

## McKinley CJA PTO Meeting Minutes

SEPT 2024

- **Welcome – 6:30pm**

- PTO members present: Eleanor White, Terri Green, Krista Bohler, Amelia Garcia, Shannon Bailey, Elizabeth Allen, Aryn Rehbein, Jessica Schunke
- Admin present: Dr Polkinghorne
- Total present: ~27

- **PTO Board**

- PTO Board Introductions from Eleanor
  - President – Eleanor White
  - Vice President - OPEN
  - Treasurer – Terri Green
  - Secretary – Krista Bohler
  - Parliamentarian - Amber Ibanez
    - Vote to approve - passed
  - Yearbook – Jessica Shatto
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Amelia Garcia
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Shannon Bailey
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Elizabeth Allen
  - HS Rep – Aryn Rehbein
  - DEIB Chair – Johnni Gillespie-Walker
  - Fundraising Chair – Jenifer Garcia
  - Teacher Appreciation Chair – Jessica Schunke
    - Approved by vote at 8/12 meeting
  - Beautification Chair - OPEN

- **Admin Updates**

- Update from McKinley admin – Dr Polkinghorne
  - PTO meetings in the future
    - In-Person – could do, safety and security leaves the building by 6:30pm, so they would need to be moved to an earlier time if at the school building
    - Ideas to move the meetings offsite discussed later in the meeting
  - Teen Town – scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>
    - Needs from the PTO – similar to last year: DJ, etc.
    - Open for add'l ideas
  - NJHS – induction ceremony on Sept 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9am
    - Notifications were hand delivered last week
    - Mr Greenlee is sponsoring NJHS
    - Questions about communication to those who weren't accepted - Dr P is checking into it
  - Transportation discussion –
    - It is improving and expectation that it will continue to improve
    - The main limitation is the # of drivers (some drivers take a load of kids and then come back to the school for 2<sup>nd</sup> load, so some leave later than others)
    - Questions about certain students grouped in a cab – the groups are based on the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier school assigned to the driver. They will drop off students closer to their 2<sup>nd</sup> tier school last and then go to their next assignment
    - 2 primary suppliers – STL and MAP transportation, STL has the majority of students
    - Admin shares parent concerns with the transportation site supervisor
    - Afternoon Pickups – reminder for parents picking up to do so on Ann Street. Missouri Ave. is for buses. Russell for cabs/vans. This will help traffic flow.

- Morning Drop-offs – Drop off at Door 12 on Missouri Ave.; doors will be closed at 7:05am so teachers can get to their classes, screening and security crew consists of teachers who have other posts they need to get to in the morning. If students arrive later they can enter through the front door.
- Clubs –
  - Expect a full list by Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and then will start recruiting students to join
  - Question about a Drama liaison for Spring play?
    - The District used to compensate a Theatre/Drama sponsorship, they are no longer doing this
    - PTO could potentially compensate – Dr P will look into that as an option
- Activities (in middle school athletics are referred to as “activities” per MSHSAA)
  - Mr Klocke is leading – he is doing a lot of communications and postings; share with Dr P if you are not receiving or feel anything else is needed
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Events – questions about what is done
  - EOY - Promotion, 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip, 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance
  - The PTO 8<sup>th</sup> grade Rep has already met with Mr Baker
    - Students and student government will vote on events they want
- Field trips –
  - In process – because of the district transportation issues, there are limited buses and they are only available for a short time frame (~11:30 departure / 1:30 return)
  - First student – rules require an available bus, bus driver, and a back-up driver for each bus
  - Grade level field trips – would need 2 buses
  - Outside buses – PTO could potentially fund, Dr Polkinghorne will look into it
  - Admin asked the class teams to schedule field trips early and asked that they be relevant to the curriculum
  - Virtual tours and bringing in guest speakers are being encouraged because of the transportation limitations
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade team – social event coming soon!
  - “Donut Fear, New Friends are Here”
- High School Here I Come event was canceled across the district because of transportation issues
  - Waiting to see if there is a replacement event coming from the district
  - There will be events at each school at the building level
    - School is waiting for guidance from the district on building level events
  - Ms Rowe – 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be working on essays for HS applications
- Cafeteria –
  - New food vendor – the quality is better
  - Some complaints about shortages
    - Students may not be getting their 1<sup>st</sup> choice, there should be 3-5 options (depending on when they come through the line)
  - Dr Polkinghorne is present in the lunchroom during the MS lunches, students should let him know if there is an issue
  - Dr P will check with Dr Metzger about the HS lunch and any shortages they are experiencing
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher –
  - Currently there is a substitute
  - New permanent teacher is expected to start at the building, Monday, 10/7; starting with students TBD
  - Dr P will check on Teams for 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher –
  - A candidate has been interviewed and an offer has been made to a teacher. They are waiting for a date for them to report to the building once a background check, rap back (checking with previous employers, etc) has been completed
- Question about Student Council
  - This is tied in with activities/clubs – info coming soon

- Question about school staff web page rerouting
    - Dr P will work on the website, thanks for alerting him
  - Dr P has updated the school calendar
    - There was an issue previously where it was not showing to parents, it should now be updated
    - He is also working on adding events like HS athletic events, etc.
  - Absences
    - Question about who to email
      - Relana Jones – Relana.Jones@slps.org
    - Positions for 2 new secretaries are open as well
  - Pep Rallies/Spirit Days
    - Scheduled but Dr P will communicate these dates
    - Will hold a pep rally to welcome fall sports in ~1 week, will post date to the school calendar
    - Homecoming will be slightly later than normal – October 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Picture Day
    - Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> - Middle and High School Picture Day
    - Note that this is also Rosh Hashanah and Dr P will check if there is any possibility of moving it
- **Issues to Discuss**
  - Updated bylaws –
    - Changes:
      - Merge of Middle and High School PTOs – change in bylaws (updated Middle School to Middle and High School)
      - Add the DEIB Chair to the Executive Board
    - Vote to approve – passed
  - Meetings
    - In person / Hybrid
      - In person – would need to change times if at McKinley because of security staff
      - Could have at a outside location – Eleanor will potentially look into using a library for a future meeting
  - Question about promoting the PTO –
    - PTO will ask admin to send out information about Membership Toolkit, etc
    - Will continue to brainstorm ideas
  - Discussion regarding the ceiling in the gymnasium – there are missing tiles, falling tiles
    - Environmental testing completed, it was cleared, no asbestos
    - The ceiling tiles will be removed soon
    - Heather Jacobs taking the lead
- **Budget/Treasurer's Report**
  - Update from Treasurer and Budget info
    - Donations starting to come in!
    - 2024-25 Spent so far:
      - 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade meet-ups
      - Unused snacks got passed on to the teachers
    - SLPS Foundation account now closed
    - Ideas to promote McKinley venmo
      - You can suggest donations to McKinley via Venmo at yardsales, birthdays, etc
    - Teachers can request funds/grants via the Google Doc
- **Fundraising**
  - Kicked off!
    - Already raised ~\$2000
  - Asking for donations – no selling
  - Goal is \$25K for Middle and High School

- **Events**
  - Review
    - 6<sup>th</sup> grade – this event was restarted after not happening during Covid. It was a successful event with lots of families attending, enough food, etc
    - 9<sup>th</sup> grade – only 2 kids came. There were parent volunteers, staff, and hosts present; food that was there was donated to the staff. Will reconsider this for next year. Would love any feedback or ideas on how to improve. Communicating the event earlier and more broadly is a suggestion.
  
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
  - PTO Board for 2024-25 school year (see openings listed above)
  - Teen Town
    - Amelia Garcia, Kara Manley – volunteered on the call
  - Teacher Appreciation donations
    - First Friday Breakfast/Lunch
    - Snacks for Teachers Lounge
    - Teacher Appreciation week
  - Chaperones for field trips and school events:
    - Become an Approved Volunteer!
    - The process is now online: [Nimble \(hirenimble.com\)](https://www.hirenimble.com)
    - Check volunteer status by emailing program director: [Rommel.Jackson@slps.org](mailto:Rommel.Jackson@slps.org)
  
- **Important Dates and upcoming information**
  - McKinley Calendar: <https://www.slps.org/Page/10294#calendar152972/20231009/month>
  - District Calendar: [SLPS 2024-25 Student and Family Calendar English.pdf](#)
  
- **Communication**
  - Sign up for Membership Toolkit
    - Membership Toolkit is the site the PTO uses for our school directory
    - [McKinley CJA PTO - Home Page \(membershiptoolkit.com\)](https://www.membershiptoolkit.com)
  - Join HS or MS Facebook pages, or grade specific pages
    - MS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/214650668582110/>
    - HS: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MCLAHSParents/>
  
- **7:30pm - Meeting Adjourned**