

Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes
General Meeting, January 16, 2013, 4 PM

Attendance: Jenny Lo, Carla Sledobnick, Lisa Belden, April Peacock, Yvonne Clark, Carly Weber, Steve Sutphin, Laura Ermann, Faith Taylor, Meredith Keith, Monica Davis, Bill Sembello, Lisa Maloney, Amanda Poff, Jeanne Truesdell, Holly McFall, Laura Krish, Micah Mefford

- I. Call to Order at 4 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 2012 meeting
- III. Principal Report
 - a. School Security: Governors Panel on School Security 1st met Jan 15. Delegate Yost is our local state representative and is on the panel. Mr. Yost is active in the community and visits Beeks about once per month. Parents/teachers should contact him with concerns/suggestions. Teachers also made it clear that they support having the front doors locked.
 - b. Brown Bag Lunches: Mr. Mefford and Mr. Sembello began hosting monthly brown-bag lunches in January.
 - January Lunch: Approx. 25 people attended. School safety was the main topic of discussion. It was deemed a success with different opinions and informative discussion.
 - February 12th lunch at 11:30 AM: discussion topic is the school budget.
 - March 12th lunch at 11:30 AM: discussion topic is the SOLs.
 - c. Common Book Project—400 copies of the common book (*The World According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney) have been purchased. Beeks will distribute 1 book/family. On Feb 25, VT athletes will read a chapter to the students as part of MBE day.
 - d. 2013-2014 MCPS Budget: Parents are encouraged to keep up and voice their opinions regarding the budget. The latest information and details for contacting local and state representatives can be viewed at <http://www.mcps.org/budgetupdate/>.
 - e. The Montgomery County Education Foundation (a non-profit group established to support MCPS) is holding it's second round of grants in the Spring—schools can apply for equipment, such as iPads).
- IV. Teacher Representative Report
 - a. Teachers again thanked PTO for the *Snow Flake Board*. Brief discussion about whether to continue in January or to take a break. No final decision made.
 - b. Teachers thanked the PTO for the 2nd semester teacher stipends.
 - c. Teacher wish lists: earlier in the year, the PTO asked teachers to provide a list of more expensive items that the PTO could use for targeted fundraisers.
 - The list for the 3rd-5th grade teachers (in order of priority) is: (1) more computers in the classroom; (2) mobile computer lab with 25 laptops; (3) good electric pencil sharpeners; (4) smart board projector bulbs; (5) iPads for the classrooms; (6) additional computers for the computer lab; (7) iTunes gift cards for iPads.
 - Pre-K – 2nd grade teachers will provide a list at the February meeting.
- V. Treasurer Report
 - a. December Income=\$1029.21: Interest= \$0.71; Kroger cards =\$1028.50.
 - b. December Expenses=\$137.20: Guidance Discretionary = \$137.20
 - c. Kroger Cards: 11 new cards were used in December (i.e. since we gave all MBE staff a card and encouraged teachers to advertise more heavily in their monthly newsletters).

VI. President's Report: The next PTO President's Meeting with Superintendent Blackburn is Jan 22. Let Jenny Lo know if you have any topics you would like her to mention.

VII. Open Issues

a. *Give Me Five*: This is a program to help families take a more active role in their child's education. A letter describing the program and a volunteer form will go out in January. Individuals are encouraged to donate "5" volunteer hours. The general plan is that individuals will "enroll" via the volunteer forms (or online at www.mpcs.org/mbes/). The volunteer sign-in computer in the main office now has a "give me 5" option that will allow Beeks to track in-school volunteer hours. Volunteers will also get training from Mr. Mefford. Each month will have a special volunteer target. Teachers are also encouraged to think of creative ways in which people can help.

b. *Playground Equipment*: A survey was distributed to inventory existing playground equipment. There is very little existing equipment and all grades would benefit from purchase of a variety of balls. The first priority, however, will be purchase of color-coded bags (each grade receiving a different color). Other playground equipment colors will match the grade level bags in an effort to better keep track of the supplies. Purchase of metal nets for the basketball court is also on the want list.

Motion: use "School Improvements" money for purchase of bags and playground equipment. Approved.

c. *Adventure World Fundraiser*: Tuesday February 12, 6-8 PM. There will be a \$5 entrance fee for everyone (not just those who are skating). There is no charge for skates. Money from the first 100 entrants goes to Adventure World. For entrants 101st+, the money goes to Beeks.

Motion: Use profits from this fundraiser to purchase items for Beeks as a memorial to Kat Werner. Approved.

VIII. New Issues

a. *Class Parent Coordinator*: A new PTO committee position of "Class Parent Coordinator" has been created. Faith Taylor will serve as coordinator this year. The role of the coordinator is to make sure each teacher has a class parent and to help the class parent understand the responsibilities of the position. A training meeting will be held at the start of each school year. A meeting for the current class parents will be held asap.

b. Committee Updates:

- Spring Fundraiser: Kickoff in February. Wolfgang chocolates/bulbs. Forms will be due in March.
- Office Volunteers: We need volunteers! Contact Faith Taylor (faithlindell@hotmail.com) if you are interested in helping.
- Restaurant Night: working on a SALs night.
- Year Book: coming along nicely. Laura Krisch needs candid photos from the classrooms.
- Picture Day: Feb 28—Spring photos and 5th grade promotion. Class pictures will be at a later date.
- Landscaping: NRV master gardeners grant application was denied. Mr. Sembello will fill Steve Sutphin in on other possible funding opportunities.
- 5th Grade Legacy fundraising is starting.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.