

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy
PTO Meeting**

February 3, 2016, 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, Lara Fuchs.

Also present: Dr. LeFlore.

Call to Order

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Parents were invited to sample food from Southwest Food Service.

Call for New Business Agenda Items

No new items.

Acceptance of Minutes from April PTO Meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting (November) are posted on the bulletin board in front of the gym.
- Motion to accept the minutes made by Erin Bihl, seconded by Melissa Von Rohr. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury

- Welcome to the first PTO meeting of the 2016!
- Congratulations to our Entire School Community for being named a State School of Character

Thank you's (lots since our last meeting in October)

- To *Antony John, Jerre Parsons, Brenda Kukay, Melissa Von Rohr, Susie Anderson Bauer and parent volunteers* for chairing the Literacy night held on November 20. *Special thanks to all of the parents who volunteered at this event as well! What an enriching, engaging, and well-organized event and a nice addition to our lineup of enrichment events.*
- To *Sarah Francois, Sarah Custis, Dale Greenbury, and all of the parents who supported the fifth graders spring trip to Camp Wyman through our Kennard CJA trivia night.* We greatly appreciate everyone who contributed to a classroom basket for the auction, and all of the parents that participated in the trivia night. Your contributions helped make the evening a great success!
- Thanks to all of the parents and staff that participated in the School of Character surveys and helping to put together our application to become a school of Character.
- To *all of the parents who have organized, helped, or donated items towards the class parties or gone on field trips* so far this year – it makes a big difference to our students!
- To *Gary Siddens, Dawn Brandt, and the Fund Drive committee members* for all of their hard work on the Fund Drive! And to *all of the parents and grandparents and friends* who have donated money to our Fund Drive –we appreciate your support!
- To our *teachers, parents, staff, and students* for the Winter Choral Concert. The production was top notch and the Children did an awesome job.
- To *Susie Anderson-Bauer* for her continued work on revamping our PTO website.
- To *Jenifer Garcia, Lina Galinurova and all of the parent volunteers* who helped with movie night - it was lots of fun! This was the debut of the new sound system. We have gotten rave reviews so far.
- To *Mr. Droste* who provided the pumpkins for students in the fall Pumpkinpalooza, and for the *parent volunteers* who assisted with these efforts.
- To *Ms. Trinity and Mrs. Silver-Betts* – for winning the honor of Teacher of the year for the district.
- To *Mr. Clement* for a great 2015 Equations tournament. Mr. Clement also wanted to thank the parents who helped prepare, score and serve at the event.

Upcoming events/dates

- Working with the BSA on getting their charter approved for the next academic year.
- Reena Hajat Carroll would like to briefly discuss the Listen, Talk, Learn program as presented by the diversity awareness partnership. She will be gauging interest in conducting a session for our parent community in the coming months.
- "Minion Dance Party" Adult/Child School Dance – February 12, 6:30-8:15 pm
- Next board meeting February 24, 5 pm
- PTO General meeting – March 2, 6 pm – Officer Nominations
- Book Fair – March 8-10.
- PTO Board Meeting March 30th 5 pm
- PTO General meeting – April 6, 6 pm – Officer elections and volunteer appreciation
- Tentative April 23rd – Spring Beautification event
- PTO picnic – Friday, May 20, 2016, 4:45 to 6:45; all old and new Board members expected to work the picnic.

Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore

Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report

February 3, 2016

Happy New Year 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:

- Annual Fund Drive- Gary Siddens and Dawn Brandt
- Beautification - Jerre Parsons, Jennifer Beffa, Dale Greenbury, Anna Stokes and volunteers
- Kennard wear - Sarah Sullivan, Lyndsay Roy and committee-
- Tours- KCJA volunteers
- Sarah Custis, Laura Erhard and committee- Staff Meeting Snacks
- Let Me Run- David Custis and volunteers
- Grandparents and Special Friends Day- Kim Whitrap and committee
- SLPS Foundation Grant- Dale Greenbury and committee
- KCJA Yearbook Design Contest for 5th Graders- Myra Belgeri
- Kennard Trivia Night- Sarah Francois, 5th Grade Teachers (Beffa, Decker, Spitznagel), and committee
- Literacy Night- Jerre Parsons, Antony John and committee
- Fall Festival- Dawn Brandt, Blythe Burkhardt and committee
- Movie Night- Jenifer Garcia, Lina Galinurova and committee
- Girls on the Run- Tricia Moyer and volunteers

Attendance: Congratulations to all the students that had 1st Semester Perfect Attendance. These students were honored at the NBRS Assembly and their names are posted outside the main office.

Before/After School Programming Update: The Chess Club comprised of students in grades K-5 participated in Red Rook at McKinley on Tuesday, January 26. The club's expansion this year to meet the playing level of each child is

working well. If you have questions, contact Chad Beffa Beffac.beffa@sbcglobal.net or Nick Clement: Nick.clement@slps.org

4-H Robotics Program began two new classes February 1, 2016. Feel free to contact Vince McKinney at mckinneyv@missouri.edu or by phone at 314-400-7375 or Bailey Lutz at lutzbn@missouri.edu for additional registration information.

Black History Program: The 3rd and 4th graders will present a **Celebration of Black History** in drama, music, poetry, and song on Friday, February 19 at 2:00pm.

Breakfast and Books, a reading club for our students, resumes this month. Ms. Kukay the librarian will sponsor another group of 4th and 5th graders. If you would like more information, please contact your child's classroom teacher. Also, she is hosting our first African American Read-In. We will designate 20 to 30 minutes to silent reading of a book written by an African American author during the Read-In.

Blue Ribbon Assembly:

The NBRS Assembly planned by the district was very enjoyable. We received accolades from Superintendent Adams and PTO President Dale Greenbury. 3rd grader, Joseph Wohlrabe did a splendid job explaining the meaning of a NBRS. Missouri State Senator Joe Keaveny presented a proclamation and students with perfect attendance for the 1st semester were recognized.

The Gifted Association of Missouri (GAM) Celebrates Gifted Education Week: Kennard 4th graders will participate in the celebration at the Capitol for Gifted Education Day on Tuesday, February 24. Support gifted education by visiting www.mogam.org

Interim Progress Reports: Only students achieving less than 80% in any subject area (including related arts) will receive an Interim Progress Report on Friday, February 5. All students will receive a STAR Reading Assessment Report. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have additional questions.

Gifted Expansion/Curriculum:

The Kennard/Mallinckrodt/Stix parent meeting to discuss the curriculum/expansion of gifted programming in SLPS was at **6:00pm Tuesday, February 2 at Kennard**. The power point presentation was sent to PTO Board Members.

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

- 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. I reported this issue to Mary Houlihan, Deputy Superintendent of Operations of last week and she stated Kennard was on the list for asphalt repairs.

State School of Character:

Kennard Classical Junior Academy has received the 2016 State School of Character (SSOC) Award. Kennard was selected by http://character.org/wp-content/uploads/Press-Release_2016-SSOC.pdf in collaboration with state sponsors for achieving a standard of excellence in the area of character development. This esteemed honor is bestowed on Kennard's professional learning community for high levels of teacher collaboration, positive parent support, and strong partnerships with the community to help meet the needs of our unique student population. This designation is for three years and now Kennard is eligible to apply for the National School of Character Award. Kennard received the Missouri School of Character Honorable Mention in 2014.

Tiger Family Special Event: Tiger Families met in gym on December 9th and watched *Horton Hears a Who* for their 1st semester special event. After the movie, students returned to their families for a snack and discussion session. Tiger Families are planning a 2nd semester event in May.

Technology Update:

- The 5th grade iPads were on back order and were delivered before winter break. The apps have been loaded and today Ms. VanNoy said they are waiting for the cart that was ordered.

- The library has been equipped with a smartboard and projector.
- The sound system has been updated in the gym. Selected Staff and Mr. Greenbury will be trained on how to use the new system.

Again, thanks for your continuous support for the students in our learning community.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

Question from parents: One parent raised the issue that Mrs. Yowell's classroom was hot, and kids were sweating. Dr. LeFlore is aware of this, and was in the classroom today. They are aware of the problem, and they open windows and doors to help with this.

Treasurer's Report, Myra Belgeri

Primary account	\$14,511.45
Debit Card account	\$186.56
Friends of Kennard (as of 12.31.15)	\$12,310.64
Fund Drive Donations (still to be deposited)	\$3,310.00
	\$30,318.65
Extra funds (still need to be spent)	-\$8,500.00
Pending checks	- \$948.20
Target grant for 4 th grade Jeff City trip	-\$700.00
PTO BALANCE	\$20,170.45
(5 th grade account)*	\$19,730.49

**separate from PTO Balance*

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Drive Update – Dale Greenbury (for Gary Siddens)

- Trending \$5000 behind our budget, our budget is based on if all of the committees used full amount. Most of the funding is used for enrichment, classroom supplies, and events.
- Wanted to raise \$25,000; we have raised about \$20,000
- Anonymous donor offered matching grant for \$2000; till end of February, will match donations.
- Also noted that we are already collecting clothes in bin in parking lot; we get paid per pound of clothing donated.

Sound System – Dale Greenbury

- Replaced all 7 speakers with one central speaker
- Majority of the equipment was installed over the holiday break.
- Some additional equipment was installed first week of January
- Audio Engineer came out and tuned the system last Friday
- A couple of staff members were trained in the use of the equipment
- System Debuted at the Spelling Bee and the Movie Night on the 22nd of January.
- Still Need:
 - Training for staff and other stakeholders – might be next week
 - Might need an additional adapter for hooking up ancillary devices to the system I pads, CD players computers, DVDs, etc. For now the Bose system will act as an adapter but it would be better to have a device for that purpose
 - At some point an outlet will need to be run to the new location.

NEW BUSINESS

Southwest Food Service – Nichole Emery and Megan Fraley

- Nicole is the manager at Kennard. Megan is Associate director for SLPS.
- Encouraged everyone to sample the foods they brought; these are foods that are served to the students.
- Every student eats free for breakfast and lunch.

- Promotions this semester: During breakfast, there will be several lucky tray days – this means if they have a sticker on their tray, then they get a prize. They will also get homemade pumpkin bar for Valentine’s day. Per kid’s requests, they have started to put in some fun desserts like Jello or pudding that the kids can try in the next month or so.
- They try to make things from scratch, and try to make things as healthy as possible. They offer fresh fruit and salad bar every day.
- The “Roving Chef” program is a program that our first graders participate in; they do a nutrition lesson and a cooking lesson. One example they did with our first graders was to cook chicken lo mein and tofu.
- They do nutrition and health education at various schools, and they can bring programs here.
- Contest coming up: “Recipes from home”. There will be a list of 10 local ingredients, that students and parents are encourage to use in a recipe. Student and parent cook the recipe, Southwest will pick a winner, put on the menu, and the winner’s recipe will be served across schools. A flyer with more information will be coming home, and the contest occurs in March.
- Question from Elizabeth McNulty: why are there incentives for eating kids eating school breakfast and lunch? The director – Mike Butler Director of Food Service from Southwest - indicated that the district gets money for each student who eats meals. The State pays the District money, and the District pays the company a flat fee. Southwest wants kids to try different foods and educate kids.
- Question from Elizabeth McNulty: How long do kids have for lunch? Dr. LeFlore said kids get 20-30 minutes for lunch, and Dr. LeFlore indicated that they have added 10 more minutes to lunch compared to the past.
- Feedback from Lisa Granich-Kovarik: My daughter noted that sometimes they run out of one of the lunch options that were listed on the menu, during third lunch. When this happens, then the kids are less likely to keep ordering. Nichole from Southwest Food Service said they are working on making sure they have enough supplies for each lunch.

District Affairs Officer Resignation and Appointment – Dale Greenbury

- January 26th: Lauren Rae Preston resigned (email circulated to Board). We are very thankful to Lauren for all of her work this year on district relations. Per bylaws, “the PTO Board shall appoint any unfilled, resigned, or recalled position for the remainder of the one-year term of office. The board voted to appoint Chad Beffa to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the year. Chad Beffa has been a KCJA parents for many years and has served on the board in many capacities in the past, as well as serving on the elected school board. Chad has graciously agreed to serve as our District Affairs officer for the remainder of the school year. Please join me and welcoming him to the team!

Gifted Meeting February 2nd – Dale Greenbury

- Thank you all for taking the time to attend both last night’s meeting and coming again tonight. I appreciate your time.
- Approximately 350 parents attended the meeting last night at Kennard and 30 or so attended the meeting at Carr Lane VP (six or so of those were at both).
- There will be an Advisory Committee that will be convened to make recommendations to the Superintendent. There was a sign-up sheet last night but there is supposed to be an online form and the slide deck from last night’s meeting online. We will update you when we get that information.
- We are also working on getting video of the meetings up online as well for all that were one able to attend.
- If you have had issues with the Gifted and Talented office or testing process Superintendent Dr. Adams would like to hear from you. Kadams@slps.org
- You can also check out more information at www.slps.org/gifted

5th Grade Joint Activities between Kennard and Mallinkrodt – Dale Greenbury

- I have been communicating with the PTO president at Mallinckrodt and they have identified a group of parents that are interested in planning some get togethers.
- I reached out to the fifth grade parents and on the Facebook page.
- Four people have stepped up to serve of a committee to make recommendations for events. I would like to thank Keica Smart, Melissa Von Rohr, Sue Eidsness and Carrie Hegdahl for stepping up to work on this project.
- Announcement from Melissa Von Rohr: I talked with Mallinkrodt GOTR team, and Kennard will be participating in GOTR events with Mallinkrodt (like with volunteer events and practice 5K) to help facilitate getting to know other kids.

SLPS District PAC Meetings – Bell Times Survey – Dale Greenbury

- Go to www.slps.org/bellsurvey
- Dale has not been able to attend meetings due to schedule

Diversity Committee – Keica Smart / Reena Hajat Carroll

- Reena Hajat Carroll discussed the Listen, Talk, Learn program, presented by the Diversity Awareness Partnership. Reena is on the Kennard Diversity Committee, and she is the director of the Diversity Awareness Partnership.
- She proposed bringing the “Listen, Talk, Learn” program to Kennard, possibly for an evening in April. This program would be for adults, open to any Kennard parent or staff member. The program gives a chance for participants to process diversity issues and race relations. The program discusses events in Ferguson and in our region, as well as the racial climate in St. Louis and unconscious bias in adults and in kids. The Diversity Awareness Partnership has presented over 100 of the “Listen, Talk, Learn” programs, and over 2000 people have attended them. They have presented at private schools, public schools (like Clayton HS PTO), and companies (Ameren). This would be a good first step for parents with experienced facilitators to discuss diversity issues. There would be a 20-30 minute presentation about unconscious bias and race; then 2 activities to process what happened in the St. Louis area regarding race relations and to understand lived experiences. She has had questions from parents about how to talk about these issues with our kids, as well as requests for good books or resources; she thought this program would be a good first step.
- Reena offered to donate the training, so the program would be conducted at no cost. They usually aim for 35-40 people in attendance.
- There was discussion among parents. Grace Kivindyvo voiced support for this program. Melissa Von Rohr thought it would be great to have conversations in this community. Elizabeth McNulty asked about how old participants needed to be – Reena said it is for high school age and above, mostly for adults. No parent voiced concerns about bringing the program to Kennard for parents. Reena noted that we need have to have racial diversity to make the Learn Talk Share program work – with at least 6 to 8 people of color. She suggested we need to make sure we advertise and ensure diverse attendance. Dale said he would look into setting a date, and send out messages advertising it. Reena said they use an online tool for RSVP, so that registration can occur, and Dale can include the link in the announcement.
- The PTO will move forward with finding a date and advertising it to our parent community.
- If parents are interested in these topics after first program, they could give feedback to Reena. There are other programs - like Children and Diversity – and this may be a topic of interest in the future.
- Reena invited anyone who was interested in previewing the “Listen, Talk, Learn” program to attend on Monday, February 8, at the Old Post Office from 5 – 7 pm. There will be a free light dinner, and free educational session. Contact Reena for more information.

Nominations for PTO Officers – Dale Greenbury

- Dale reviewed the board positions (referring to the handout, provided at the meeting): President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Officer, Security Officer, Parliamentarian, Enrichment Resource, District Affairs, Room Parent Relations, Fund Raising, Communication.
- Board members discussed their positions, and whether or not they intend to run again:
 - The following will not return:
 - Keica (Enrichment) and Gary (Fundraising) have 5th graders who are graduating
 - Several people have been on the board many years and/or have upcoming 5th graders: Myra (Treasurer), Tiffany (Secretary), Jennifer Anania (Information), Lisa Granich-Kovarik (Parliamentarian)
 - The following are considering returning:
 - Dale (President): was planning on staying on the Board, still not sure if he will continue as President. He currently sits on 4 different Boards for 4 different organizations. Dale would prefer Fundraising but is still considering President.
 - Jerre will not be Vice President, but may look at another office. Her son will be in 5th grade.
 - Lara will continue as Room Parent Relations Officer.
 - Chad has served in many roles in the past - willing to do Vice President, if someone steps up as President.
 - Several other board members were not there at that point in the meeting, so did not discuss their plans, but Dale described the tasks for the office.
 - Elizabeth McNulty is interested in running for Communication officer.
 - Dale indicated that all are welcome to run, certain positions have to be filled by a parent at the school (President, Vice President, Treasurer), we have traditionally had a teacher fill the Security officer position, and it would be great to have many people interested in being part of the Board. Myra encouraged people to run

based on her positive experiences on the Board, and she noted that you can do many of the offices even if working full-time.

- Dale reviewed the bylaws regarding the process:

“Section I – Nomination

- In February, the PTO Board will prepare and distribute a brief description of each board position, including described by-law duties and typical time requirements.
- Nominations for board positions will be held at the March general meeting.
- Individuals nominated for board positions must accept the nomination in writing or in person at the March meeting.
- The President will close nominations at the end of the March meeting. No new nominations will be accepted after that time.
- After the March nominations, the PTO Board will prepare and distribute a list of candidates to the Kennard community.

Section II – Election

- Officer elections will be held at the April general meeting.
- All candidates for office shall be present at the April general meeting unless an emergency exists.
- For contested positions, election will be held by secret ballot.
- The Secretary and Parliamentarian will count the ballots and announce the results at the April meeting.
- New officers will take office on May 1.
- The term of office shall be for one year (from May 1 to April 30).
- No officer may hold any interest in any contract entered into by Kennard CJA PTO.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Year Book: Myra said we need pictures from the Yearbook. In particular, they need 3rd grade and preK pictures from the classroom. Can upload directly (see directions posted on the Kennard PTO Facebook page) or email Myra.
- Mr. Droste had two flyers about Gifted education on the table. GAM advocates for gifted education. Mr. Droste would like to encourage you to join and attend. We are underrepresented in GAM. March 5 is the date of the conference. Regarding funding initiatives related to gifted education, Chad Beffa indicated that it would be better if there were a line item for gifted education, rather than the funding go into the general fund for the district. Perhaps a statement from Kennard community would be helpful to have a line item for gifted education. It has not passed in previous years at the state level, but this is something that GAM advocates for. Dr. Leflore said that the 3rd grade team member teachers will be attending the conference; the school paid for their membership in GAM and conference fees.
- Book Fair: Dale is the book fair chair, March 8 – 10. Would love to have your help, and communication will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihl seconded by Grace Kivindyo. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs
PTO Secretary, 2015-16