

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy  
PTO Meeting**

November 4, 2015, 6:00 pm, Cafeteria  
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: Dale Greenbury, Jerre Parsons, Jennifer Beffa, Keica Smart, Tiffany Tibbs, Jennifer Anania, Myra Belgeri, Lisa Granich-Kovarik.

Also present: Dr. LeFlore.

**Call to Order**

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Call for New Business Agenda Items**

No new items.

**Acceptance of Minutes from April PTO Meeting**

- The minutes from the last meeting (September) are posted on the website and on the bulletin board in front of the gym.
- Motion to accept the minutes made by Nicole Colbert-Botchway, seconded by Grace Kivindy. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

***PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury***

Congratulations to our entire school community for the honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School. Kennard CJA was one of only ten schools in Missouri to be granted this distinction.

- **Thank you's – very productive fall.**
  - To Grandparents Day chairs and volunteers, Kennard teachers and staff – great success, over 370 guests, well organized. Used all available chairs. Significant return through the Fund Drive,
  - To Box Tops committee – Contest is underway. Thanks to Myra Belgeri for organizing this effort.
  - To Jen Anania – for her help with the new electronic buzz book program.
  - To Teacher appreciation committee – provided meals during parent teacher conferences and snacks during staff meetings
  - To Chad Beffa for stepping up to organize the Chess Club this season.
  - To Kennardwear committee – for delivering Kennardwear orders and organizing the whole effort! We had well over 700 items of Kennardwear ordered this year a significant increase over last year's numbers.
  - To Beautification, Pack 214, NEHS, teachers, and parents – who participated in Outdoor Cleanup on Green Apple Day of Service September 26<sup>th</sup>. Over 40 people came out, and a significant effort was put into cleaning up the grounds. Some of Kennard's projects included: planting mums and spring bulbs, removing overgrowth, weeding, trimming trees, mulching, picking up trash and a significant effort was put into cleaning the pre-school playground.
  - To Anna Stokes and Joey Stokes and the boys from Pack 214 for their help with Plant for Peace project on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The boys planted twelve ornamental trees (Eastern Redbud, Wild Plum and Hackberry) around the teacher's lot and out by the back parking lots. Plant for peace is a community program which sponsors tree planting to promote peace, unity and mutual understanding in the St. Louis region. For more information, you can visit their website at [www.plant4peacestl.org](http://www.plant4peacestl.org)
  - To Fall Festival committee and chairs Dawn Brandt and Blythe Burkhardt and all of their volunteers, families and teachers – for a creative and fun event. We had over forty trunks at the event this year.
- **Upcoming events/dates**
  - Literacy Night - 11/20 at 6 pm. Committee is actively working on activities. Sounds like an engaging and fun event from the notes meetings so far.

- Trivia Night, November 21 at 6:30 – IBEW Hall 5850 Elizabeth Ave.
- Winter Choral Performance November 30<sup>th</sup> 10 am and December 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm details to follow from school.
- Movie night, Friday, January 22 – Doors open at 6:30 pm movie starts at 7:00.
- Next board meeting January 27, 2016 – 5 pm.
- Next full general PTO meeting Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6 pm.
- School dance: Friday, February 12, 6:30 pm.

### ***Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore***

#### **Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report**

**November 4, 2015**

Greetings to the 2015.2016 Board Members:

- **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:** Keica 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:

- Gary Siddens and Dawn Brandt –Annual Fund Drive
- Blythe Burkhardt, Dawn Brandt, and committee- Fall Fest 2015
- Lindsey Lawrence, Dawn Brandt, Liz Toolan, and committee- Magnet School Open House

**Annual Performance Report:** The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently released the Annual Performance Reports (APR) for districts and individual schools through the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) Cycle 5. Based on the data released by DESE, SLPS received 106.5 APR points, eclipsing the 98 points required to qualify for FULL ACCREDITATION. The District last qualified for FULL ACCREDITATION in the 2000 school year.

Again this year, SLPS schools earning ACCREDITED WITH DISTINCTION honors are Busch Middle School of Character, Cleveland NJROTC High School, Clyde C. Miller Career Academy High School, Dewey International Studies Elementary School, Kennard Classical Junior Academy, Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction, Mason School of Academic and Cultural Literacy, McKinley Classical Junior Academy Middle/Classical Leadership Academy High School, Metro High School, Soldan International Studies High School, Stix Early Childhood Center and Wilkinson @ Roe Early Childhood Center.

#### **Before/After School Programming Update:**

The Chess Club began in October with a record number of kindergarteners thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This year fees are based on the level of instruction, tournament play, volunteerism, and community support. The club meets Tuesdays after school to accommodate the Red Rook Tournament held at McKinley. We are excited about the club's expansion that is designed to meet the playing level of each child. If you have questions, contact Chad Beffa [Beffac.beffa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Beffac.beffa@sbcglobal.net) or Nick Clement: [Nick.clement@slps.org](mailto:Nick.clement@slps.org)

St. Louis 4-H and University of Missouri sponsored Lego Robotics was so successful first quarter that two classes will begin in November.

Beginning Robotics began Monday, November 2 – December 14

Advanced Robotics began Wednesday, November 4 – January 20

Feel free to contact Vince McKinney at [mckinneyv@missouri.edu](mailto:mckinneyv@missouri.edu) or by phone at 314-400-7375 or Bailey Lutz at [lutzbn@missouri.edu](mailto:lutzbn@missouri.edu) for registration information.

Breakfast and Books is also off to a great start this month. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have adapted to the schedule and are enjoying working with the librarian, Ms. Kukay.

#### **Blue Ribbon School Update:**

Sue Decker and I will be in Washington, DC next week to participate in the National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony. Kennard has demonstrated that all students can achieve at high levels and is one of only 10 schools in Missouri to earn the designation of a Blue Ribbon School. The Education Department will honor 285 public and 50 private schools during the recognition ceremony. The school plaque and banner will be presented at that time.

SLPS Office of Institutional Advancement is planning an assembly for the school once the banner and plaque is secured. A district official visited last month to secure placement for a permanent plaque outside the building. I'll share more details as received.

#### **Facility Concerns: the following has been reported and currently waiting on repair:**

- 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 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.

#### **Facility Concerns: the following has been reported and is currently being repaired.**

- Replace broken tiles in the cafeteria
- Ceiling tiles in Spanish room that were replaced last year need to be replaced again.
- Removal of temporary wheelchair ramps from doors #10 and #2

#### **Magnet School Open House:**

Many thanks to all that volunteered in the Open House for prospective families on October 29. Special thanks to our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade tour guides. Over 60 families attended our campus.

#### **New School Staff**

Welcome the following staff members to our professional learning community:

- **Ms. Ernestine Shivers-Jones - Secretary**
- **David Day- Speech Teacher**

#### **School Programs:**

Tiger Family Program is planning its Family Winter Wrap up in December with a movie. More details to come.

Winter Program: Corrected dates for the Winter Program are:

Monday, November 30 – 10:30am Grades

Tuesday, December 1 – 6:00pm Grades

**Technology Update:** Thank you for supporting our fifth graders by approving funds to purchase iPads. Your generous funding, along with the Target Take Charge in Education check in the amount of 750.00, help purchase 10 new iPads. Funds from my budget and Ms. VanNoy, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Accountability & Technology Services, generous support help secure additional iPads for a classroom set and an iPad cart. The equipment was ordered mid-October and I'm waiting on a delivery date. Again, thanks for your continuous support for the students in our learning community.

**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](http://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](mailto:www.eleanor.hungerford@slps.org) for additional information.

#### **World Book Online:**

The librarian has spoken to several teachers regarding World Book online usage. The upper grades teachers use it more than the lower grades. Ms. Kukay recommends that we keep the subscription for another year and she will try to promote usage and make families aware of the availability. At the end of the year she'll track the usage and evaluate the situation. Also, during Literacy Night the librarian will show families all of the online resources available and see if there is interest in the World Book.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

***Treasurer's Report, Myra Belgeri***

Primary account	\$7,751.98
Debit Card account	\$186.56
Friends of Kennard (as of 9/2015)	\$6,265.25
Fund Drive Donations (still to be deposited)	<u>\$10,034.00</u>
	\$24,237.79

Extra funds (still need to be spent)	- \$8,500.00
Pending checks	<u>- \$769.06</u>
PTO BALANCE	\$14,968.73

(5<sup>th</sup> grade account)\* \$9,722.34

\*separate from PTO Balance

***Vice President, Jerre Parsons***

- Thank you for the great volunteer efforts this fall! If you have not signed up or want to sign up for PTO events, there are some that are still in need. You can sign up – Jerre has hard copy with instructions on how to sign up through the myschoolanywhere.
- Beautification is looking at April date for Spring beautification, with Boy Scouts for service projects.
- Green Schools Quest committee is led by Amy Breuer, who is working with a mentor from SLU. Amy is collaborating with Kate Metzger and Heather Morgan, who are leading the outdoor learning garden efforts. The three chairs are going to Gateway Greening to get the garden started.

***Fundraising, Dale reported for Gary Siddens***

- Currently have raised \$11,204, 45% of the \$25,000 goal. \$2,800 came from grandparents. We have had about 15% family participation. Dawn reported that next year we might put fundraising information on the back of Grandparents day flyer.
- Participation in the fund drive is important not only for the direct benefit of the dollars raised. Of course that is important and is the foundation for all of the activities that the PTO supports. All of the enrichment that the PTO supports and all of the upgrades like the recent purchases of iPads for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the soon to be new sound system for the gymnasium are the direct result of your generosity.
- As our PTO and School administration try to leverage available grant money and other outside resources it become increasingly important to show how “engaged” our school community is. While we want you to give what you are able, it is also just as important just to give. That is one of the main ways philanthropic organizations judge our community engagement is what percentage of the community participates in the annual fund drive. So please consider making a gift to the annual fund drive in whatever amount you are able. There quite honestly is no amount that is too small. Even a donation of a \$5 counts towards our community participation rate.
- Dale reported a soft deadline for end of November, but we always accept additional funding. If you write it to Friends of Kennard, the gift is tax deductible. Dawn indicated that we will accept donations anytime. Dale indicated we will encourage people to give on Giving Tuesday.
- Elizabeth McNulty asked how this information will be shared with rest of parents. Dale will put this on the Facebook page or newsletters.

***District Affairs, Dale reported for Lauren Rae Preston***

- Report from Lauren Rae Preston regarding PAC

- Parent Action Council is discussing bell times. The superintendent has commissioned a task force of parents to make a recommendation to him by December about a different plan for school start times. We are currently developing a survey to send out to parents about their preferences district-wide. Additionally, we are looking at research about what other districts have done.
- Also, the PAC continues to request that 2 representatives from each school attend the meetings. If anyone from Kennard is interested, please have them contact Lauren. There are supposed to be 2 voting members per school, but as many parents can come that have the desire from each school. Dale and Lauren are the two voting members for Kennard, but any parent is welcome to attend Parent Action Council.
- The next meeting is Nov. 19 at the downtown district building on N. 11th street.

#### **Information Officer, Jennifer Anania**

- As of today, 20 parents have not confirmed their information (which represents 15 families), but otherwise things are up and running for the Buzz Book/directory. The Buzz Book is online through Myschoolanywhere. You can get directory information there, and you can also sign up to volunteer for events.
- Paper copies will likely go out next week.
- Elizabeth McNulty asked how to view the class list. Jennifer Anania responded you can select “students”, then select the drop down box for “grade” or “teachers”.
- Dale indicated that the KCJA PTO email blasts are coming through the Buzz Book system. We are trying to be judicious about use of this. We are using this for PTO events, requests for volunteers, or urgent announcements.

#### **Room Parent Officer, Dale reported for Lara Fuchs**

- Room parents for all classes have been recruited. Thanks to all who have volunteered! There has been a slight change to room parent duties this year. Rather than having each room parent forward emails from the PTO to the families in their classroom, we are able to send emails to all families directly from the buzz book website, myschoolanywhere. These emails have KCJA PTO listed as the sender.
- This allows the room parents to focus on sending communication that are just classroom specific, and to follow up with families without email access.
- If you have email access, please make sure to keep your buzz book information up to date so you don't miss important email communication from the PTO! Don't hesitate to contact Lara with any questions.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Bylaw Revisions, Dale Greenbury**

- During last meeting, we talked about bylaws revisions that were proposed during the last school year. The detailed changes were reviewed during May meeting. Copies were available during September meeting. Bylaws have been posted on the bulletin board and the website for several months.
- Elizabeth McNulty motioned to approve revised bylaws; Tricia Moyer seconded; motion unanimously approved.

##### **Extra Funds from 2014-2015 school year, Dale Greenbury**

- iPads for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - PTO authorized at the September general meeting to spend a portion of our excess fund from 2014-15 to purchase a classroom set to be shared amongst the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.
  - Dr. LeFlore appropriated \$750 from Target Take Charge of Education
  - PTO wrote a check for the remaining \$4280.00 to Purchase ten new iPads. The district is contributing the extra number of Ipads and a Cart in order to make a complete classroom set
  - The Ipads have been ordered.
- Sound System Upgrades
  - Preliminary site visit with Audio engineer conducted in September.
  - Site visit with all of the appropriate stakeholders and vendors conducted September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Initial Proposal was over budget allocated.
  - Negotiated middle ground.
    - Single High Efficiency 15” speaker to over the Gymnasiums
    - New Power Amplifier to power the existing Peavey stage Monitor and the New 15” Speaker
    - Digital Signal Processor
    - 4 Button Volume Controller for Easy Mode
    - 12 Mono + 2 stereo input mixer

**NEW BUSINESS*****Literacy Night, Dale Greenbury***

- November 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Authors, Storytellers and other literacy themed activities
  - Desperately needing volunteers
    - For staffing during the event
    - SIX volunteers to run activities from 6-8PM. If you have an idea for an activity you'd like to run, that would be great too.
    - FOUR volunteers to run the welcome tables.
    - TWO (or THREE) escorts to remain with and assist our guest presenters.

***Trivia Night, Dale Greenbury***

- November 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Need Volunteers
    - Set up
    - Check in and Mulligans
    - Proxy Bidding
    - Wheel of Wine
    - Bar Tenders
    - Raffle Sales
    - Clean Up
    - Childcare
  - Childcare available at Concordia Turners (Open Gym and Activity Night) from 6:00 to 11:00 PM for attendees of Trivia - cost is \$20 per child.
  - Need additional Table Reservations
  - If you know of a business that would be willing to donate to the silent auction or become a sponsor please see Dale after the meeting for more information.
  - Can bid on auction items ahead of time electronically. There are a number of really exciting parties and experiences to bid on.

***SLPS Innovation grant, Dale Greenbury***

- Grant submitted for \$11,000 worth of Science curricular materials
- Notified Friday that we were not awarded in the first round of funding. We will reapply in February

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Clement is looking for powered computer speakers to attach to Smartboard – need about 5 or 6 for the older Smartboards.
- Tiger TV can be seen on [www.schooltube.com](http://www.schooltube.com).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihl, seconded by Grace Kivindyo. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs  
PTO Secretary, 2015-16