

PTO Meeting

10/10/2017

6:30pm in the McCornack Library

Present: Liz Price, Yuli Martinez, Jen Davis, Cindy Bones, Jen Kirkland, Lane Curington, Jason Schanze, Londa Rochholz, Maren LaRoche, Mary Kuhl, Thomas Price, Jasmine, Jessica Marquez, Amy Thomas, Caryulinda Isaac, Esther Skilling, Christine Olson, Jasmine Christie

Guests: Bobby Ortega and Dani Wilson from UO Counseling, Joy Marshall from Stand For Children

I. Welcome and Introduction of PTO board members--Cindy Bones, VP

- Welcome to all--we are looking forward to a fun year! Please speak out if you have any questions, we love communicating and want to hear from everyone.
- teacher liasons are Mary Kuhl (4th grade) and Heather Friesen (3rd grade)

II. UO Counseling Department—Bobby Ortega and Dani Wilson

- will be running a parenting group on Monday mornings from 8:00-9:30am
- starts 10/23
- using the "Everyday Parenting" curriculum, which helps parents learn how to manage everyday challenges--daily schedules, bedtime battles, etc. Goal is more time happy with kids!
- don't have to bare your soul to the group--focus will be on skill building, discussion, practice time with facilitators, problem solving as a group (utilizing ACT--acceptance and commitment therapy)
- sign up with counselor Brinda
- currently have six families signed up and would like four more

III. Jennifer Kirkwood, Title I Coordinator at McC

- Jennifer is new at McC this year, but has 14 years of experience with kids K-8th grade
- Title I provides interventions for those that need it with additional support in reading and math
- Placement : students are tested beginning, middle, and end of year. Those that place below 30% may be recommended for services
 - data is collected every 10 days and reviewed by a team every six weeks; will continue support as long as necessary
 - intervention takes place outside of core time (special Tier III time that is built into the school day for all classes)
 - Tier I--instruction provided to everyone in the classroom
 - Tier II--instruction provided to kids at their individual levels
 - Tier III—even more intensive specialized instruction
- Parents are always involved in decision-making, and always have the option to opt their student out. (Most want the extra support)
 - Parent Involvement Policy--go over every year
 - School/parent compact signed at parent teacher conferences--ensures everyone is involved and on the same page

- 4J parent policy
- There are more parental rights at Title I schools--right to review policy, etc.
- Site Council and PTO are great ways to get involved and evaluate the support services. Changes are made based on feedback from parents and teachers
- Goal is for ALL students to be successful. Other goals include:
 - increase academic achievement
 - provide direct instructional support
 - provide professional development for teachers
 - promote parent education and involvement
- McCornack is lucky to have a *full school-wide program* with funds from Title I, Part A, and other federal education fund
- The Title program benefits ALL students and families even if they don't need these services--it means teachers will be able to provide ALL students with more individualized instruction in smaller group settings
- Title I Staff: Jason Schanze, Sophia Durant, Leslie Wonn, Barb Willoughby, Dejah Hobbs, Jennifer Kirkwood
- Contact Jen at <kirkwood_j@4j.lane.edu> with any questions

IV. Joy Marshall, Stand for Children

- Stand for Children (SFC) is state-wide non-profit group that works to advocate for better public schools
- Data shows that parent involvement in a school makes a big difference for all families--thanks for being here, it really does matter! (Having a great leader helps too--thanks Londa!)
- School Funding--Two ways to make a big impact:
 - 1) Pass a bond measure (property tax that goes to voters)--money goes to construction, computers, supplies, and tangible material things which are specified in the bond
 - Oregon doesn't have much built into the budget for school construction, unlike some other states
 - Bonds usually last about 20 years (like a mortgage), but new bonds are often presented to the voters every 4-8 years
 - try to wait until one bond is paid off and then add the new one so that money continues to come in, but taxes don't go up.
 - Last bond was passed in 2013--we need another one
 - SFC listens to community input, takes information to thousands of voters, and then watches to make sure the money goes where it is supposed to
 - 2) Pass Local Option Levy--(listed as "LO" on property tax bill)--small local property tax that goes directly to 4J schools; by law has to be small
 - 4J is fortunate to benefit from a LO--there are 200 districts in the state and only two dozen have LO
 - about 10% of our budget
 - LO expire every 4 years and have to go back to the voters--SFC makes the case to voters for why we need these
- Parents can (and should!) go to the school board and advocate for how money is spent

- LOCALLY SFC:
 - provides the only organized voice advocating for smaller class sizes before the school board--right now is an important time to speak up!
 - is advocating for healthier school lunch options
 - helps elect people to the school board (many board chairs and budget committee members get their start with SFC)
- At the STATE LEVEL SFC:
 - goes to Salem to talk about school funding and where the funding measures should be spent
 - Eg. Measure 98 last year. High school graduation rate in Oregon one of the lowest in the country because we have cut so many options out of high school for kids. The state had no plan (smart, coordinated, getting everyone moving in the same direction) for addressing this. SFC helped pass this measure which will restore vocational/technical education, which will be a huge help in lowering high school drop-out rates
- SFC in 11 states, but pretty independent
- no money to become a member --made up of down-to-earth people that have kids in our schools (like PTO on steroids!) you can become a member--no money to become a member, sign up to be on email list
- sign up for the email list at <stand.org >
- SFC would love to hear what our priorities at McCornack are
- Q: How do you develop relationship with schools? A: The core of getting things done is listening to each other and working together. This means one-on-one meetings with key people, parents meeting with administrators, inviting school board members to SFC meetings. The goal is to be direct (this is for our kids!) and respectful (everyone is doing their best--make that assumption).
- Legislators need to be reminded that our kids are the priority, not just details of a budget or elections. Kids don't vote or make political contributions so they need an outside voice to advocate for them.

V. Site Council: Teachers, staff and parents working together on school improvement plans and goals

- First meeting is 10/23--all are welcome
- Three parents have volunteered to serve: (Maren La Roche--1st and 4th grader), Delilah Montes (1st and 3rd grader), Ericka Thiessen (4th grader--3 kids who have come through McC)
 - Amy Thomas moves that these three parents serve on school site council for the 2017-2018 school year
 - Cindy Bones and Mary Kuhl second
 - The motion passes unanimously

VI. Volunteer Training by Londa

- Regina Ligon keeps website and calendar up to date daily, even on weekends
- Calendar changes:
 - Kennedy and Churchill schedules are included on our calendar link now
 - 4J is streamlining parent teacher conferences across district this year: will be 11/20 4-8pm, Tuesday 11/21 8-8pm (no school on Tuesday or Wednesday that week)
 - is that soon enough? is that too late? do you have access to teachers before then? connection with parents is really important
- "How to Volunteer" is under "Families" tab on the McC website--takes you right to volunteer form and background check; once approved you can sign at the front office and your name will be in the computer--background check expires after two years
 - Big School Events start with school-wide email, then sign up will be available in the office or through weblinks
 - Classroom Volunteering: volunteer form sent out at the beginning of the year to all families--has a box to indicate classroom help, but best to talk directly to teachers
 - if you want to volunteer but aren't available during school hours teachers can give you things to do at home
- Focus this year at McC: "productive struggle" for students--don't feel like you have to come in with all the answers to volunteer, help kids learn how to problem solve and find their own answers
- Londa wants to hear from parents--McC staff try really hard to get it right, but stay in touch and let us know if they don't

VII. Upcoming Events

- Book Fair (November 13-17)
 - Theme: "Wild West-Saddle up and Read"
 - Maren needs lots of volunteers to do prep work ahead of time--fun stuff like crafting, not hard!
- Acorn Bingo/Harvest Party 10/20 at 7:00pm in the cafeteria with lots of prizes
- Amy Thomas mentioned that the City of Eugene is currently looking for community input on how to allocate money for a new pool/community center. Looking at either Churchill Neighborhood or North Eugene. Go to the City of Eugene website and send an email if you would like to see this in our Churchill neighborhood.

Minutes submitted by: Lynn Kane, PTO secretary