

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy  
PTO Meeting**

Oct 4, 2017 6:00 pm, Gym  
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: Mike Viles, Melissa von Rohr, Erin Bihr, Jennifer Beffa, Karen Ruggeri, Susie Anderson-Bauer,

Not Present: Chad Beffa, Kate Metzger, David Custis, Lara Fuchs

**Call to Order**

PTO President, Mike Viles called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Call for New Business Agenda Items**

**Acceptance of Minutes from September PTO Meeting**

- The minutes from the last meeting (September) are posted on the bulletin board in front of the gym; they were also circulated through email to parents through myschoolanywhere, and Facebook page and on the PTO website.
- Motion to accept the minutes made by Melissa von Rohr seconded by Cindy Heidenry. Motion passed unanimously.

**Kennard Character Education Overview**

Ms Perniciaro, Ms Meyer, Ms Kadlec and Ms Beffa presented information about the Tiger Families initiative.

- Tiger Families
  - This is the third year of the program – first year was a trial, and followed the curriculum very closely. The second year, the teachers made some modifications based on discussions of best practices. This year, the teachers are asked to submit a lesson plan proposal for different ideas to cover during Tiger Families events.
  - Committee members spent time auditing other schools with Character Education Programs to develop a customized program to fit the needs of Kennard. At schools with strong programs, it was apparent externally when teachers visited the site, that the habits become very intrinsic to the children.
  - The National Character Conference honored Kennard as the only St. Louis metropolitan school to be chosen as a National School of Character
  - 4% of Kennard staff has a certificate in Character Education but more are pursuing their certification with recent changes to the requirements with a \$200 fee to obtain certificate.
  - All students are placed in Tiger Families, which were randomly assigned in the first year of the program to ensure that teachers have a multi age, multi grade distribution of children in each family to help connect students throughout the school – children make connections and friends across the grades which becomes an additional support network.
  - Tiger Families meet in a consistent environment and promote a social and support network with community feel.
  - Want students to become good citizens and focus on core values in all aspects of their lives.
  - Teachers display the outputs of the Tiger Family work so that kids can see what is done other groups with other teachers throughout the school.
  - Some concerns that Tiger Families was pulling kids away from academics – but with meeting twice a month and instilling good habits the staff feels this program helps students be more successful at academics.
  - First semester Tiger Family Open House coming up – details forthcoming.

- Supporting Curriculum is the 7 Habits of Happy Kids – Staff reviewed various curriculums and programs and chose the 7 Habits of Happy Kids – exemplified the leadership characteristics that the committee felt was important and had relatable characters for children.

**Kennard CJA PTO Principal’s Report**

**October 4, 2017**

- Dr. LeFlore presented the Principal’s Update which was distributed via staff emails and hard copies are available in the office.
- Dr. LeFlore thanked staff and volunteers for work at the National School of Character conference.
- Custodian Appreciation Day last week, with gift cards for Ms. Baker and Mr. Blaine
- There have been recent issues with graffiti in the girls and boys restrooms. Ask that parents talk to children about letting an adult know if they see writing on the walls in the restroom.
- Sewer Gas Smell in Cafeteria – SLPS Director of Facilities has visited the site and sent teams to assess the problem. Said that there is not a safety concern for students exposed to the smell. Facilities indicated that the lines need to be flushed more regularly and recently emptied the grease trap in the cafeteria. Believe the smell has been addressed but will continue to monitor the smell.
- Eye See Me – book fair sponsored by the Diversity Committee to be held in conjunction with parent teacher conferences.
- Thanks to Volunteers and Committee Chair Lindsay Roy for an excellent Grandparents Day
- Magnet School Fair Scheduled for Monday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> (6-8pm) at the Science Center and Kennard Magnet Open House scheduled Oct 26<sup>th</sup> (9:30-3:30)
- October is National Bullying Prevention Month – plans for unity day (10/25 also coincides with picture day – Ms Mitchell is looking into providing something orange for students to wear
- Parent Teacher conferences scheduled for 10/18 and 10/19 after school.
- No specific questions were asked related to the topics of the Principal’s Update

**Treasurer – David Custis – Not Present**

**Unable to Confirm October Numbers**

FRIENDS OF KENNARD (as of 4-28-17)	\$762.44
PRIMARY ACCOUNT	\$9,845.38
DEBIT CARD ACCOUNT	\$2,698.16
PENDING CHECKS	(\$944.07)
<b>PTO BALANCE Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$11,599.47</b>
5TH GRADE ACCOUNT	13,740.01
-separate from PTO main account	

**Camp Wyman Itemized Breakdown**

<b>Camp Wyman</b>		
One Day Fall Team Building		
Bus for One Day Fall Team Building		
Spring Visit (4 days, 3 nights)		

Bus for Spring Visit		
Misc Wyman		
<b>Camp Wyman TOTAL</b>		
Springfield Busses		
Graduation/End of year week		
Total Costs		
Fall Deposits collected from families		
<b>TOTAL 5th Grade Costs</b>		
5th Grade Account Balance		
Pending Checks		
Graduation/End of year week		
<b>Approx. 5th Grade Extra Funds</b>		

**Reports**

**President –Mike Viles (see old/new business)**

**Vice President –Melissa von Rohr:** volunteer applications being faxed into Central Office are not being received, they must be mailed in. There is one committee that still needs a chair – for the end of year celebration, formerly PTO Picnic. Also need a co-chair for Field Day, and next year, will need new chairs for New/Used Kennardwear.

**District Affairs Liason – Lara Fuchs: not present**

**Information Officer – Erin Bihl:** 93% of student population is now set up in Buzz Book.

**Fundraising –Jenifer Garcia:** fund drive has raised ~\$5K so far, with a goal of \$25K. Jen is working to raise the participation in the fund drive to 40% of the community so that Kennard will qualify for grants based on participation numbers. Additionally want families to know about the Schnucks E-Scripts program which extends to other retailers, restaurants, etc.

**Communications Officer – Susie Anderson-Bauer: no updates**

**Security Officer – Jennifer Beffa: no updates**

**Room Parent Coordinator – Kate Metzger: no updates**

**Enrichment officer-Cindy Heidenry: no updates**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 5013C – no updates

- Allergy Policy- some questions raised after last month's PTO meeting, specifically relating to PTO sponsored events that are not official school sponsored events. Concerns that the school district policy doesn't cover PTO events, and therefore, PTO may be liable not only for allergy exposure but any other incidents that may occur. Lara Fuchs is investigating further with the district.
  - Update from Jamie Majors regarding question about the building permit and if we should change it to restrict bringing allergens into events that require a building permit. The district feels that would increase the liability and thus will not be updating the building permit.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Request to amend the Trunk or Treat Line Item in the Budget for the PTO to purchase teal pumpkins to have allergy friendly candy available for students with allergies. Grace Kivindy moves to add this line item to the budget. Erin Bihr seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
- Approval of the Diversity Committee Board Member - nominate Craig Higgins to be a member of the board. Susie Anderson-Bauer moves that Craig Higgins be the designated representative from the Diversity Committee, seconded by Blythe Burkhardt. Motion passes unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Trivia Night coming up November 4<sup>th</sup>, funds go to support Camp Wyman. Parents can purchase a table, make donations, etc.
- Trunk or Treat Oct 20<sup>th</sup> –Set up at 5pm and event opens at 6pm. Families can set up a trunk to participate and families will need to provide candy or treats, other than allergy friendly candy which will be provided by the

**Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihr, seconded by Melissa von Rohr. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Karen Ruggeri  
 PTO Secretary, 2017-18