

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy  
PTO Meeting**

Feb 1, 2017 6:00 pm, Gym  
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: David Custis, Susie Anderson-Bauer, Erin Bihr, Lara Fuchs, Amanda Miller, Dave Lloyd, Jennifer Beffa, Dale Greenbury, Karen Ruggeri

Not Present: Nicole Colbert Botchway, Grace Kivindy, Chad Beffa

**Call to Order**

PTO President, David Custis, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Call for New Business Agenda Items**

- Sarah Pitlyk proposes discussion of Kennard Nut Allergy Policy

**Acceptance of Minutes from November PTO Meeting**

- The minutes from the last meeting (November) 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 Susie Anderson Bauer seconded by Erin Bihr. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Principal – Dr. Wanda LeFlore**

**Kennard CJA PTO Principal’s Report**

**January 25, 2017**

See Separate Principal’s Monthly Message sent to all Kennard parents for additional detailed text. Topics Discussed During Meeting:

**Thank You’s**

- Diversity Night Committee: Special thanks to Reena Hajat-Carroll and her committee for sponsoring Metro Theatre during Diversity Night at Kennard. It was a wonderful event and I received lots of positive feedback.
- Movie Night Committee: Thanks to Jenifer Garcia, Lina Galinurova and their committee for a very well-organized event. This event seems to grow each year!

**Accreditation:** On January 10, 2017 Missouri State Board of Education, voted to restore Full Accreditation to Saint Louis Public Schools. Thanks to all our families that have contributed to our success and hopefully we’ll continue to move in the right direction.

**Ben Carson Reading Project:** Kennard’s contact with the project is due to expire this year. The librarian is in contact with Tammy L. Blazenyak of the Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. Once we receive information we’ll share with the learning community.

**World book Online and Brain pop:** The librarian shared information with the staff earlier this month for preview. Please feel free to share this information.

**Labels for Education:** In December I received 3 Visa Prepaid Cards in the following denominations: two 250.00 cards and one 50.00 card for a total of 550.00. Funds were used to purchase Lego WeDo kits for Batres/Spitznagel.

**SLPS Banking:** Effective immediately all banking is required to take place through US Banking and administrators are no longer to be signees on PTO or other non-school accounts.

**Fundraiser Forms:** All forms must be approved prior to the event and the follow-up form is due 24 hours after the event. Preview the copies and let me know if you have any questions.

**National School of Character Virtual Site Visit:** Tuesday, Feb 21 beginning at 8:30.

**Gifted Program Meeting Update:** Our next steps are outlined below and updates will be provided at the January meeting:

- Kip Warr will seek approval from the Academic Office to post the Pre-K/12 Gifted Curriculum Framework on the Gifted website and to post the sample PBLs on the Academic website under Curriculum by the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
- Dr. LeFlore will send Kennard’s Gifted Curriculum Framework for grades Pre-K/5 to building principals for review.
- Staff from Mallinckrodt and McKinley will continue to work on their Gifted Curriculum Frameworks.
- PD for educators of the gifted has been confirmed and shared for Friday, February 17 at Kennard from 8:00/3:30.
- Columbia Update: There will be two classrooms of gifted learners: PreK and Kindergarten with 6 kids/grade. Anticipate 20 more children moving in next year. 1<sup>st</sup> grade will likely be 12-15 kids next year and will continue to add children.
- Summer School: Two gifted locations: Kennard and Compton-Drew (McKinley students and staff while McKinley building is undergoing cleaning). Only students who are gifted eligible will be able to attend, programming designed by staff.
- Next meeting will be Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hardy will discuss autonomy, resources, and summer school. Question from Dale Greenbury – are the gifted program meetings open to anyone or only for certain designated attendees. Per Dr. LeFlore – this is to address the concerns raised in the 2015-2016 school year about the district Gifted Program and each gifted school identified a teacher and parent representative.

**School Tours:** Kennard offers guided school tours on Thursdays from September through April, beginning at 10:00am. Reservations are requested, but not required if you attend on the tour date. Go to [www.KennardTours@gmail.com](mailto:www.KennardTours@gmail.com) to sign up. Feel free to share this information with interested families.

**Welcome New Kennard Cafeteria Staff:** Lisa Payne and Shatrice Thurman.

**Technology Update:** New projector system has been ordered and installed for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade/Kadlec.

**Treasurer – Grace Kivindyó**

As of 11.30.2016:

FRIENDS OF KENNARD (as of 11-30-16)	\$14,262.43
PRIMARY ACCOUNT	\$8,434.71
DEBIT CARD ACCOUNT	\$263.18
PENDING CHECKS	(\$851.08)
<b>PTO BALANCE Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$22,109.24</b>
5TH GRADE ACCOUNT	<b>\$20,290.06</b>
-separate from PTO main account	

**Treasurer's Discussion:**

1. 6 new (soon to arrive) LEGO WeDo Robotics sets (Ms. Batres & Ms. Spitznagel)
2. All NAGC Loans have been paid back \$3,650.00
3. We received Box Tops Check of \$818.90
4. \$10 cash fund drive - separate from Friends of Kennard
5. Wyman details.

**Camp Wyman Itemized Breakdown**

<b>Camp Wyman</b>		
One Day Fall Team Building	\$4,432.76	PAID
Bus for One Day Fall Team Building	\$427.76	PAID
Spring Visit (4 days, 3 nights)	\$14,490.00	1/2 PAID
Bus for Spring Visit	\$561.44	PAID
Misc Wyman	\$750.00	
<b>Camp Wyman TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,661.96</b>	
Springfield Busses	\$2,610.00	PAID
Graduation/End of year week	\$1,500.00	
Total Costs	\$24,771.96	
Fall Deposits collected from families	-\$4,535.00	
<b>TOTAL 5th Grade Costs</b>	<b>\$20,236.96</b>	
5th Grade Account Balance	\$20,290.06	
Pending Checks	-\$712.78	
Last installment of Wyman	-\$7,245.00	
Graduation/End of year week	-\$1,500.00	
Misc. Wyman	-\$750.00	
<b>Approx. 5th Grade Extra Funds</b>	<b>\$10,082.28</b>	

**President – David Custis**

- New learning garden initiated thanks to a grant coordinated by an external donor. Garden is in the front of the school, thanks to parent volunteers who participated in installation.
- Need District Liaison for Kennard – Lara Fuchs has volunteered to take that role but creates a need for a new Room Parent Coordinator. To be discussed and voted on during new business.

**Vice President – Chad Beffa(not present)**

- Kennard parents have often expressed frustration with the SLPS Volunteer process, specifically as it pertains to communication of status of approved volunteer paperwork. Chad Beffa and David Custis met with District Volunteer coordinator Ella Hungerford to express concerns. The district is moving to an electronic process, which is supported by the United Way Volunteer program (inquires if you would like to also be a United Way volunteer, not required but does move to paper process if you decline to be a United Way volunteer). Preliminary feedback is that the site is a bit cumbersome to use and not all features enabled, but Kennard is happy to help be a beta tester for the process and provide feedback to the district.

**Fundraising – Dale Greenbury**

- Actual Fund Drive donations total \$17,889.63 due to lag time of reporting of the fundraising efforts.
- 143 individual contributions, of which, 78 donations are from grandparents
- ~\$4,200 in online donations
- Slightly behind goal for the school year ~\$5,000 gap but may have other donations pending due to December push.

**Communications – Susie Anderson-Bauer**

- PTO Web Metrics:
- Averaging 30-50 Page Views/Day

Most Viewed Pages: (in order)

1. Home Page
2. Prospective Families
3. About Kennard (general info)
4. School Uniforms
5. News Archive
6. Volunteer
7. School Tours
8. Contact Us

Most people are finding our site through Google search or Facebook.

We have 19 subscribers. People who subscribe to the blog will get any news updates (posted on the Home Page) delivered to their inbox. To subscribe:

1. Go to the bottom of any page on the website.
2. In the bottom-right corner, under "Receive Email Updates," enter your email address and click "Subscribe."

Please send any suggestions for improvements or new you wish to share to Susie Anderson-Bauer.

- Website News Updates are also posted to PTO Facebook Page
- Looking for an additional volunteer to train on the website.

**Enrichment officer-Amanda Miller**

- Emailed teachers about using enrichment funds. Most are using funds toward field trip buses.
- Deadline for using funds is March 31<sup>st</sup>, to ensure that funds will be used during the current school year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- No Old Business

## NEW BUSINESS

- Elections – Volunteer for Room Parent Coordinator – Kate Metzger. Approved Unanimously.
- Nut Allergy Discussion – Sarah Pitlyk, wants to raise concerns about the school’s response to nut allergic students. Administration has been actively implementing many changes to support the 504 documentation in place for Sarah’s PreK son but feels that more could be done to generate overall awareness amongst the entire community and to help minimize risks.
  - Recent examples of inattention to nut allergy concerns:
    - Peanut Butter Cup Candy available at Movie Night
    - Treats open in lobby which contain nuts
    - Candy sent home from Valentine’s Party had nuts but were not labelled
    - Nut containing food at parent meetings in classrooms with students with severe nut allergies
    - Curricular room recently had open containers of mixed nuts which were described as being snacks for teachers and staff – concern expressed that staff would then have nut residue on hands and return to classrooms.
  - Requests for Change – Parents of Nut Allergic children are not requesting the school to prohibit nuts from being in the school, however, feel there are additional steps that the school could take to minimize nuts and exposure and risks for nut allergic students.
    - Additional communication to parent community about the risks to Nut Allergic students and ask that parents abstain from sending snacks or food with nuts in them to school with kids.
    - Request that all PTO sponsored events are nut free
    - Request that school consider making community areas nut free
  - Supporting Documentation and Parent Signatures provided to PTO president, principal, and board.
  - David Custis – suggest to propose a motion that PTO can control the food available at PTO events.
  - Sarah Pitlyk makes a motion to make PTO events (such as Movie Night, Diversity Night, etc) Nut Free. Shelley Johnson seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
  - Tracy Spies – advocates on behalf of increased education of the dangers of nut allergies so that more parents become aware and how we can all work together to prevent risks to these students. Volunteers to be the coordinator of Nut Allergy Education at Kennard.
  - Shelley Johnson – empathizes with the parents of nut allergic children, but wants to know how ALL parents can become aware of these type of situations so that we are more careful.
  - David Custis – suggests that we create a Health and Wellness Committee as part of the PTO, the scope of which would include generating awareness about the risks of nut allergic students, nutritional education, promote physical fitness activities, Let Me Run/Girls On The Run, support Mr. Eresh’s curriculum and equipment needs, etc.
    - Sarah Pitlyk – how would such a committee work? Would we have one overall Committee coordinator and they would then solicit support and participation from other parents to cover the various sub groups like Let Me Run/Girls On The Run.
  - Lara Fuchs – keep in mind that there can be many sorts of allergies to foods, not just nuts as the primary concern. Need to be careful that we don’t focus only on one sort of allergy and then minimize the concern/support for other allergies.
  - Karin Upwood – nut allergies can be activated by residue and therefore should be taken very seriously.

- Erin Bihl – parents advocate based on their specific experience and the discussion of nuts is a topic of interest to many present at the PTO meeting tonight.
- Sarah Pitlyk makes a motion to create a Health and Wellness Committee. Seconded by Sara Stanton. Motion passed unanimously.
- Additional New Business raised by Karin Upwood: the handicapped accessible parking spot signage is not clearly visible. The spot is often blocked or the ramp is blocked by loading/unloading of other vehicles. Concerned that parents are not aware that there is a disabled student at Kennard and that spot should be utilized by anyone who has a disability, not for convenience of unloading or dropping off students in the morning. Dave Custis proposes that we will send a reminder to parents via email to be respectful of this space.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- School Dance scheduled for Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Disco Dance Party is the theme. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Grace Kivindy.
- Book Fair – scheduled for week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Classrooms will visit book fair ahead of time, create their wish list, and bring that home to parents to review and approve. Still need volunteers for Book Fair – must be an approved Volunteer, will use SignUp.com to schedule shifts. Link will be posted on PTO Website. We're using SignUp.com (the leading online SignUp and reminder tool) to organize our upcoming SignUps. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUps on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/A1NMKv>
- 2) Review the SignUps listed and choose the one(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

- Girls on the Run – Cindy Heidenry – program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Training for a 5K race, on May 13<sup>th</sup>. practices will be Tues and Thurs mornings from 7:15 – 8:45 before school. Program teaches overall wellness, self-esteem, empowerment, and positive body image for girls.
- Let Me Run – 7 week program, practices Weds and Friday mornings from 7:15-8:4, with race on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Still need a head coach, looking for volunteers. Slogan is Sole to Soul – concentrate on similar positive lessons to the Girls program including managing emotions.
- March PTO Meeting – please consider volunteering for any PTO board position you may be interested in for the 2017-2018 school year.
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**Motion to adjourn made by Susie Anderson Bauer seconded by Sara Stanton. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ruggeri  
PTO Secretary, 2016-17