

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy
PTO Meeting**

May 6, 2015, 6:00 pm, Cafeteria
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: Jennifer Anania, Lisa Granich-Kovarik, Tiffany Tibbs, Jerre Parsons, Lara Fuchs, Dale Greenbury, Denise Brooks

Also present: Dr. LeFlore

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Call to Order

Call for New Business Agenda Items

- Lisa Granich-Kovarik gave a thank you to Tiffany Tibbs, past president for her work.

Acceptance of Minutes from April PTO Meeting

- Motion to accept by Jennifer Anania, seconded by Jyl Brady. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury

Welcome to new board members. Board members who were present introduced themselves.

- Thank you for those who served on the Board last year, both returning and ending, and thanks for those who are joining for the first time this year.
- To all who helped set up and clean-up for Volunteer appreciation, including PTO Board members and parent volunteers. We especially thank Nicole Scott, who planned our Volunteer Appreciation event and arranged for our awesome volunteer appreciation meal to be donated. We wanted to recognize the businesses who donated food and gift items - Onesto Pizzeria and Trattoria, the Cakery, and Major Brands.
- To Myra Belgeri, Allison Miller, Chris Comerford, and all of the Yearbook committee members for working on the 2014-2015 yearbook, which will be distributed in May.
- To Johnni Walker-Gillespie, Erin Bihl, Tricia Moyer, and Tiffany Tibbs for updating our bulletin boards.
- To all of the parents who volunteered at Camp Wyman this spring
- To everyone who helped with the Open House for Newly Accepted Families in April at Kennard. The event was a great success, with over 40 families attending! Special thanks to Dr. LeFlore, Ms. Browden, numerous staff members, student tour guides, parent volunteers, and especially to our volunteer leaders – Lindsey Lawrence, Liz Toolan, and Dawn Brandt.
- In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, thank you to Ms. Browden for all of her work with our students and volunteers. PTO purchased a gift for her.
- To Amanda Miller, Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Mr. Eresh, and other volunteers and staff for organizing the Field Day activities (in anticipation of a great Field Day in May)!
- To Sarah Vora and Jerre Parsons for chairing School Picnic!
- To Sarah Custis and Laurie Erhard who are organizing teacher appreciation week efforts
- To Mr. Clement for leading our math contest efforts: **April 2015: "Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) Contest** was held at New City School on Saturday, April 11. The New City school site is one of many regional contests around the state. Participating schools were Kennard, Old Bonhomme, New City School, Forsyth School, and Concord Elementary. Kennard distinguished itself by winning the "Sweepstakes" award which is a combination score of all four events, besting the 6th grade teams from the other schools. 5 students qualified for the State Finals held in Warrensburg, Missouri, April 25. Congratulations to participants who spent many hours in math practice. PTO will provide \$50 stipend to those traveling to state finals.
- To all of our teachers, including Ms. Beffa for serving on PTO Board – who have done a phenomenal job teaching our kids every day!

Upcoming events

- Teacher appreciation week , May 4 -8; teacher breakfast May 8; all parents encouraged to show appreciation to teachers
- May recruitment of chairs/leaders – will be recruiting for these soon, and over the summer.
- May 14 – deadline for turning in reimbursement paperwork to Myra (exceptions for deadline for New Families and the Picnic)
- PTO picnic – Friday, May 15, 2015, 4:30 to 6:30. Bring a dish to share for 10 people. Flyers available from Dale. Still looking for volunteers, especially for facepainting. Joanna asked if they have to be approved volunteers through the district. Answer is yes. Contact Jerre Parsons tonight.
- May 19: Field Day – Contact Amanda Miller or Nicole Colbert Botchway if you would like to help volunteer. Amanda cannot lift or move items, so definitely need help.
- May 22 - Last day of school
- Summer playdates from New Families committee:
 - Saturday, June 20, 2015, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon at the Francis Park playground
 - Saturday, July 25, 2015, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon at Tower Grove Park (at the playground near the wading pool)
- 2015-2016 academic year
 - Friday, August 7 - Annual Open House - 5:00-6:30pm; also have new families ice cream social and uniform resale
 - Monday, August 10- First Day for **All** students (Pre-K included)
 - Monday, August 10- First Day for Parents Coffee - 9:00am
- **General announcements:**
 - Updated forms are posted on the PTO website and school website.
 - Make sure to renew your volunteer approval status; have to be an approved volunteer through SLPS to do PTO events. Need to renew every two years.
 - Parent Action Council meetings – District Parent organization group – Lauren Preston and Dale Greenbury will be attending as our representatives, starting in May; Tiffany Tibbs and Johnni Walker-Gillespie represented the school last year. They are open meetings (any parent can attend, but only our two representatives can vote). Next meeting: Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 801 N. 11th Street.

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:**
- **Nominee for Enrichment Officer withdrew nomination after March 4 meeting.*
- **District Affairs Officer:** Lauren Rea Preston
- **Room Parent Relation Officer:** Lara Fuchs
- **Fund Raising Officer:** Gary Siddens
- **Communications Officer:** Denise Brooks

Thank you: Thank former board members for their services during the 2015.2016 school year.

Academic School Year Calendar: The proposed 2015.2016 School Year Calendar has been approved by the Special Administrative Board. The first day of school for all students is **Monday, August 10, 2015**. SLPS students will enjoy a two-week Winter Break from December 21 – January 1, and all SLPS schools will be closed for Spring Break March 14 – March 18. The 2015/2016 calendar is available on the District's website at www.slps.org.

After School Programming: Early April I met with Judith King, SLPS Coordinator After-School Programs to discuss how we can improve/enhance after/school programming at Kennard for 2015.2016. We discussed:

- Chess (currently sponsored by parent volunteers)
- Instrumental Music Lessons (not currently offered at Kennard)
- Lego Robotics (limited enrollment/limited contract) - can take a maximum of 10 students for a team. Ms. King is looking for a program that would maximize number of students who could attend, perhaps on alternate days, would need to solicit more volunteers. Dr. LeFlore talked with Mr. Clement and Ms. Batres to see what we could do at the building; most of the contests are for middle school. Ms. Batres will price how much costs are, perhaps through our science class – might be able to implement into the curriculum, which would give more students opportunity.

Ms. King will research and share her findings with me next month (May). She also reminded me that all organizations seeking to provide services in an SLPS school, should contact her at 345-4409.

Assessments: Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) is in progress! This summative assessment measures specific skills defined for each grade by the state of Missouri. Students in grades 3-5 are currently taking the online grade level assessments thru May 15. MAP snacks are provided by the school. Thank you for making sure that your child is MAP ready!

Before/After School Y Club for 4 Year Olds: Kennard doesn't offer a Before/After Care School Program for 4 year olds. Cheryl A. Roe, District Director of Child Care Services @ South City Family YMCA (314) 644-3100 and Yvonne Green, the Interim Director of Operations: (314) 345-4679, are key contact people to better understand what steps are required for Kennard to obtain certification for the YMCA Latchkey program for 4 year olds.

New Families Open House and Early Registration: Over 40 families registered or toured the building during the Newly Accepted Families Open House in April. Special thanks to committee members Lindsey Lawrence, Dawn Brandt, Liz Toolan, 5th grade student tour guides, parent volunteers, Ms. Browden and Nurse Brookins for a successful Open House! Families will have another opportunity to register on Monday, May 18.

Promotion Dates:

- Thursday, May 21 – Kindergarten Promotion @ 9:45am
- Thursday, May 21 – Pre-Kindergarten Promotion @ 11:00am
- Thursday, May 21 – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade Awards Program @ 1:30pm
- Friday, May 22 – 5th Grade Promotion @ 10:00am

School Name

3/11/15: I contacted Patrick Wallace and thanked him for all the support he provided at the March PTO Meeting. I inquired if it was correct to state that the next step involves researching the current legal name of the school and contacting me with your findings? I also asked how long will this process take and is there anything I can do since our next PTO Board Meeting is March 25 and the General PTO Meeting is April 1. Mr. Wallace informed me (the same day) that he was in the process of researching to see if the name was officially changed in 1989-90 when Kennard was reopened. He also said he spent 3 hours searching through microfilm and was unable to find board action regarding Kennard's name and planned to go to the archives and see if he can find hard copies of board books from that period. He also asked Mr. Gaines at a recent SAB meeting if he remembered any action being taken. He did not. He left the board in 1989.

3/24/15: Mr. Wallace has been unable to find a vote taken by the Board of Education to officially rename Kennard as Kennard Classical Junior Academy when it reopened in 1990. The archive room was closed several years ago and he did a search of my own through micro film but came up empty. His advice would be to recommend to the Superintendent to officially change the name of the school to Kennard Classical Junior Academy. This could be done as a procedural move with little fanfare and would eliminate any concerns about having students attend a school named after a confederate soldier. If the option is to rename the school after another person that would require getting permission from the person's descendants, who could be tricky if the person's descendants are hard to locate. He stated that he has not spoken with the Superintendent about this option, because it needs the concern needs comes from the school level and should be directed to him by the principal and/or PTO.

3/31/15: Informal Kennard Name Survey was conducted yesterday consisted of the following:

In favor of a name change, not in favor of a name change, why or why not? I received 19 responses: 1 for a name change, 17 against a name change, 1 with no response but a question/comment.

4/28/15: After much research Dr. Adams informed me that the building's original name is **Samuel J. Kennard School**. He explained that through the years, programs housed in the building may have assumed different names, but the building is still officially named **Samuel J. Kennard School**. I was also advised to revisit St. Louis Board of Education Board Policy P7600 Naming of School Facilities located at: http://sab.slps.org/Board_Education/policies/7600.htm

School Health Advisory Council Update: PE teacher Jim Eresh submitted a proposal 1st semester for stage pads (safety mats for the front of the stage) and a Deluxe Playground Recess Kit. The proposal was approved in January and the mats and recess kit arrived in April. Melissa White, Kennard's SHAC Coordinator, spoke to PTO members and invited parents to join the council.

Summer School: SLPS confirmation letters to attend the Summer Enrichment Academy have been sent to families. Mr. Rob Lescher, principal of Busch Middle School of Character, will serve as summer school principal and Ms. Browden will be his administrative assistant. Parents will receive notification with program specifics such as bell times, transportation information, grade level programming, etc. Since a waitlist has been created, feel free to contact Danielle Harris at 345-5719 for additional information.

Technology Update: All full-time classroom teachers have an iPad and a Smart board will be installed in the science lab for the 2015.2016 school year. I'm currently working with the technology department on pricing for a class set of iPads for the 5th graders.

Question: Johnni Walker Gillespie: Dr. Adams is making proposal at May 25 Board meeting, to change start date making recommendation to August 17, based on parent survey. Would this affect Open house? Dr. LeFlore: I haven't received official word, but this would change the open house date.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

Treasurer's Report,

- The PTO has \$7421.42 in the primary account, \$343.74 in the debit account, \$15,686.39 in the Friends of Kennard account. The PTO's total balance is \$22,719.08 (once pending checks are cleared).
- Fifth grade account has \$4,972.34 in it (held separately from PTO funds)
- Some of the items that we had budgeted for, won't be spent – will go back into the general fund, which will provide extra funds. Examples: playground equipment won't need to be purchased, since we received recess kit; yearbook didn't spend as much.

OLD BUSINESS

Enrichment Resource Officer

- We have an open position. The March candidate dropped out because she may not be at school next year. The Board was going to appoint a candidate. We solicited two candidates; the Board members will vote about which candidate to appoint. Both candidates are good fit for the job. We will hopefully have an announcement at next meeting about appointee. Tiffany Tibbs: We advertised position in the newsletter, at previous meeting, in minutes, to make sure the community was aware of position.

Bylaw review:

- Tiffany Tibbs: Reported that wording changes to the bylaws were posted on website, PTO facebook page, PTO bulletin board, and hard copies in the office. Tiffany reviewed bylaws page by page, and noted we will vote on them at next meeting
- Elizabeth McNulty: asked about checks and procedures – some local school districts written about in the Post Dispatch that were spending inappropriately.
- Lisa Granich-Kovarik: discussed the treasurer's role; double signature on checks would not be logistically reasonable. Bank statement is available for review and would show what checks are processed. Treasurer keeps records as well.
- Jen Anania: does the actual bank statement comes to the school?
- Dr. LeFlore: yes, the actual bank statement comes to the school first.
- Tiffany: President and Treasurer can look online at the accounts. Can definitely consider other ideas.
- Elizabeth McNulty: sounds like you have a good process in place.

Diversity:

- Johnni Walker Gillespie: a survey is being crafted for both parents and teachers related to the school name – some ideas include having acronym that is not named after a person but using the letters of Kennard; possibly having school rededicated to Clyde Kennard. Survey hoping to be ready early August or late August. Also the committee has a diversity statement, and would like input; diversity statement is like some adopted from other schools, like New City or Forsyth. Johnni will make that available to the Board to get to the Kennard community. Hard copies available from Johnni Walker-Gillespie.
- Lisa Granich-Kovarik: asked how they planned to circulate the diversity committee document, and whether it would be on the Facebook page.
- Johnni: was open to many different ways of circulating the diversity statement; wasn't sure if this would be posted on the Facebook page.

Extra funds

- Discussed the possibility that we will have extra funds. Already have a list of extra fund ideas from September 2014 meeting that were approved. Asked if general membership had other extra fund ideas:
- Dr. LeFlore –ideally, it would be great to have 80 iPads; she didn't know how much she might have to contribute. On a smaller scale, she thought it would be greatly appreciated if money were used to help offset the price of a cart and a class set of iPads for 5th grade. Dr. LeFlore could work with Director of Technology to see what funds they all have, and then PTO could supplement.
- Laura Slown: has anyone investigated gardening program like Mallinkrodt?
 - Dale Greenbury: Had Gateway Greening presentation at a PTO meeting.
 - Dr. Leflore: shared with staff, two teachers interested in helping.
 - Laura Slown: I would be willing to volunteer with teachers on the program, I work at the Botanical Gardens, thinks that money could be used for garden
 - Elizabeth McNulty: would second the idea of spending on a garden, outdoor learning classrooms, as a longer term project, Mallinkrodt has a great green space
 - Lisa Granich-Kovarik: this would be great to have some money towards this, there has been interest in this for several years, now that we have staff who are interested it might be the right time. Mallinkrodt started small, and has been successful.
 - Dale Greenbury: think this could be good – it could also teach us how you can garden in a small space, like the idea of a learning garden
- Lisa Granich-Kovarik: made motion we add the use of leftover budget to include technology and other discretionary ideas from teachers and parents; Seconded by Cindy Heidenry. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jen Anania: made motion for approval for the board to spend the extra funds during the summer at our discretion in line with the needs of the school, Cindy Heidenry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Picnic:

- Flyer has gone out advertising the picnic (details in President's report). Volunteer spot has sign up for volunteers. We especially need facepainters. We have about 15 volunteer spots left to fill out of 29. Note that shifts are shorter. Contact Jerre Parsons if questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jerre and Dale are going to meet about which PTO events we will have next year, to see about the need to recruit chairs; will be soliciting volunteers soon. Most urgent - We need a First Day Parents' coffee chair. If you want to chair your same event, tell Jerre Parsons. She will be contacting existing chairs first.
- Dale Greenbury would like to do take a pulse of the community – what are the things we should stop doing? What should we continue doing? Start doing? This information would be a helpful tool for the Board to use when looking for opportunities to do things better. Dale talked to Dr. LeFlore – both a paper and electronic survey will be drafted, the Board will review, Dr. LeFlore will need to review; goals is to have info for summer planning meeting. Dale Greenbury: Website is getting an update – thanks to Susie Anderson-Bauer and her team. Tiffany Tibbs: PTO board approved the purchase of Word Press template.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Lisa Granich-Kovarik, seconded by Jyl Brady
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs
PTO Secretary, 2015-16