

**McGraw Elementary PTSO
General Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2024**

Attendance:

PTSO Board Members: Rahshida Perez, Lauren Rosazza, Staci Nouri, Corinne Roth, Ethnie Treick

PTSO Members: Brea Auer, Brittany Goll, Pam Spiciatti, Jen Schill

Staff: Amy Smith, Reneka Hall, Laura Whale

Student Leadership: Stella Stout, Eliza Meadows

Minutes:

Rahshida called the meeting to order at 7:49 a.m. We reviewed the February 2, 2024 meeting minutes. Brittany motioned to approve and Brea seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Student Leadership: Students reported that they made the March Kindness Calendar which features ideas such as smiling at as many people as you can or saying good morning to at least three people. Student leaders created a solution for Lost and Found. They are putting boxes outside of each grade for items and those boxes will be brought in after recess.

In order to devote the bulk of the meeting to a discussion of the community survey, officers provided brief reports. The President, VP of Fundraising and Secretary did not report anything.

VP of Events Report: Corinne reported that we sold out the March 24 movie very quickly. She is going to see if we can rent a second theater. The Spring Dance is on April 12 and she will work with student leadership to help organize. Teacher Appreciation week is May 6-10 and we will discuss this in depth at our April meeting. We will have Kona Ice and Walrus Ice Cream on the last day of Running Club.

Treasurer's Report: Staci reported the following account balances:

- Checking: \$25,864.07
- Savings: \$1,000.61
- Nature Center: \$2,039.10
- Odyssey of the Mind: \$32.84
- PayPal: \$169.54

Staci reported she paid \$2450.78 for last semester's field trip buses and Morning Fresh Dairy sent a \$100 check. Since last month, we have had several teacher budget purchases: carpet circles for seating arrangements (3rd grade), rolling cart for supplies and a portable whiteboard (1st grade), and prizes/candy for their dojo store (4th grade). We are partnering with First Day School Supplies and families will be able to order supplies for next year.

Principal's Report: Amy reported that kindergarten enrollment has picked up, with 30 enrolled. Student-led conferences are on May 8. She said that 5th grade exhibition parent volunteers are needed. PSD will offer multiple community meetings in March for feedback on long-range planning recommendations.

Community Survey Results and Discussion: Jen reviewed our process for the survey. Full results will be released to families. The top three priorities were enhanced teacher budgets, outdoor classroom and after-school enrichment. Respondents also provided additional ideas including more after school programs, interactive classroom learning, after school tutoring, and kindergarten bag books. When asked for other feedback, respondents raised the digital sign, affordable after school programs, and specials funding.

In discussion, we noted that the outdoor classroom and digital sign are both PSD facilities questions. Amy reported that the District told her the digital sign repairs will be taken care of through bond funds. We discussed focusing a future fundraiser on the outdoor classroom idea. Amy said the current outdoor classroom serves the needs of the school and the classroom is less about a physical place to go, but rather authentic outdoor experiences. She said COVID interrupted some good momentum and now with the new curriculum, we are getting back to the hands-on learning of our IB program.

Discussion turned to specials and questions were raised about how specials are being funded or whether there's a need for additional PTSO funding. Amy said that the specials teachers get the same grants every year and that if they've ever needed extra funding the PTSO has approved their fund requests. Amy said that she thinks the specials teachers are good with their current funding. Laura said she's never felt that she couldn't get what she needed.

Rahshida noted that with the outdoor classroom, playground equipment and new PE equipment, it seems that parents want their kids outside and moving. We discussed whether we could get more items for recess such as balls. Amy said that PTSO gets new things every several years.

Lauren said she thinks we need to communicate what PTSO already provides. Specifically, the feedback about PTSO not paying for field trips. There is a line item in the PTSO budget to pay for all field trips.

Amy noted that teacher budgets came up at the top and that parents generally perceive teachers as the experts in what is needed. She said that teachers are communicating that the items they got through their classroom budget was because of the Fun Run. Teachers said kids are excited to see the impact of the Fun Run in their classrooms.

We discussed after school tutoring. Amy said our tutoring program was tied to COVID and was never intended to be a long term program. It is managed by outside staff and it was offered to children identified by the District. PTSO would have to find staff for the program if it was going to pay for it. We discussed survey comments about tutoring being exclusive and PTSO funding should benefit all kids. We discussed the student led tutoring offered at Webber. Laura said the high dosage literacy tutoring is very effective, but it would require more staff and it's very expensive. We discussed creating a list of available tutors for families. Also, we discussed gathering parent volunteers and offering opportunities for parents to be involved in the classroom. Staci mentioned that PSD Future Ready offers middle and high school tutoring.

We discussed funding enrichment programs for all kids such as art, legos, sports, or yoga. PTSO would hire the teacher and provide the materials. Corinne and Staci are looking into the cost as our goal is no or very low cost to families. We could also have families apply for scholarships for the after school programs. Amy said she loves the conversation about enrichment but highlighted the logistics of adding more enrichment programs and impact to staff planning time.

We discussed the need for transparency around what's currently being offered and also the best way for PTSO to support the school and new curriculum. Discussion will continue in upcoming meetings and will inform PTSO budget decisions for the next school year.

Fund Requests:

- \$144 for online American Sign Language dictionary and sign generator to benefit all grades – Jen motioned to approve, Lauren seconded, motion passed unanimously
- \$35 for a heavy-duty stapler – Brea motioned to approve, Lauren seconded, motion passed unanimously
- \$100 for 3D printer spools for 5th grade – Lauren motioned to approve, Corinne seconded, motion passed unanimously

Old Business

Spring Book Fair

The Spring Book Fair is April 22-26 and the theme is Wild for Books. The fair will be 25 percent off. Fifth grade is helping with the decor. A volunteer sign-up will be released soon.

School Assembly

Pam reported that on May 6, students will participate in an Extreme Science assembly. The cost is \$1975, well within the budget for school assemblies. We discussed additional opportunities offered by Extreme Science and will consider them for a community event next year.

New Business

There was no new business.

McGraw Community Feedback: We did not receive any feedback this month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.