

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy
PTO Meeting**

September 2, 2015, 6:00 pm, Gym
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: Dale Greenbury, Denise Brooks, Jerre Parsons, Jennifer Beffa, Lara Fuchs, Keica Smart, Lauren Rea Preston, Tiffany Tibbs, Jennifer Anania, Myra Belgeri, Lisa Granich Kovarik. Also present: Dr. LeFlore (attended late due to District meeting)

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Call to Order

Call for New Business Agenda Items

- Sarah Custis wanted to discuss ala carte items in cafeteria.
- Lauren Rea Preston wanted Dr. LeFlore to explain procedures related to the nurse.

Acceptance of Minutes from April PTO Meeting

- Motion to accept by Erin Bihr, seconded by David Custis. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury

Dale welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the school year. All attending PTO Board members introduced themselves.

Ms. Browden is leaving this Friday; please sign card in the back.

As a reminder, our PTO meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order. (Our parliamentarian, Lisa Granich-Kovarik, will ensure that correct procedures are followed).

Purpose of PTO

- Support the school through enrichment, equipment, and community activities
- Support our school and staff through advocacy on the district and state levels
- Facilitate volunteer and parent involvement
- There are lots of ways to be involved; can do a few hours, on site or after hours.
- Reminder make sure you write your volunteer hours in the binder in the office this gets submitted to SLPS and is another important way to gauge our community involvement for things such as Blue Ribbon Schools, grants, etc.

Thank you's

- To *Dr. LeFlore, the staff, and the PTO board* for their all of their hard work on the Blue Ribbon Schools application process. I would like to also congratulate the staff that for being named a Missouri Gold Star school and recently being named one of the top Elementary schools in the metro area.
- To volunteers who planned and organized the summer play dates and ice cream social for our new families: *Lindsey Lawrence, Dawn Brandt, Liz Toolan, and all of the parents* who helped and attended these events.
- To *all the PTO Board members and volunteers* at the Open House, and to *Sarah Custis and the Staff Appreciation team* for providing the nacho bar for the staff.
- To *Dawn Brand, Tricia Moyer and all the parents* who helped to make the Kennard uniform resale events successful. Will do that again in Movie night in January.
- To *Jerre Parsons* who organized the First Day Parent's Coffee event, *Karin Upwood, Christine Deaton* and *all of the parents* who helped with food, greeting, and clean-up efforts.
- To *Jennifer Anania* for helping to distribute student agendas.
- To *Cindy Pessoni, Heather Murch, Sarah Sullivan* as well as *all the parents* who helped with getting Kennard Wear back on track we anticipate getting forms out for orders early in September
 - SIZES for this year's Kennardwear available at the back of the room to help you decide what size would be best for you and your kids! These samples do not have the Kennard logos.

- Also, there is a very limited amount of last year's Kennardwear available for purchase at discounted prices. Please check it out before leaving today.
- To *Susie Anderson-Bauer and Amanda Miller* for all of their help with the design and execution of the new Kennard website
- PTO paid for and distributed student agendas to all 1st through 5th graders
- PTO for renewing our BrainPOP subscription last May and continuing the World Book Online subscription this fall – please use these resources at home. Teachers circulated the log-in information.
- Yearbook Committee – the 2014-2015 yearbook had lovely design, excellent ad sales; these are now distributed to last year's students. PTO pays for all yearbooks – for each student and staff enrolled – wonderful to do this. We are always looking for pictures at different events; contact Myra Belgeri for questions.
- To tour coordinator and tour guides for prospective families – Jenifer Garcia for stepping up to this very important post.
- To those who have signed up to be room parents – our teachers and fellow parents thank you! Contact Lara Fuchs PTO Room parent officer so she can have a complete list of room parents. Still looking for several room parents.
- To all of the volunteers that are helping to run clubs and programs like (Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Chess etc.) both before and after school. You provide a vital service to our community. Mr. Beffa has volunteered to step up and coordinate our chess program this year. If you are interested in this please stop by after the meeting and I will get your name to him.
- For all volunteers who have signed up to volunteer so far – as you can see, our volunteers provide a wide variety of service, and we appreciate everything you do to help the school. You should be getting a document explaining how to sign up through the new myschoolanywhere.com account
 - If you signed up at the open house or at the first day coffee your names have already been added to those lists for committees and events.
 - Once you have signed up Event and Committee chairs will reach out to you
 - Please make sure to fill in your volunteer hours in the binder in the main office. This is another way for us to quantify community involvement. This is very important for getting recognition for the school and can be important when applying for grants etc.

Quick reminders

- Fundraising forms will be coming out next week.

Upcoming events/dates

- Grandparent's Day – Rescheduled from September 25th to October 8th from 9:30 – 11 am, due to conflict with 5th grade field Trip
- Green Apple Day of Service – Outdoor Beautification – September 26. Anna Stokes has verbally agreed to chair the beautification committee.
- Fall Festival –a trunk or treat event – kids dress up in costumes will occur evening 10/16 (no school that day)
- PTO General meeting – 11/4 at 6 pm
- New enrichment night: Literacy night –every third year will have this - 11/20 at 6 pm

Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore

Welcome New Board Members for the 2015.2016 school year:

- **President:** Dale Greenbury
- **Vice President:** Jerre Parsons
- **Secretary:** Tiffany Tibbs
- **Treasurer:** Myra Belgeri
- **Information Officer:** Jennifer Anania
- **Security Officer:** Jennifer Beffa
- **Parliamentarian:** Lisa Granich-Kovarik
- **Enrichment Resource Officer:** Kecia Smart
- **District Affairs Officer:** Lauren Rea Preston
- **Room Parent Relation Officer:** Lara Fuchs
- **Fund Raising Officer:** Gary Siddens

- **Communications Officer:** Denise Brooks

Thank You PTO Members! We appreciate your on-going dedication and support for sponsoring the following events:

- New Family Welcome committee- Summer play dates
- New Family Welcome committee - New Family Ice Cream Social
- Sarah Custis and committee- Teacher Open House snacks
- Dale Greenbury and the PTO Board Members- Open House information stations
- Jerre Parsons and committee- Parents First Day Coffee
- Dale Greenbury and committee- Bus Appreciation Day

Assessments: Missouri Assessment Program 2015 Results: Thank you for making sure students were MAP ready! 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students did an outstanding job on the 2015 MAP assessment. You may have seen Kennard featured in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as one of the top 9 elementary schools in the St. Louis region. Our school scored 98.6% proficient and advanced in English Language Arts, 90.6% proficient and advanced in Mathematics, and 92.2% proficient and advanced in Science. These are the highest scores we have ever achieved. Although the itemized bench items are not available, the following link provides MAP Scores by school comparison.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/data-missouri-map-scores-by-school/html_5ff6b310-4f13-5e6b-b623-287de469e7d2.html#.VdVPCHz0EQY.email I'll continue to share as more data is released.

Before/After School Programming Update:

- Chad Beffa has agreed to sponsor the Chess Club this school year and Nick Clement will remain as staff Liaison
- Lego Robotics, sponsored by UMSL's Extension Program is in full swing and is currently accepting students for the 2nd session which begins in November.
- Librarian Ms. Kukay is implementing **Breakfast and Books** this month beginning with 4th and 5th grade students. (working on details to send to 4th and 5th grade parents). Will be in next Principal's Update.
- Instrumental Music Lessons (still looking for a sponsor)

Coffee with the Principal: Coffee with the Principal is a great opportunity for any member of Kennard's Learning Community to share exciting news and ideas with the principal in a relaxed setting. Children are always welcome to attend! The new schedule for Coffee with the Principal is the 1st Friday of each new academic quarter from 9:00-9:30am in the main hall. If school is not in session, you will be notified of the rescheduled date. Mark your calendar for the 2015.2016 coffee dates:

- Friday, August 21
- Friday, October 23
- Friday, January 8
- Friday, March 18

Curriculum: Kennard's curriculum emphasizes advanced, conceptually challenging, in-depth, distinctive, and complex content within cognitive, affective, aesthetic, social, and leadership domains as recommended by National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) *2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards*. Content areas are accelerated and enhanced with enrichment. Acceleration is one of the most effective research-based interventions for academic growth of students who are ready for an advanced or faster-paced curriculum. It is not a replacement for gifted services, nor is it a replacement for enrichment; acceleration simply contributes to the gifted program so that students can rapidly progress based on readiness and motivation. Each classroom also participates in Project Based Learning (PBL). PBL is an instructional strategy in which students work cooperatively over time to create a product, presentation, or performance. Finally, the leadership domain will be addressed school-wide through the implementation of the Tiger Family Program that will use **The 7 Habits of Happy Kids** as a framework to teach and develop leadership qualities.

Teachers in grades 2–5 will implement modules in Engage English Language Arts (combines standards-aligned content with effective instructional practice)

Teachers in grades 4 and 5 will implement new SEPUP Science Units

- Grade 4: 1st Quarter/Studying Soil Scientifically and 4th Quarter/Energy
- Grade 5: 1st Quarter/Earth in Space and 2nd Quarter/Weather and Atmosphere

Facility Concerns: the following has been reported and currently waiting on an update:

- The loose plaster falling from the 2nd floor ceiling is in a high traffic area located directly over two classroom doors and a hall door.
- The leak in the ceiling on the 2nd floor leaves large puddles of water after it rains.
- Some tiles in the Spanish room ceiling that were replaced last year need to be replaced again.
- The drinking fountain on the lower level that was removed two years ago has not been replaced, although the leak was fixed.
- The potholes in front of the building and on the large bus lot pose a safety concern because the holes have increased in size.

New Faith-based and Community Partnerships: St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Wells Fargo Advisors Champion Volunteer Program

These two SLPS District approved partners will foster positive school relationships by supporting the following:

- Mentor and/tutor (during the school day)
- Help teachers set up their classrooms during the week of August 10
- Work with students and teachers in the school garden
- Volunteer during recess, playing games with students
- Help paint a classroom or the hallways
- Work outside with students on landscaping
- Social Media Champion (share updates from the school, teacher projects from Donor's Choose or GoFundMe on their social media accounts)
- "Telecommuting opportunities" – social media consultant, web-based projects, proofreading a grant application (things people can do from home or their office)

I met with Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Deacon last week to discuss school projects and volunteer procedures so that he could share with interested volunteers and also connected Rev. Birdsong to Jerre Parsons, to discuss Beautification projects.

School Health Advisory Council Update: PE teacher Jim Eresh submitted a proposal last year for stage pads (safety mats for the front of the stage) and a Deluxe Playground Recess Kit. The materials arrived in April and the recess cart is currently being stocked with balls for usage during lunch recess. If you would like to join the School Health Advisory Council, please contact James Eresh, PE teacher.

School Program: To improve our school community Tiger Families is combining with the Positive Behavior Committee to ensure consistency in practice and to promote positive growth. *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids* will serve as the framework to teach and develop leadership qualities. Principles such as responsibility, vision, teamwork, respect, and balance will be studied school-wide. Lessons for all students begin next week. For more information visit The 7 Habits of Happy Kids:

<http://www.theleaderinme.org/the-7-habits-for-kids> and

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=A0LEVjiMt7pVa7wA9q4nnIIQ;_ylu=X3oDMTByMjB0aG5zBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw--?p=Explanation+of+7+Habits+Happy+Kids&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001

School Staff

Welcome the following staff members to our professional learning community:

- 2nd Grade Teacher- Jennifer Ventimiglia (108)
- Child Care Attendant- Latonya Isaac
- Counselor- Whitney Mitchell
- Custodian- Daniel Lang
- Librarian- Brenda Kukay
- Nurse- Jane Humphreys
- Pre-School Teacher – Felishia McCowan
- Spanish Teacher – Laura Nunez
- Teacher Assistant II- Crystal McKinney
- Teacher Assistant- Keyonia Hughes
- Kennard's secretary, **Ms. Brenda Browden**, is resigning effective Friday, September 4 to transition to Texas. Our learning community will truly miss her dedication and support over the last five years. **Mrs. Audrey Ford**, will serve as interim secretary until the position is filled. Please take the opportunity this week to wish Ms. Browden good luck and to welcome Ms. Ford to Kennard!

New UMSL Interns

- Tara Gorman
- Emma Mueller
- Samone Smith
- Yazmin Labarbera

Returning UMSL Interns

- Meagan Benjamin
- Alyssa Lipson

Technology Update: All full-time classroom teachers have an iPad and a Smart board was installed in the science lab during the summer. The director of technology informed me that funds aren't available for 5th grade iPads; however, if iPads are purchased, they would provide carts and additional iPads for a 5th grade classroom set of 25.

Volunteer Application New Online Process: The Office of Volunteer Services is able to process your application online. Please visit the new site at: www.stlvolunteer.org/SLPS and click on **Become a Volunteer**. If you have any questions, contact **Ella Hungerford**, Volunteer Services Specialist, at 314-345-4577 or at www.eleanor.hungerford@slps.org for additional information. There are some glitches in the process; so you can fill out a paper copy and bring it to the office.

- **Dale Greenbury** mentioned paper copies for volunteer applications are on the back table; mentioned that they expire every two years.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

Questions for Dr. LeFlore:

- **Sarah Pitlik** asked question about what students are doing in Tiger Families. Dr. LeFlore responded that all students of different grades (PreK – 5th grade) are placed with teacher, as part of character education. They will be in their family the whole time they are in Kennard. Families are randomly selected. Dr. LeFlore said that they are studying the 7 Habits of Happy Children – focusing on 7 character traits, that good leaders display. There is a link to the video about the 7 Habits in Dr. LeFlore's welcome letter. There will be a Parent Corner (information from the Tiger Families) about the domain they are studying, and how to enhance this learning at home.
- **Sarah Custis** asked about ala carte food items. The ala carte program started on Monday, and initially, Dr. LeFlore was not aware of the range of items being offered. So Dr. LeFlore did some research about the ala carte items available through Food Services. She learned that the program is optional, and principals can decide whether or not to have this. Dr. LeFlore talked with Cafeteria food manager. They are in agreement, that the ala carte items are not in the best interest of the students, given the prices and items, and some concerns about the nutritional value. This will be discontinued. Kennard didn't qualify for free healthy snack program.

Treasurer's Report, Myra Belgeri

- Reviewed budget categories and proposed 2015-2016 budget, including categories like student classrooms, Kennard community events, teacher appreciation, building, and PTO expenses.
- PTO 2014-2015 full year report was presented. 8/31/15 summary indicated that the PTO has \$2,112.06 in the primary account, \$186.56 in the debit account, \$17,171.01 in the Friends of Kennard account. The PTO's total balance is \$18,626.82 (once pending checks have cleared).
- Fifth grade account has \$4,062.34 (held separately from PTO funds).
- Elizabeth McNulty indicated there were two options for Escripts on the web: Kennard PTO, and Kennard CJA). Myra will follow up on Escripts options, and find out the differences.
- Question raised about two different Schnucks Escripts card in the back. They just represent two different styles.
- Elizabeth McNulty asked where can learn about all fundraising options: Lisa Kovarik offered to check to see if all the fundraising options are listed on the PTO website.

Information Officer Report, Jennifer Anania

- There is link is on our closed facebook page to the Buzz Book online system (myschoolanywhere) to enter your information. This will be available on the PTO website soon. We have about 75% of the data completed. You will receive another email that will give you access to the system. Paper copies will go out on as needed basis.

Vice President, Jerre Parsons

- The Vice President is in charge of volunteer recruitment. PTO has wonderful programs due to volunteers. We have gone to the online system to manage volunteers and sign up to help with events as well. We sent a paper flyer home through the classrooms for the myschoolanywhere website signup. When you go on as a new family, don't worry if it comes up blank on the online system. Those who have signed up on hard copy at open house are already entered manually in the volunteer system.
- As Dr. LeFlore mentioned, it was suggested that the District volunteer approval application (which involves background check), should be done using hard copy paper forms, per conversations with Ella Hungerford at the District. The District is still having some difficulties with the online volunteer approval process.
- The Kennard PTO has at least one chair for all of our committees, which is great. Still looking for some co-chairs. In particular, we need help with Beautification on the Green Apple Day of Service, on September 26. We have list of projects for improving the school during Beautification. Anna Stokes, the chair, has arranged for Boy Scouts to help with this.

Fundraising, Dale Greenbury reported on behalf of Gary Siddens

- Excellent job last year. The PTO raised \$24,415. This amount was a little lower than our 2014 totals of almost \$26,000.
- Appeal letters will go out the week of September 14th.
- Reminders will be sent electronically to families regarding the program the week of September 7th.
- Benefit of direct giving – nothing to sell, all goes towards PTO mission, efficient effort
- Goal is \$25,000 this year and greater participation – 100% families! Every dollar counts...
 - It is important for grant writing and things such as community engagement to show how many families participate in the annual fund drive. No amount is too small.
 - Last school year the participation rate was 35%
- Encourage friends and family to donate – they may want to, given that they don't have to buy wrapping paper or candles or other fundraising
- Ask your employer to match contribution
- Other ways you can participate
 - E-Script
 - Boxtops
 - Target RedCard
 - Lisa Granich Kovarik: confirmed that you can find fundraising opportunities at the PTO website, under "Fundraising tab"

Parent Relations Officer, Lara Fuchs

- Good news - we have almost every classroom covered with room parent.
- Room parents may be able to use myschoolanywhere website to send out emails for your room, but we are still working out the details.

Kennardwear, Heather Murch

- Order forms came home via classrooms.
- Forms also posted on PTO website
- Sizes come in tomorrow, will be on display near or in the office
- Question: Keica Smart asked about PayPal option; Heather Murch reported that not currently available. Heather said we need checks for Kennardwear. Myra Belgeri clarified that 5th grade activities can't take checks, but confirmed that PTO can take checks, including those payments for Kennardwear

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Update, Dale Greenbury

- During our May 2015 meeting, we discussed the bylaw changes. Most of them are wording or semantic changes. They are posted on the PTO website. We will put hard copies in the office. Dale can post them back on the bulletin board. We can vote on these at an upcoming meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2015-2016 Budget, Myra Belgeri

- The PTO Board voted to approve the 2015-2016 budget during last week's board meeting.
- We need to have a vote from the general membership.
- Total budget: \$32,212.50
- Melissa Pantazopoulos motioned to approve; Erin Bihl seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Extra Funds, Dale Greenbury

- PTO Board was given permission to spend extra funds from last year.
- Estimate of extra funds is about \$12,500.
- During the 2014 September PTO General Meeting, the general PTO authorized the use of extra funds for a variety of items. List of other items that were pre-approved from September 2014: outdoor learning garden, additional chairs for events, more library funds (books), bulletin boards, mural by elevator staircase, mural on parking lot wall, outdoor recess equipment, (tether ball, mobile basketball hoop), curtain for stage, sound system – gym, lighting gym, water cooler for teacher's lounge, new furniture for main hall/foyer.
 - From this list we have chosen to address the sound system in the gym
 - Staff Stakeholders (Ms. Betts, Mr. Droste) and Dale Greenbury will be meeting with an Audio Engineer tomorrow morning to make recommendations and suggest improvements. Once this is done we can investigate the costs to address this.
- Dr. LeFlore has requested Ipads for 5th grades, which is not currently on the list. We will need to discuss this. Since this was not specifically authorized as means to utilize the extra funds we will need to have a motion and a vote in order to move forward with this.
 - Dr. Leflore has funding for 10 iPads, if the PTO can do funding for 10 iPads, then the District will provide a cart and 5 more Ipads. Cost estimate for 10 (depending on insurance) – \$4500 to 5000 dollars.
 - David Custis motioned to allocate a portion of the extra funds (\$5000) to purchase 10 iPads. Seconded by Melissa Von Rohr.
 - Sarah Pitlik: asked for clarification about how iPads are used.
 - Dr. LeFlore: Ipads are used for testing, in addition to computers in technology and library rooms. Also use them in music and science.
 - Ms. Meyer: in 4th grade, used for testing, used instead of hard copies for homework, research, have great apps for math and writing. The District provides for 3rd and 4th grade, due to a grant program.
 - Dr. LeFlore: there are very strong programs for security on the iPads and applications used; the iPads do not leave the building.
 - Melissa Von Rohr: every 3rd and 4th grader has them, but then 5th grade doesn't.
 - Dale: some schools have iPads at 2nd or 5th grade levels.
 - Dr. LeFlore: All teachers have iPads, and smart boards. 5th graders are at disadvantage, because 3rd and 4th grade have them, and then 5th graders do not. Hoping that this pilot will help with one classroom; hoping eventually to get them for all classrooms.
 - Motion passes by quorum.

Nurse procedures:

- Lauren Rea Preston: another parent had a concern about the nurse policy, when the nurse might not be unavailable.
- Dr. LeFlore said she is full time nurse, but for first month she will be shared by another school (donates a half day) to the different school. There are procedures in event that nurse not available. If it is not an emergency, there are staff that are on site trained by nurse to make sure the students get prescription drugs. Staff have to volunteer to be trained. Principal is first designee. Dr. LeFlore has secured 2 other volunteers staff as well.

- Lauren: asked if there are ice packs. Dr. LeFlore was not sure about the current stock of these. But Dr. LeFlore clarified that staff and Dr. LeFlore can get access to nurse office to get supplies.
- Heather Murch: what about inhaler or epi-pen? Dr. LeFlore would deal with this, if the nurse was not available. If Dr. LeFlore not available, they call 911 and call the parent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5th Grade Trivia Night – raises funds for Camp Wyman.
- Let Me Run Program: Dave Custis: this program is for 4th and 5th grade boys. It is a 7 week running and wellness program, which ends at Nov 14 race. Parent helpers are welcomed. Sign up at LetMeRun.org. Practices are Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:15 to 8:45 am. John Brink, Peter Egan, Carolyn Wohlrabe, David Custis will coach. You can contact David Custis at: david.custis@sbcglobal.net.
- Mrs. Browden's last day will be this Friday the 4th of September. We wish her the best in her new adventures. She will be missed. Please sign card in the back. The PTO will be presenting Mrs. Browden with a gift as a token of our appreciation before she leaves.
- Chess – Mr. Beffa has agreed to coordinate this program for our community. Be looking for more information soon. Previously about 25 -32 kids. This year, will have recreational and competitive options. Will have instructors and tutors from McKinley and Metro. Probably enough room for 50 kids. Cost from \$45-125, depending on number of tournaments. From K – 5th. Information will come out through room parents. Meetings will be after school, usually weekly on Tuesday nights.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihr, seconded by Lisa Granich Kovarik
Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs
PTO Secretary, 2015-16