

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy  
PTO Meeting**

November 2, 2016, 6:00 pm, Gym  
MEETING MINUTES

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

Not Present: Dr. LeFlore.

**Call to Order**

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

**Call for New Business Agenda Items**

- None submitted.

**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 website.
- Motion to accept the minutes made by Jerre Parsons seconded by Erin Bihr. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

Principal – Dr. Wanda LeFlore (not present)

**Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report**

**November 2, 2016**

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

- Thank You's
  - Beautification Day: Anna Stokes, Chad and Jennifer Beffa, Jerre Parsons
  - Fall Festival: Dawn Brandt and Blythe Burkhardt
  - Parents who Attended Tiger Family Open House
- Autonomy Update Kennard remains an autonomous school for the 2016.2017 school year. However, we must comply with the following:
  - Complete a simple one-page Autonomous Action Plan that you will fill out to show how you will maintain your autonomous status (i.e. Math MPI will go up by X points, etc.) and be available to present your data at some point during the school year to the superintendent if requested.
  - Visit and provide feedback to two of your peers in the autonomous group twice during the school year (on your own time).
- Notification of Absence or Tardy: In the past, School Messenger (automated messaging system) was programmed to contact families at 10:00am when any student was absent or tardy and the school/teacher had not been notified. Since this system is currently under review (due to FCC regulations), the secretary, Ms. Shivers-Jones, has been calling families each day.  
Therefore, it is imperative that families continue to contact the school/teacher when the student is absent or tardy from school so that families do not receive unnecessary telephone calls. If you email the teacher regarding your child's tardy or absence, also copy the secretary in case the teacher doesn't receive the information.
- National Bullying Prevention Month was a great success. Several events were conducted, and a summary of the activities were shared in the Principal's Newsletter.

- Student Council Members fosters leadership development and team building through organizing events, planning programs, and projects to promote good citizenship. Selected by their peers, student council members for the 2016.2017 school year are:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Liam Bihr, Lauren Custis, Katie Grierson, Hannah Kovarik, August Montroy, Claire Scally
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Deanna Brooks, Tamsin John, Ben Keoshkerian, Zadie Moyer, Matthew Stolze, Skylar Turner
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Katrin Allen, Josh Keoshkerian, Alice Kovarik, Allison Luth, Sammy Parsons, Rachel Tibbs
- Kid’s Voting: This year, Kennard students, like many students across the country, will be participating in Kids Voting USA, a nonpartisan voter education program committed to creating lifelong voting habits in children, increasing family communication about citizenship, and encouraging greater adult voter turnout. Students will cast their votes on Friday, November 4, 2016. For more information about Kids Voting please visit the website at: [www.kidsvotingusa.org](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org) .
- Recent and Planned Musical Performances at Kennard - Special thanks to Jazz St. Louis; Opera Theater St. Louis; Kaye Harrelson, SLPS Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist; and Annette Silver-Betts, Music Teacher for bringing student friendly musical entertainment to our learning community. As a part of Jazz at Lincoln Center’s “[Jazz for Young People: The Resilient Cities Tour](#)” (click to read more), Jazz St. Louis will schedule three performances for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Kennard during the 2016.2017 school year. The three 45-minute to an hour performances, are entitled:
  - “Jazz and Democracy”
  - “Jazz and the Great Migration”
  - “Jazz and the Civil Rights Era”

Each one comes with a curriculum guide and preparatory lessons. The same band will visit Kennard for each of the three performances. The group will be made up of local musicians led by a musician sent from Jazz at Lincoln Center. The 1<sup>st</sup> concert is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Special thanks to Andy Ament, Education Manager, Jazz St. Louis; Kaye Harrelson, SLPS Performing Arts Curriculum Specialist; and Annette Silver-Betts, Music Teacher.

Opera Theater St. Louis performed Pirates of Penzance-Opera on the Go for students in grades 2 through 5 on Wednesday, October 26 in Kennard’s gym. This interactive performance has been tailored for young people with sound sensitivities. Students participated in fun and engaging workshops on Movement and Stage Make-Up, both with audience participation, followed by an abbreviated performance of Gilbert and Sullivan’s hilarious *The Pirates of Penzance*. The performance featured current and former Gerdine Young Artists with piano accompaniment.

- **Science Fair:** This year we are offering a new option with the Science Fair. Students will now have a choice in how they display their Science Fair Project. Either option is also acceptable at The Greater St. Louis Science Fair at Queeny Park.
  - The first choice is the traditional display board that we have used in the past. Boards are still available for each student that chooses this option.
  - The second choice is a digital display. This will include a maximum of 20 slides in a PowerPoint and a word document log book. The PowerPoint will include all of the information that would have been included on the traditional display board.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair Project is due Wednesday, February 8, 2017.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair Project is due Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

- NAGC Convention : The 4<sup>th</sup> grade team and I will travel to Orlando, Florida November 3-6 to participate in several days of content-rich sessions covering 16 topic strands in gifted education. Special thanks to the PTO for supporting this event.

**Gifted Program Meeting Update:** Representatives from Kennard, Mallinckrodt, McKinley, Stix ECC, Kipp Warr, Isaac Pollack, and David Hardy attended Gifted Program Meeting held Monday, September 26. The October meeting was held Monday, October 24. Nicole Scott will replace Dave Lloyd on this committee. The committee agrees to advocate for gifted learners by designing and recommending innovative and comprehensive K-12 gifted programming through input from stakeholders’ perspectives. Our purpose is to offer a means for district and building level representatives to focus on the development and implementation of goals for SLPS Programs and to provide a network for communication, support, and accountability.

**September Meeting Focus:** Goal: Unify curriculum progression for gifted students in grades K-12 for 2016.2017  
 Action 1: Review for Understanding Gifted Curriculum Advisory Committee Final Recommendations for spring 2016

Action 2: Prioritize and begin developing expectations for a uniformed curriculum progression for gifted students. (Start with new curricula math and science)

**October Meeting Focus:** Curriculum Updates:

- Mallinckrodt
- McKinley
- Project/Problem Based Learning (PBL) Repository
- Pull-Out Gifted Program Overview: content focus, school, other data
- Autonomy and Resources

**School Garden:** Ms. Margaret Grant wrote and received a grant for a vegetable garden at Kennard. Ms. Nelson, Ms. Grant, and I met earlier this month to review the vegetable garden planned for the west side of the front yard. The plan was submitted to John Zaegel, SLPS Director of Facilities, for review.

**School Pictures RETAKE DAY – Lifetouch:** Students will have an opportunity to RETAKE their school picture at Kennard on Friday, November 18, 2016. This will be your special opportunity to purchase school pictures! Students are exempt from wearing uniforms on RETAKE Picture Day.

**School Tours:** Kennard offers guided school tours on Thursdays from September through April, beginning at 10:00am. The next tour is Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Technology Update:** Three new Smart board systems were installed in the following classrooms: Beffa, Mueller, and White.

**Treasurer – Grace Kivindyó**

As of 10.11..2016:

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| FRIENDS OF KENNARD (as of 6-30-16) | \$4,122            |
| PRIMARY ACCOUNT                    | \$9,757.72         |
| DEBIT CARD ACCOUNT                 | \$582.57           |
| PENDING CHECKS                     | (\$2,158.79)       |
| <b>PTO BALANCE Bank Accounts</b>   | <b>\$12,303.92</b> |
|                                    |                    |
| 5TH GRADE ACCOUNT                  | \$6,073.96         |
| -separate from PTO main account    |                    |
|                                    |                    |

**Discussion:**

- Grandparents Day great success – lots of donations for Fund Drive.
- Increased funds for Teacher Appreciation this year.
- Beautification Day Receipts Not All Turned In Yet
- Agendas Paid \$1,000.25
- Fall Fest made \$221
- Kennardwear made \$460
- Resale Kennardwear \$1/piece (August \$569.00)
- Fund Drive \$100
- Fund Drive Expenses -\$236.00
- Clothing Box \$31.38

- E-scrips \$147.58
- Last Meeting Board Moved to loan 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for the hotels for the NAGC Conference - \$1,650. All monies will be repaid to the PTO after conclusion of the conference.
  - Motion to approve the loan to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers from Blythe Burkhardt. Motion Seconded by Nicole Colbert-Botchway. Motion Approved by Attendees.

**President – David Custis**

- Thank you to Dawn Brandt and Blythe Burkhardt for a very successful Fall Festival, and to Matthew Jackson for hosting the photo booth.

**Vice President – Chad Beffa**

- Still need someone to lead Tuesday Chess Meetings, has solicited volunteers to “own” Tuesday practices and take attendance. Chess plans still in place and all high school coaches are still lined up.
- Request for anyone who is not an approved volunteer to please complete paperwork in order to be able to volunteer during school hours.
- Have a replacement lined up for Grandparents Day chair – Lindsay Roy will be taking over for Kim Whitrap.

**Fundraising – Dale Greenbury**

- Annual Fund Drive ongoing. Treasurers report does not include planned deposit which will bring total of Kennard Account to \$13,460. 125 Donations to Kennard Fund Drive so far, 110 came from Grandparents.
- Current numbers: ~20% participation rate and about 50% of fundraising goal.
- Working on increasing participation rate. Plan to send reminder letters home with students next week. Additional participation is desirable for submitting grant proposals, etc where often metrics are required around parent involvement/participation in order to be awarded grants.
- Online donations are working – must identify Friends of Kennard as the account selected.
- Melissa von Rohr – have we considered doing a classroom challenge for participation/fundraising?  
Dale- yes it is in consideration but needs to be approved by Dr. LeFlore.  
Melissa – what if we labeled the envelopes with classroom teachers so when the money comes back in, the classroom teacher would be recognized. Might get children motivated to donate small amounts of money themselves.  
Nate McNulty – have we considered doing a Holiday Drive to solicit additional grandparent donations?  
Dale – most of the current donations came from grandparents so really looking to increase parent/family participation at this time.

**Communications – Susie Anderson-Bauer**

- For anyone who hasn't visited the new PTO Website, please do so, and please note that there is a “Subscribe” button in the home page footer, which would provide information about events or any time website is updated.
- Kennard Facebook PTO Page – closed page but open to current Kennard parents and teachers. Ask that people using the Facebook page be judicious with content posted and considerate of the total audience.

### **Information Officer – Erin Bihr**

- Online Buzz Book is up and running now. Anyone who was on system last year should have same log in. Anyone with trouble logging in, please contact Erin with questions.
- Printed Buzz Book will be available in the office for families that would like a hard copy.
- 95% of families are listed in the Buzz Book.

### **Parent Relations Officer – Lara Fuchs**

- Full Room Parent Roster complete

### **Enrichment officer-Amanda Miller**

- No Updates

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Picnic Tables were assembled as part of Beautification Day and PreK Picnic Table will be repaired this week.
- Water fountains/bottle filling station for kids to fill water bottles with filtered water. More expensive than originally thought – requesting to move this agenda item off the table until the March meeting. Motion to table Water Fountains Stations – Melissa von Rohr. Seconded by Nicole Colbert Botchway. Motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- District Affairs Officer Replacement – Nicole Scott has volunteered. Nicole not present but has attended the October District Gifted Meeting. No additional nominations received. Erin Bihr nominates Nicole Scott. Melissa von Rohr seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Nicole Scott will be named to the PTO board.
- Nate McNulty – is this participation normal (~10 attendees)? Per the board, depends on if there are hot topics to discuss. Chad Beffa – the various communication channels available to parents now may be reducing participation in these meetings since people are hearing about issues ahead of time.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trivia Night-Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5. It is the main fundraiser for 5<sup>th</sup> grade Camp Wyman. Two tables still available. Doors open at 6:30pm and Trivia starts at 7:00pm. Additional fundraising opportunities – 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction for Innsbrook stay, etc.
- Enrichment Night this year will be Diversity Night. Working with to host a play called “New Kid”. The date is TBD, but will be in early December.
- Volunteer Renewals-Remember to get your volunteer application and renewals in. You cannot volunteer for school events, field trips, class activities unless you are approved by the district.
- Movie Night planned for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. More details to follow.

**Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihr, seconded by Nicole Colbert-Botchway. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ruggeri  
PTO Secretary, 2016-17