

McKinley CJA Middle School PTO Meeting

September 12, 2022

7:33 PM - Meeting Begins

- **Introduction of current PTO board and committee members**
 - Eleanor White - Vice President
 - Denise LeBegue - Treasurer
 - Wendy Hamstra-Smith - Secretary
 - Jessica Shatto – Box Tops and Cashback Programs
 - Jennifer Anania - Fundraising Chair
 - Krista Bohler - Teacher Appreciation
 - Mr. Lischwe - Administration

- **Position Needs:**
 - Still looking for president but the four current board members are working together to shoulder the responsibilities.
 - Exploring the opportunity to become a 501(c)3 since we are running into issues without this status and are looking for someone with expertise on how to apply for this designation.

- **Principal's Report - Mr. Lischwe**
 - PTO has supported the revamped teacher's lounge and it is contributing to the positive feelings from the teacher. Two parents donated a new couch over the weekend. Snacks have also helped with the morale boost.
 - They spent a lot of time the last couple weeks planning. An email was sent today by Dr. Holloway with the following updates:
 - Open House - first time occurring for this cohort of middle schools due to covid restrictions.
 - Calendar has been released. Many hours have gone into building this out but please be flexible for changes.
 - Continuing to expand the clubs and activities for middle schoolers
 - Make sure to fill out the district volunteer application if you want to participate in any student-facing opportunities. <https://www.slps.org/Page/24445>
 - New McKinley Instagram page - Check it out and follow it!
 - Progress Reports 1 will come out in about a week.
 - Students have been great and the vibe has been awesome.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- **\$17350** - left over from last year which gives us a health roll balance.
- Total proposed budget for 2022-2023 is **\$27,850** which is a **\$4,650** increase and we anticipate making that with our annual fund but our plan would be to make up the shortfall from the carry over balance. If we fall very short of our fundraising goal, we will go with the 75% of the full budget model.
- \$10k has been set aside for the current 8th grade class. It was funds raised by CJA for a camping event that never occurred due to Covid. This money will need to be spent this year.
- There is some leftover funding that was allocated for the teacher lounge.
- Each grade level has funds allocated to them with 8th graders having more due to the activities centered around graduation activities.
- Increasing the budget for teachers but we anticipate that we can rely on parent participation a little bit more for food, snacks, etc that couldn't be donated for the last two years.
- We reduced the budget to 0 for the Diversity and Inclusion because we have not had anyone to lead it for the last year or two. ***(Looking for a volunteer to head this committee)***
- Beautification budget was increased to help continue bringing up school morale and increasing pride in the school. Some examples are painting and a new marquee sign.
- Yearbooks are paid for by PTO and we have a bid/contract already for that.
- Added a funding line for teachers who are taking on activities and clubs. Right now it is just coaches who receive additional funding.
- A new line item was added for At-Risk Student/Family Support to provide assistance such as incentives for attendance.
- **Budget was approved with 16 out of 23 voting in favor, 1 vote against and 6 not voting (Voting was done by raising hand emoji in Google Meets).**

- **Fund Raising**

- Fund drive kicks off on 9/14 and runs through November. 1.
- Three ways to donate
 - Check (to McKinley PTO)
 - Venmo (@McKinleyPTO-slps)
 - Online through the SLPS Foundation. **MUST ADD A NOTE** designating it to the 860-McKinley Middle School Fund or it is difficult to track down
- Only fundraiser we are having this year and no amount is too small!
- Ultimate budget will be dependent on how much we raise.

- **Volunteer Opportunities**

- Sign up link in Membership Tool kit.
https://mckinleycjapto.membershiptoolkit.com/sign_ups. Must be signed in to actually see them.
- Reminder - you must be an approved volunteer to help with school events when students are present. Advice is to do it as soon as possible because it can take a few weeks. <https://www.slps.org/Page/24445>
- We are testing out a request list that was sent to the teachers to fill out if they need help around their classroom, beautification projects, etc.
- Volunteer options range from chairing committees to dropping off snacks to creating posters for the musical.

- **Teacher Appreciation**

- Share this responsibility with the high school and rotate the months.
- If you are not an approved volunteer, donating food for teachers is a great way to get involved!
- Book swap shelf is another way to donate.
- Open to ideas on how to support and appreciate the teachers.

- **Spirit Wear**

- Will be through an external site organized by the school (not PTO) where people can order merchandise with the McKinley logo and will be shipped directly to your home.
- PTO working with a parent to create fun grade level t-shirts

- **Yearbooks**

- Need photos! Encourage students to send nice pictures
- Parents if you take pictures at a event, we want your photos too
- Flyers with the QR code are hung around the halls
- bit.ly/MCJAYearbook

- **Fundraising**

- Cash App Silly String competition .. 8th grade 59, 7th grade 0, 6th grade 4. Get your caps from the grandmas you know who drink Diet Coke!
- Working with the middle school national honor society to earn volunteer time by scanning codes

- <https://mckinleycjapto.membershiptoolkit.com/cashprograms>
- **Questions from attendees:**
 - **Are kids supposed to come to Open House w/ their parents?** Students are welcome to come but it will be geared towards parents and guardians.
 - **What is 8th grade night?** Program created by middle school counselor and Dr. Metzger to help 8th graders through the high school process.
 - **Are there any middle school clubs meeting during advisory right now, or are they all after school?** No, the majority are being done during advisory
 - **SLPS's website has the High School Here I Come event scheduled for 10/2, but it is on the McKinley calendar for 9/30. Can you confirm?** - There is an event for students on 9/30 and there will be a parent/family night at 10/2.
 - **Will chess and ping pong start this week?** They started last week
 - **Will students ever have time to work on make up work in advisory?** - They want to build the character education piece as well as structured homework times
 - **Were soccer team selections posted somewhere?** They were announced but needs to check with Coach Drew
 - **Do you have shadow days set up yet?** Process of bringing back tours and also will bring back shadow days. There will be more information before the next PTO.
 - **When will sports practice start or communication come out?** Mr. Lischwe will be checking on this.
 - **Where can we get help with HS applications?** There will be individual assistance
 - **Is homecoming directed at high school students? What does it entail?** Yes for high school but might do some middle school activities but it won't be labeled as homecoming per se.
 - **Regarding Diversity and Inclusion... what are some previous ideas the PTO had for this? Just trying to understand a bit more....**The whole history is unclear but in 2019 they had a speaker come from UMSL and present to parents about broad equity/inclusion issues. (past event information was pulled and sent to the parent that asked this question after the meeting - it was Feb 2020 and Dr. Holt from UMSL was the presenter)
 - **If Lischwe is still on would he be willing to provide thoughts on a potential Wyman camp trip for our 8th graders?** PTO spoke to Dr. Holloway about some options but need to weigh the cost, parent involvement, etc to determine the level of commitment from the teachers.
 - **What are some other types of all school enrichment have been done?** This was started when we were virtual to provide enrichment. Ice skating was chosen because it was a very low effort which would be the goal in the future. There will be two Teen Towns this year (fall and spring) for middle schoolers right after school ends which will be primarily run by the school staff. Used to be a more

PTO heavy event but the staff will be helping more since it is right after school. However, we will probably need some help with snacks, chaperones, but will provide more information.

- **Matching gifts form employers?** There is a form usually an employer has for us to fill out but recommend donating through the SLPS foundation they will get a tax donation receipt.
- **Can membership be accessed via a app? Or only desktop?** Yes there is an app on android and apple.

8:25 Adjourned