individual student incentives. Year over year, we are making significant progress on inclusivity.

-Mrs. Schmid mentioned that the teachers are LOVING the new student incentives for this week.

-Danielle is a new mom here at McNeal, and they just came from LWR prep. She mentioned that LWR Prep fundraiser had a \$300 minimum goal per student, so \$200 was a nice break from that. She also mentioned that at LWR prep, parents have a required 20 hours of volunteer time per student, or they have to pay money to make up for each hour missed. She said that McNeal is so amazing for how we are creating goals for students and classes, and how we are incentivizing our students.

Other questions/concerns about Color Fun Run

-It was asked if the donations will have time stamps for the new prizes. Yes, the system we use for this fundraiser does have time stamps.

-A parent asked if we could send a dojo for students to bring \$1 cash for snow cones. Cash is accepted, but we do not have a system in place for that cash to be applied to the teacher's class totals.

-Another parent asked about the time of year we chose for this fundraiser. This fundraiser (or boosterthon in the past) has always been scheduled early in the year, because PTO needs the funds to be able to carry out all other purchases and events throughout the year. The only reason Color Fun Run was held in February was because last year it was scheduled for early October and we had to change the dates after Hurricane Ian left families with many other expenses.

-Will spectators be allowed around the fences? Yes, parents are allowed to come watch during their child's run time. The classes will be running during their fine arts time.

-Mrs. Waid discussed that she is taking notes and appreciates the feedback. She assured us that she will be looking closely at the feedback, but that not all requests will be changed since some things are not a concern for the majority.

Volunteer Opportunities: We are still needing volunteers for Gallons of water, Setting up Thursday at 3:30pm, and Volunteers on Friday for the actual run (7:45am-3:30).

Holiday School Store: We have polled our teachers and they would prefer a morning school store in lieu of a "Holiday Shop" that takes away from academic time. Holiday School Store will be selling holiday items and small gift items for family members. The store will be on Dec 6, 13, and 20th in the lobby from 7:55-8:20am .

Committee Report: Thank you to all of our volunteers and Committee Chairs.

-Spirit Nights: Our next spirit night will be PDQ on January 29th.

-Sister School Committee: Dimes for Daughtrey and Smencil Sales has brought in money for our sister school. We are hoping to provide the staff a holiday lunch since they do not have a PTO at their school to provide one for them.

Treasurer's Report:

Dimes for Daughtrey brought in \$135

Smencils has raised \$400 for our sister school

Color Fun Run currently has raised approximately \$54,000 for McNeal.

Principal's Report:

Sheila Waid gave her report during the SAC meeting, which followed promptly after PTO was adjourned.

Open Forum:

Jennifer Fearing asked about the number of volunteers allowed at holiday parties. We explained that PTO is not responsible for setting those numbers due to the fact that they are set for safety reasons. Mrs. Waid mentioned that having that many volunteers on the campus at one time, poses a safety risk to students. We need to have enough staff members around to properly check in and monitor locations of volunteers. The number of volunteers each class is allowed to have is not a set number, but is based on the needs of the class. If a teacher has come to her requesting they need more volunteers, she will listen to their needs/concerns and adjust if necessary.

Closing Remarks:

No meeting in December. Next PTO/SAC meeting is January 16th.

President Sarah Ford gave closing remarks, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm and seconded by Maria Ade.