

Draft to be reviewed/approved at the October, 2011 meeting

**McCall Middle School
Parents' Association Meeting
Minutes of September 13, 2011**

Co-Presidents Anne Marie Hill and Laura Krotky called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Other Board members present were Lia Borrelli, Regina Hain, Cheryl Myers, Jill Pylkanen, Louise Van Gelder, Ceci Cordeiro, Karen Sangster and Brian Rogers. There were also over 50 parents in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes of the June, 2011 meeting were presented, reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Lia Borrelli presented the Treasurer's Report which consisted of the budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Highlighting the total expenses budgeted of \$38820 is \$13000 for extracurricular activities, constituting about 1/3 of the total. Ms. Hill and Principal Goncalves discussed the desire to increase this amount to \$16000 so that more programs can be added, especially in Chorus, Art and Band. In order to be able to support the increase, additional funding is needed from Direct Appeal. Direct Appeal is the only source of funding for the Parents' Association and the entire budget, plus any additions, is funded from the Direct Appeal parents' (and others') contributions. In response to a question, Direct Appeal's goal is an average of \$75 each with at least 40% parent participation. Other major expenses budgeted are education-related Enrichment programs (\$9000), Authorfest (\$3000), contribution to the McCall Library (\$2500) and various teacher/student programs and support expenses. Community programs, previously shown separately for each, have been combined in the budget. The proposed budget was presented and approved.

Committee Reports

Direct Appeal: There will be a concentrated effort at the Open House on September 21 to collect contributions toward Direct Appeal. Parents were asked to "bring your checkbooks". Additional information will be available at the Open House regarding matching contributions, use of PayPal and the fact that contributions are tax deductible. The Open House will also afford the opportunity to order the yearbook and contribute to the field development fund raiser.

Volunteers Needed: There are still openings for positions on the Board for Library Scheduling, 6th Grade Dance Chaperone Coordinator, Special Ed Liaison, Traffic Safety Liaison, and Eighth Grade Co-Chairs. While there are volunteers to help on the 8th Grade Committee, co-chairs are still needed for this important committee that ensures that the 8th grade graduation activities run smoothly. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated.

Directory: Regina Hain noted the need for all parents to fill out the on-line permission form available on line to agree to allow publication in the Directory of personal information for each student. A print-out of information already on file will be available at Open House. It is necessary to fill out the form even if you had given permission in previous years. Deadline for response is September 22.

Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community (WCSC): Jill Pylkanen gave an overview of last year's WCSC programs which dealt with stress on our children and the programs planned thus far for this year: Sal Caraviello, director of Youth Ministries at St. Mary's parish, will speak about the stress on our children and at-risk factors; Dr. Roberts Brooks, a clinical psychologist, will address the group on raising resilient children. In addition, Parent Conversations, informal discussions of parenting issues, will continue,

usually in the mornings on the first Tuesday of each month. The risk survey is not ready yet. Details on these programs will be emailed to McCall parents.

Newsletter/Email Notices/ E-Calendar: Email coordinator, Karen Sangster, was introduced.

Open House: Principal Goncalves went over the Open House schedule: Open house is Wednesday, September 21, 7-9 P.M. Parents will receive their child's schedule the day before and will proceed to each classroom on the schedule to meet teachers. Refreshments will be available in the cafeteria and Parents' Association board members will be requesting Direct Appeal contributions.

Enrichment: Ceci Cordeiro explained Enrichment: there are typically 3-4 programs for each grade, plans for this year's programs are in the works and any suggestions for programs are welcome. Previous Enrichment included Michael Fowlin, Poetry-In-Motion and Shakespeare Now. A program must be educational to fit into Enrichment.

New Business: the new business topics in the agenda were already discussed.

Invited Guests

Tom Sevryn and Susan Youmans introduced the community service project "Setting the Table from Seed to Plate". The 10-week program exposes children to the food process from farms to table, including cooking sessions and field trips to farms, restaurants, food markets and food pantries. The purpose is to increase awareness of the environmental impact of the entire process. It is available to Middle and High School students at a cost of \$75 each. Information was available and there is also an information booth at the Winchester Farmers' Market.

School Council candidates, Lynn Phillips and Karen Fagan, spoke about their experience and qualifications. Voting will take place starting on September 21 on Edline.

Principal's Report

New McCall principal, Jorge Goncalves, introduced himself and spoke about his experience, his process in coming to McCall and his goals for McCall. He shared what he said to the staff when he first came to McCall. His number one priority is the teachers and the desire for teamwork, shared responsibility and support of one another in the conviction that teachers working hard together will provide the students with the best educational opportunities. His goal is to have everyone work harder and more efficiently and work better with people, one another, parents and students.

Responding to questions:

- Mr. Goncalves' Entry Plan involves soliciting information from parents, teachers and students about the school's strengths and areas needing improvement and how to take advantage of the strengths and overcome the weaknesses. He will compile the recommendations and present a plan at the staff meeting and the Parents' Association meeting in November. The survey is on Edline.

- The crossing guard is no longer funded. Although there should be a police person in front of the school when needed, Principal Goncalves has been helping out. He is considering asking for help from parent

volunteers but is looking into training and potential liability issues first. The traffic study recommendations are on hold while the river widening project is going on and he asked that parents exercise caution and good judgment when dropping their children at the school.

-The Bully Prevention law and school program are in place. Our job is to be proactive in creating a safe environment. There are drop boxes in the school by which incidents of bullying can be reported and Prime Time is used to emphasize anti-bullying. This is an area that requires continuous work to improve the culture and environment in the school and community.

- The gym wall work is finished. Scaffolding in place was to repair the roof and will be down shortly.

There being no more questions, the Co-Presidents and parents thanked Principal Goncalves and invited everyone to the next Parents' Association meeting on October 18, 9 A.M. at which the McCall librarian will make a presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rogers, Secretary