

Draft to be approved at January 2012 PA Meeting

McCall Middle School
Parents Association Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.

The co-presidents welcomed everyone to the meeting and the speakers began their presentation. Karen Fagan and assistant principal Jeannine Lavoie reported on the progress of the District Anti-Bullying Policy. Ms. Lavoie provided a detailed handout to all attendees. The handout included the student handbook insert regarding Winchester's anti-bullying policy for both the elementary level and the secondary level. In addition, the handout explained what steps are followed by the administration upon receiving a report that bullying has occurred. Also included: a page on cyber-bullying and a table explaining when a parent/guardian should contact the school about a bullying situation. The handout contains a great deal of pertinent information. It is available to anyone who is interested in reading it by contacting the McCall Middle School front desk.

Ms. Lavoie highlighted a few of the most important items in the handout:

- What is bullying
- How to report a bullying incident
- What happens after an incident is reported

McCall follows a policy of progressive discipline: records of discipline are maintained by the administration and disciplinary action is based on a pattern of behavior.

The school calls all reported incidents "socially-cruel incidents" rather than "bullying." Bullying is determined after an investigation. Events that happen outside the school are not addressed by school personnel. This includes cyber-bullying if it takes place off-campus. However, the school recommends that all incidents that may affect a student be reported to the administration.

A lively and extended conversation followed Ms. Lavoie's presentation. Parents offered examples of experiences their children are currently dealing with at McCall. Ms. Lavoie and Ms. Fagan offered recommendations for working with the children to resolve the difficulties described. Lavoie, Fagan and Principal Goncalves emphasized that all efforts related to anti-bullying require a parent-school partnership. Broadening the equation, attendees are interested in starting a conversation around bullying with:

- Coaches
- Extra-curricular leaders
- Sports leaders
- High school teachers and administration
- Elementary school teachers and administration

For additional information regarding the subject of anti-bullying, Principal Goncalves recommends the website www.drrobertbrooks.com. Dr. Brooks recently spoke to the Winchester community at a Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community event. His advice is easy to understand and based on extensive research.

Parents asked for reports listing out the topics of discussion at Prime Time meetings. We would like to start a discussion with our kids after they participate in a Prime Time event.

Treasurer's Report

Lia Burrelli

We have reached 96% of our direct appeal goal. We expect to receive more donations after the first of the year and are hopeful that we will meet or exceed our direct appeal goal by January 2012. Matching donations are a very important part of the success of this year's direct appeal.

A motion was made and approved to increase the line item for AuthorFest from \$2,500 to \$3,200. The increase is due to an increase in the fees charged by the attending authors.

Principal's Report

Jorge Goncalves

Principal Goncalves is asking the School Committee for a budget increase in next year's McCall budget to support (in order of importance):

- An additional team in 7th grade due to an increasing number of students
- Adding Latin and Mandarin to the foreign language offerings
- Adding one math teacher
- Adding a curriculum leader for foreign languages
- Adding one library assistant
- Updating technology as needed
- Increasing exploratory classes to reduce class size

The principal reported that enrollment is going to be slightly lower for the 2012-2013 academic year. We are facing a huge budget crunch district-wide due in large part to the failed override. The budget shortfall will certainly have an impact on McCall and all the schools in Winchester.

Committee Reports

WFEE Trivia Bee

The annual WFEE Trivia Bee is scheduled for February 8th at Town Hall. If anyone would like to represent McCall as part of a team of three, please contact the co-presidents.

Corporate Fundraisers/Box Tops

Anne Spies

Stop & Shop: 174 cards signed up; earnings to date total \$936

Target: 30 cards signed up; earnings to date total \$218

BoxTops: \$433 earned so far this year

All funds are directed to the Principals Fund. A new project will be identified and paid for with this money.

Enrichment

7th Grade: Wingmasters showcased 5 different raptors and a screech owl in November; MythMasters are scheduled for January and Poetry in Motion in May.

6th Grade: Pyramids & Pharoahs in January; Museum of Science in May; Poetry in Motion in May

Wish List

Louise VanGelder

The holiday season is a great time to give a gift using the Wish List. Donations can be made to a specific teacher, a team, a specialist. We can split your donation among many individuals and teams.

The next MPA meeting is scheduled for January 17th at 7 p.m. in the McCall library.

Respectfully Submitted
Laura Krotky