

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy
PTO Meeting**

April 6, 2016, 6:00 pm, Gym
MEETING MINUTES

PTO Board Members present: Dale Greenbury, Jennifer Beffa, Keica Smart, Tiffany Tibbs, Jennifer Anania, Myra Belgeri, Lisa Granich-Kovarik, Lara Fuchs, Denise Brooks, Chad Beffa.

Also present: Dr. LeFlore.

Call to Order

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

Call for New Business Agenda Items

Karen Ruggeri raised Y care/latchkey program concerns. Will add to new business section.

Acceptance of Minutes from February PTO Meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting (March) 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 Erin Bihl, seconded by Jennifer Anania. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury

Thank you's – specific names in upcoming PTO newsletter

- To *Sarah Custis and Laurie Erhard* and teacher appreciation committee for meals during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers truly enjoyed the pasta night the first night, and delicious sandwiches and salad the second evening!
- To our *Book Fair organizers and volunteers*: And to all of *our teachers, administrators, and staff* who supported the event! We had sales of \$11,746.42. We bought \$905.84 worth of books for the teachers out of their wish lists and collected profits of \$2,112.42 in cash. About \$1,900 worth of books purchased by parents for classroom teachers.
- Thanks to our *teachers and administration* for their hard work on the national school of character process. Our site visit was yesterday the 29th and we hope to hear soon.
- To *Kate Metzger and Heather Moreland* for their work on the school garden with Gateway Greening. They are in the phase I portion of the planning. I will be writing a letter of support for this effort this week.
- I want to thank *Mr. Clement* for his hard work on Equations this year – Kennard finished the *Equations'* season with a strong performance at the Gifted Resource Council's (GRC) Academic Challenge Cup Equations Tournament.
- To *Jenifer Garcia and our tour guide committee*, for giving tours throughout the school year.
- To all of the *parents and teachers* who have submitted photos for the yearbook.
- To all of the *PTO Board members who have served this year*, and all of the *PTO Officer candidates who are running for office* at our April 6 meeting. We appreciate your interest in helping our school!
- In honor of Volunteer Appreciation – we want to thank *ALL of our volunteers* – for making our school a great place! Jerre will be presenting more details
- Enrichment requests and classroom supplies reimbursements are due April 15th. Encourage your classroom teacher to use their funds.

Upcoming events/dates

- April 19th Listen Talk Learn diversity program
- April 23rd 9-noon Spring Beautification
- April 27th PTO Board Meeting New and Old Board

- May 2 – 6 Teacher appreciation week
- May 3rd Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 4th PTO General Meeting Lead by New Board
- May 24th Field Day
- May 14 – deadline for turning in reimbursement requests to Myra
- May 17th – Spring Open House for Newly Accepted Families and Visitors – Delayed because of Gifted and Talented retesting - Please consider signing up to help give tours and welcome visitors from 9:30-3:30.
- PTO picnic – Friday, May 20, 2016, 4:30 to 6:30
- May 24th: Field Day – Contact Amanda Miller or Nicole Colbert Botchway if you would like to help volunteer
- Promotions: Pre K and K May 25th. 1st – 4th May 25th; 5th grade promotion May 26.
- May 26th - Last day of school

As we finish the last few months of school, the PTO will be reaching out to parents to plan for the 2016-2017 academic year – particularly regarding leaders for various PTO committees and events. If you served as a committee chair this year, and want to continue to do so – we welcome your continued involvement and experience. We also welcome new leaders to join our experienced leaders – so if you have always be interested in a certain committee or event, and think you might want to co-chair that committee, please let us know! The Vice President typically sends out a flyer to recruit chairs & co-chairs in May to all of the parents in the school, but if you already know now, please let Jerre Parsons (current vice president) and Chad Beffa (candidate for Vice President).

I am sad to leave this position, but so glad to continue on the Board helping with the Fundraising activities, which will help bring things into a little more balance for me personally and still afford me the opportunity to help the school! Volunteers make this school a better place – through their time and talents. I have been amazed at what our parents give – and it has been a privilege to work alongside of you.

- I encourage you all to continue to do good work – and to reach out to new volunteers and welcome new volunteers into new roles on committees and our Board, and to thank the volunteers who have made a difference in our school.
- In honor of Volunteer Appreciation – we want to thank *ALL of our volunteers* – for making our school a great place.
- Thank you to several long time volunteers on the PTO Board who are retiring from the Board this year – Myra Belgeri, Tiffany Tibbs, Jennifer Anania, and Lisa Granich-Kovarik, who were given flowers as a token of appreciation.

Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore

Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report

April 6, 2016

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
- Movie Night- Jenifer Garcia, Lina Galinurova and committee
- Girls on the Run- Tricia Moyer and volunteers
- Scholastic Book Fair- Dale Greenbury and volunteers

Assessments

- ***Star Reading by Renaissance Learning*** is an adaptive computerized reading assessment administered to students in grades, 2nd 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Students are currently being tested.
- ***Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)*** is a summative assessment that measures specific skills defined for each grade by the state of Missouri. Students in grades 3-5 in will take the on-line grade level assessments April 18 thru May 23. MAP snacks are being provided by the school.

Academy of Science-St. Louis-SunEdison Semiconductor Science Teacher of the Year:

Kim Rois, science teacher at Kennard Classical Junior Academy, has been named the Academy of Science-St. Louis-SunEdison Semiconductor Science Teacher of the Year. The honor is awarded by the Academy of Science- St. Louis, which works to expand the public's understanding of science through accessible, year-round seminars and educational initiatives. Ms. Rois was selected as the winner from 100 nominees in the St. Louis Region. This honor is high-praise for Kennard CJA and Saint Louis Public Schools. Ms. Rois will receive \$2,000 for professional development and \$500 for

classroom supplies. The 22nd Annual Outstanding St. Louis Scientists Awards Dinner at the Chase Park Plaza will be held on April 7, 2016.

National Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest: 4th grader Emma Deaton won the grand prize by designing a poster that shows other kids and families how to stay safe from poisons like medicines, chemicals, and cleaners during National Poison Prevention Week which was celebrated March 20-26. The Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest was sponsored by the Missouri Poison Center. The awards ceremony was held Wednesday, March 16 at the 1st Floor Atrium at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Emma received a certificate, gift bag, and a pizza party for her class.

Pedal the Cause Clare Blase Spirit Award: 1st grader Lenore Upwood is the recipient of the 2015 Pedal the Cause Clare Blase Spirit Award. A community-wide cycling event that raises funds to advance cancer research at Siteman Cancer Center and St. Louis Children's Hospital, has already funded 70 cancer research projects — including 51 adult and 19 pediatric projects. The funds from Pedal the Cause 2015 brings the total donation to an astounding **\$12.5 million** in merely six years — 100% of which directly supports innovative cancer research in St. Louis.

The 2015 event was Lenore's second year participating in Pedal the Cause. She rode her hand-propelled bike in the Ameren Kids Challenge as a member of the Bartlett's Bikers team. As an avid Star Wars fan, Lenore was determined to 'use the force' to help her give 100% in the fight against cancer. You can join Lenore at Pedal the Cause 2016 or support her efforts to create a world without cancer by visiting pedalthecause.org.

National Volunteer Week
Sunday, April 10th thru Saturday, April 16th



Although National Volunteer Week is officially celebrated April 10-16, the Kennard staff couldn't wait to celebrate with our wonderful generous families. Thanks for all you have done and are currently doing to support our learning community. On behalf of the Kennard staff, I'm presenting an Appreciation banner to thank our families!

The Lion King: The 5th graders presented Disney's Lion King on Friday, April 1, 2016:

- 1st performance begins at 10:00am
- 2nd performance begins at 6:30pm

Please bring the family and enjoy the performance! Contact Annette Silver-Betts for additional information.

The National School of Character Site Visit was conducted Tuesday, March 29. Special thanks to Dale Greenbury and Otis Bryant for their participation in the parent/community interview. We're anxiously awaiting ideas and suggestions to improve character building at Kennard.

Tiger Family Open House: On Wednesday, March 9th over **60** families visited Kennard's Tiger Family Open House. Surveys are being developed for your feedback, suggestions, and ideas for the upcoming school year.

Missouri State School of Character Banner Presentation Assembly: Students and staff at Kennard celebrated being selected a State School of Character with a school-wide assembly on Monday, April 4 at 9:30am. Character Plus representative Suzy Ward presented the school with an official banner, and a select group of Kennard students led the audience in the Seven Habits Song. Kennard is one of only 17 schools in Missouri and 68 schools in America to earn this honor and is now in consideration for National School of Character designation.

Facilities Update: Rosmon Johnson, Facility Manager contacted me regarding a time to begin repairs on the bus parking last week. Today, Deanna Anderson came by to review a plan for end of day dismissal so work can begin Friday:

- Begin work Friday, April 8th after morning buses complete their route
- Restrict parking on Potomac across from the entrance; and on either side as signs already indicate
- Rope off construction area from the rest of the parking lot
- Security and transportation personnel on site

New Families Open House: The April 8th date for New Families Open House has been postponed since the Gifted Office is offering re-testing to students who were previously found ineligible for 2016-17 placements. The new tentative date is **Tuesday, May 17** the same date that our last school tour is scheduled. More information to follow...

Promotion Dates (Pending final approval)

- Wednesday, May 25 – Pre-Kindergarten Promotion @ 9:45am
- Wednesday, May 25 – Kindergarten Promotion @ 10:45am
- Wednesday, May 25 – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade Promotion @ 1:45pm
- Thursday, May 26 – 5th Grade Promotion @ 10:00am

Summer Enrichment at Kennard: SLPS is offering a free Summer Enrichment Program at **Kennard** beginning **Monday, June 6 and ending Thursday, June 30 from 8:30-2:50pm** for a limited number of students completing kindergarten through fourth grade. Curriculum specialists are working on the best instructional model for summer school. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

In addition to Dr. LeFlore’s report, there were several additional items/questions:

- Dr. LeFlore thanked all of the volunteers who have helped this year. There is a sign above the cafeteria from staff that thanks the family and volunteers this year. Ms. Kadlec’s class put a book together to thank PTO for the Enrichment funding. Ms. Beffa read from this book.
- Dr. LeFlore raised concerns about Kennard being a school where voting occurs. Dr. LeFlore mentioned security concerns regarding having voters in the building, when there is part of the building open. The school team and personnel try their best to ensure security. However, adults may inadvertently walk upstairs for restrooms, and kids may inadvertently go downstairs. It is a hardship with the staff and the kids during inclement weather, because gym is not available for students to go. Dr. LeFlore shared concerns with District Affairs, Chad Beffa. Dr. LeFlore discussed some options: perhaps voting personnel need to provide security in the building, if using at a polling place. Or close school on those days. Dr. LeFlore emphasized wanting school to be safe for students.

Treasurer’s Report, Myra Belgeri

Myra presented the report.

As of 3.31.2016:

Primary	\$10,709.92
Debit	\$186.82
Friends of Kennard (as of 2.29.2016)	<u>\$16,231.03</u>

Total just PTO:	\$27,127.77
<i>Pending checks</i>	<i>-\$766.43</i>
PTO Balance	\$26,361.34

Fifth grade account*: **\$17,054.99**
*** separate from PTO balance**

Myra encouraged us to remind teachers to spend enrichment money, since we still have about half of that budget to spend.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Drive – Dale Greenbury

- Received our matching funds from anonymous donor
- \$24,039 total funds raised this academic year.

Volunteer updates/appreciation – Jerre Parsons

- The Board is so grateful for all of the work that volunteers do.
- We will display the blue ribbons that identify volunteers around the school, especially to recognize volunteers; and especially welcome new families to show what a great community
- Every student decorated a flower pot, or a saucer, or seed packet; students wanted you to have this as token of appreciation.
- Wanted to put blue ribbon flowers/seeds, but actually got wildflower seeds – put them in your yard, remind you of all the positives from your volunteers; also got a candle for each one.
- Also we have lots of food and cake – please have some after the meeting and enjoy!
- Door prizes for St. Louis Original restaurants (3 Monkeys, Rooster, Schlafly, LoRussos) were given to 4 parent volunteers as door prizes by drawing tickets randomly.
- Plan to raffle off the flowers as well.
- Volunteers make a difference – the more coordination between school and home, helps with student achievement. Children who have parents who volunteer do better in school academically and behaviorally. And even children who don't have parents who volunteer, but see other parents volunteering, benefit and do better.
- Jerre individually thanked the committee chairs, Board members, President, and principal for all of their dedication, hard work, and successful events.
- Thank you so much!

Gifted Advisory Committee Meetings – Dale Greenbury

- Advisory committees met the following the meeting on February 2nd. There were a series of meeting held to discuss three different topics regarding the gifted and talented programs. The meetings began February and ran for three consecutive Tuesdays. The three topics were
 - a. Assessment and Testing
 - b. Curriculum
 - c. Third full time gifted school
- The committees discussed various subtopics pertaining to these three main topics and made recommendations to the Superintendent. There was Kennard parent and teacher participation on all three committees. In the end the Superintendent took under advisement the recommendations. Some were adopted and others were not and some were designated for further review. In the end the Superintendent made a proposal to the group on March the 8th and formally presented that information to the board on the 10th of March at the SAB meeting. The link to that presentation can be found at the following address: <http://tinyurl.com/SLPSGT>

PAC – Survey Bell Times – Dale Greenbury

- Bell times are returning to the 2014-15 school year times of twenty minutes earlier that this year's schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Y Care concerns – Karen Ruggeri

- A small group of parents have discussed concerns, and were in the process of setting a meeting with the YMCA.
- It would be helpful to know what percentage uses Y care for before, or after, or both
- Parents noted a recent decline in the quality and culture of the program, not always a positive experience for kids

- Does reflect on Kennard in terms of recruitment; for example, if it is not positive experience for kids, this can impact kid's interest in school
- Just wanted to make PTO aware of these concerns.
- If anyone knows of anyone who has questions or concerns about Y Care, have them reach out to Karen Ruggeri and Susie Anderson-Bauer.

PTO Officer Elections – Dale Greenbury

- See final updated list document of nominations – so thankful that people were willing to volunteer and be nominated!
- Great mix of new and old Board members.
- Understand some changes after meeting – Elizabeth McNulty withdrew her nomination for Communication Officer
- Note that every position has only one candidate.
- Vote to accept the slate:
 - One person not able to be here tonight: Nicole Colbert-Botchway was required to be out of town for her job. The board was notified prior to the Board meeting on the 30th of March. The Board voted to allow Nicole's absence to be considered as an emergency absence, and that she is not required to be present this evening to still be considered for the position of parliamentarian
- Vote on list (verbal, unless contested position)
 - **President:** Dave Custis
 - **Vice President:** Chad Beffa
 - **Secretary:** Karen Ruggeri
 - **Treasurer:** Grace Kivindyo
 - **Information Officer:** Erin Bihl
 - **Security Officer:** Jennifer Beffa
 - **Parliamentarian:** Nicole Colbert-Botchway
 - **Enrichment Resource Officer:** Amanda Miller
 - **District Affairs Officer:** Dave Lloyd
 - **Room Parent Relation Officer:** Lara Fuchs
 - **Fund Raising Officer:** Dale Greenbury
 - **Communications Officer:** Susie Anderson-Bauer
- Chad Beffa motioned to accept the slate as listed, Lisa Granich-Kovarik seconded; motion was approved unanimously. CONGRATULATIONS!!
- Plan for transition
 - Expectation is that old members will connect with new members for their position and “train” them on this. Please share files, notes, procedures. New Board members take office as of May 4.
 - April 27 at 5 pm Board meeting will include old and new Board members, to help with transition. Old members will be able to vote, new members not yet able to vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- School picnic: Dale Greenbury on behalf of Erica Orrison and Shonte Brown
 - Invitations will be sent out – parents and grandparents will be invited.
 - Will need a lot of volunteers. Old and new board members will help.
 - Look forward to the volunteer sign up opportunity. We are going to again ask each class to bring dishes as follows: Main dish, paper products, and drinks will be provided via the PTO allocated budget.
 - Pre-K and K: Veggie side dish
 - 1st Grade: Fruit side dish
 - 2nd Grade: Surprise dish
 - 3rd Grade: Potato, pasta or grain side dish
 - 4th and 5th Grade: Dessert
 We will assign each class a picnic area and ideal number of volunteers requested to help keep the picnic running smoothly. We would love to have at least an additional 10 heavy lifters this year to help support the setup and breakdown. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held in the gym.
- Amanda Miller – Field Day is May 24. She will send up volunteer information to sign up.

- Diversity program - DAP – Listen, Talk, Learn April 19th 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Invite will come through myschoolanywhere, and on the PTO Facebook page.
- Grizzlies MVP Program – Don't forget to sign up for your free tickets to the game. Letter has gone out. Date of the game is 26th of July at 7:05 pm.
- Again, reminder to stay and have food and social time as part of Volunteer appreciation.
- Dave Custis wanted to acknowledge and thank the volunteers that help with the Girls on the Run, Let Me Run, Chess Club, Boy Scouts, etc. – all parent volunteers as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Susan Anderson-Bauer seconded by Erin Bihr. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs
PTO Secretary, 2015-16