

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy  
PTO Meeting**

March 2, 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, Gary Siddens, Chad Beffa.

Also present: Dr. LeFlore.

**Call to Order**

PTO President, Dale Greenbury, called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

**Call for New Business Agenda Items**

No new items.

**Acceptance of Minutes from February PTO Meeting**

- The minutes from the last meeting (February) are posted on the bulletin board in front of the gym; they were also circulated through email to parents through myschoolanywhere, and Facebook page.
- Motion to accept the minutes made by Erin Bihl, seconded by Karen Ruggeri. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

***PTO President's Report, Dale Greenbury***

**Thank you's**

- To Grace Kivindyo, Jane Mrozewski, Sarah Sullivan, Heather Murch and Lina Galinurova for organizing our school dance, and all of the parent volunteers who helped with the Dance
- To all who are running for Board positions next year, and for all of those who have served – really appreciate their work over the past year (and years!)
- To Jerre Parsons for our Volunteer appreciation event efforts – looking forward to a great time in April for our volunteer community
- To Susie Anderson Bauer – who has been working diligently on changes and improvements to our website; Amanda Miller who offered to help Susie with graphic design elements
- To Nichole Emery and Megan Fraley from Southwest Food Excellence, for bringing samples of School breakfast and lunch options and presenting at our last general meeting.

**Updates**

- National Volunteer Month is April, so we definitely plan to participate! Please mark your calendars for April 6 PTO meeting from 6-7:30 during which time we will honor our volunteers. We will have snacks, gifts, and great door prizes, so please join us to help celebrate our wonderful volunteer community.
- This year's theme for volunteer appreciation is "KCJA volunteers are blue ribbon winners!" You should have received a blue ribbon form in your child's folder this week. Please fill out the ribbons at bottom with the events where you've volunteered and turn into classroom teachers Monday, March 14, so we can display them around school and at our April 6 meeting. If you need additional ribbons, your classroom teacher has extras. We really want all volunteers to be recognized, so please fill these out!

**Committee Reports:**

- **Green Schools Quest** decided to forfeit from submitting an actual project this year due to low interest. They are, however turning attention to the SLPS Go Green Pilot Program. Currently, there are about 22 SLPS implementing the program, and we are looking to join these schools in the fall. Their mission: *Through hands-on,*

*project-based STEM learning, the I Go Green SLPS Green Team seeks to encourage students and staff to reduce consumption and cost, stop wasting resources, and become better stewards of the environment. Each Green Team school will have five challenges during the year in which they can earn points and prizes. Program appears to be well-organized with lesson plans in place, field trips encouraged with hands-on student driven activities.*

- **Outdoor Learning Garden-** After attending garden orientation meeting through Gateway Greening in fall, the OLG committee is preparing to move through three phases for implementation.
  - Phase I happened this am with their committee meeting with met with their garden liaison, teacher reps, and Dr. LeFlore to discuss mission, goals and community support/assets.
  - In Phase II, they will develop their group structure deciding how the garden will run. They will identify leaders, develop garden guidelines including summer maintenance plan and decide on garden lessons (GG has resources for them)
  - Phase III: garden site plan developed (how many beds, where they'll go, how we'll use water, what size beds, etc); attend volunteer training; develop garden budget.
  - Once all these phases are complete, they will schedule a building day to assemble the beds and fill with soil.
  - They plan to start small and hopefully expand each year.

#### **Upcoming events/dates**

- Tonight's PTO General meeting – Wednesday, March 2 at 6 pm
  - What to expect at meeting:
    - We will be in the gym, with microphones
    - PTO Officer nominations – close at the end of the meeting
- Book Fair – March 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> – need lots of volunteers, link on FB page
- PTO General meeting – April 6th, 6 pm – Officer elections and volunteer appreciation; be prepared to say a few words about why you would be a good candidate (if running against someone for a position)
- Spring Beautification Event Tentatively April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 9-12
- April 27<sup>th</sup> PTO Board Meeting (New and Old Board Members) 5 pm, Lobby
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> (Teacher Appreciation Day is May 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- PTO General Meeting May 4 (new board members and lead this one) 6 pm, cafeteria
- PTO picnic – Friday, May 20, 2016, 4:30 to 6:30; all old and new Board members expected to work the picnic.

#### **Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore**

##### **Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report**

**March 2, 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

**America Saves Program:** SLPS has partnered with several banking institutions so that schools can participate in America Saves, a campaign managed by the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America. This program seeks to motivate, encourage, and support low- to moderate-income households to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth while improving the financial health of our schools, families, community and the world. Stifel Bank & Trust has partnered with Kennard to provide a fun and exciting presentations to our **2nd and 3rd grade classes** this week. Students will learn the difference between needs & wants, the importance of saving, and the value of money.

**2016 St. Louis Public Schools Art Fair Winners:** Six Kennard students will be honored at the SLPS Art Fair Awards Ceremony on Friday, March 4th at 10:00 at the St. Louis Zoo Living World Amphitheater.

- 1st Place Drawing Benjamin Gondzur/5th
- 2nd Place Drawing Alice Kovarik/4th
- 3rd Place Drawing Nyla Meeks/4th
- 1st Place Painting Tess Simmons/3rd

- 2nd Place Painting Lucy Heidenry/4th
- 1st Place Mixed Media Sonali Sharma/5th

All Art Fair artwork is currently on display in the lower level of the St. Louis Zoo Living World building. Congratulations students and art teacher, Ms. Nelson!

**Dr. Seuss' Birthday:** The Young Lawyers Division of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) will bring members of the legal profession from the St. Louis area to read to first grade classrooms on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 to promote the importance of reading. Celebrate and wear **red, white, and black** as classes participate in special activities and enjoy a "special ice cream treat" in honor of Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

**GAM Conference:** The Gifted Association of Missouri District A Conference is Saturday, March 5 from 8:00am-3:30pm at Lindenwood University. Six teachers will participate in the conference this school year.

- Highlights include: David Welch, State of the State and the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)

- Dr. Steve Coxon, Keynote Address on Creativity

Feel free to visit <http://www.mogam.org/> for more information.

**Gifted Curriculum Committee Meeting:** Kennard staff and parent on the Curriculum Committee were Lara Fuchs, Laurie Batres, Nick Clement, Tina Meyer, Carolyn Recke, Jennifer Ventimiglia, and me. A final draft of the recommendation is under construction. However, Batres, Clement and I submitted the following working draft:

1. All gifted programs, including pull-out, should provide the same quality of programming, adhere to the same general framework, and share a common mission and common understanding of the components of gifted education in SLPS. (This should include the National Standards in Gifted and Talented Education PK-12) [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)
2. All students participating in self-contained gifted programs have equal access to specialized programs based on the building focus.
3. Curriculum resources should be comparable across schools, however self-contained gifted schools should have the autonomy within the framework to develop and enrich units to meet the diverse needs of students.
4. Schools have flexibility to maintain their unique school programming as long as they adhere to the same general framework.
5. All self-contained gifted programs should collaborate on best practices including committing to implementing developmentally appropriate research-based best practices that will serve the whole child, including academic and social/emotional growth, and will be mindful of the needs of students as individuals (unique in their areas of giftedness).

Additional Considerations:

1. The committee recommends forming a district Gifted Advisory Committee. (include members with gifted certification)
2. The committee recommends a point-person to advocate for funding and fair allocation of resources, as well as support for building leaders in each gifted program.
3. Opportunities should be provided for all district staff members to obtain gifted certification.

**The Lion King:** The 5th graders will present The 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.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

When: March 7th to 10th

Where: Kennard Lobby

What: Better selection! Higher reading levels! Foreign-language titles! Extra! Extra! Extended hours through Parent-Teacher Conferences

Sale Hours:

**March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Preview Days**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 7:45**

**March 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 7:45**

Can't make it to school? Your child will be bringing home a wish list. Send money with your child (don't forget to add sales tax of 8.679%). Contact Dale Greenbury for more information.

**Rescheduled Date for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Jefferson City Field Trip:** Due to inclement weather and school closing, Kennard 4th graders will visit the Capitol for Gifted Education Day on **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Support gifted education by visiting [www.mogam.org](http://www.mogam.org). Feel free to contact your child's teacher for additional information about the rescheduled field trip to Jefferson City.

**Honor Society (NEHS):** 66 4th and 5th graders were inducted in Kennard's Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society on Tuesday, February 16. Inspiring words of encouragement were shared by former Kennard student, Cierra Cross a freshman at Metro. Please congratulate the 2016 inductees:

Zukai Abuduwasiti  
Katrin Allen  
Lydia Anania  
Dominic Appleton  
Amelia Baldrige  
Jacob Belgeri  
Ismail Botchway  
Arnav Busani  
Jason Cabra  
Duncan Carr  
Angela Chen  
Andrew Custis  
Emma Deaton  
Turk Diekemper  
Cameron Egan  
Corinne Farrill  
Aaron Fisher  
Emma Franklin  
Grace Fuchs  
Ben Gondzur  
Morgan Greenbury  
Trinity Groves  
Elle Hamilton  
Lola Harper  
Lucy Heidenry  
Xavier Holmes  
Gavin John  
Joshua Keoshkerian  
Alice Kovarik  
Lauren Kraichely  
Katherine Lawler  
Alexander Lebedev  
Abigail Leonard  
Spencer Lewis  
Henry Lloyd  
Allison Luth  
Nyla Meeks  
Karyna Miller  
Madisyn O' Daniel  
Chloe Ong  
Sammy Parsons  
Kimberly Zhang

Kudos to NEHS Advisors Whitney Mitchell, Jamie Spitznagel, Jennifer Beffa, Tad Droste & Nick Clement for their support!

**National School of Character Site Visit:** Thanks to your support, Kennard CJA was recognized as a State School of Character based on the following: "Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development that has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate." As a result, Kennard CJA will be consideration for national recognition as National Schools of Character. Our site visit for this prestigious recognition is **Tuesday, March 29**. Parents will meet at 9:30 to share comments and ideas. If you would like to participate in the parent meeting, please contact Dale Greenbury.

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** Kennard's 2016 Spring Parent Teacher Conference Days will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, March 9** conferences are held from 4:30pm until 7:45pm.
- **Thursday, March 10** conferences are held from 4:30pm until 7:45pm.
- No school on **Friday, March 11**

Feel free to contact your child's teacher for additional information and conference times.

**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.

**2016 Take Charge of Education Check from Target:** Thanks to your generous donations, we received a check for \$1,171.46. When you shop with your Target Red Card, 1% of purchases are eligible to the school you designate. The February check covers funds accrued through February 2016. Monies will be used to cover the 300.00 show up fee for the canceled Jefferson City trip, 100 science fair presentation boards, and ice cream to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday. Thanks again for your generous support.

**Tiger Family Open House: Wednesday, March 9th from 3:45 - 4:15pm:** Family and friends are cordially invited to visit Kennard's Tiger Family Open House. The journey to creating leaders in our learning community occurs in the form of Kennard Tiger Families. Each student at Kennard is a member of a Tiger Family and remains with their family throughout their years at Kennard. Each staff member is assigned a family and leads the multi-age group through family meetings. Home connection information is sent after each meeting to reinforce the skills and vocabulary used.

#### **Technology Update:**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade iPads are in use by the students.
- The updated sound system is currently in use.

Submitted by,

Principal Wanda LeFlore

#### ***Treasurer's Report, Myra Belgeri***

Myra presented the report.

As of February, 2016:

Primary \$13,180.75

Debit \$186.82

Friends of Kennard \$12,310.64

(as of 12.31.15)

Fund Drive Donations

(still to be deposited) \$3,310.00

**Total just PTO: \$28,988.21**

*Pending checks* -\$9,604.04

**PTO Balance \$19,384.17**

**Fifth grade account\*: \$15,864.49**

**\* separate from PTO balance**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Fund Drive – Gary Siddens***

- The Fund Drive raised over \$3000 in February, so we met goal for the challenge pledge.
- With the \$2000 pledge, we will be at 94% of goal (\$23,539).
- We have received 140 individual donations; 80 from Kennard families for a participation rate of approximately 27%. The rest came from grandparents.
- Last year we raised \$24,415 total on 155 individual donations.
- Last year we received approximately \$3,300 in donations from February thru April.

### ***PTO Nominations – Dale Greenbury***

- Discussed the Board positions last month, and circulated descriptions at last meeting and this meeting. Also distributed through myschoolanywhere.
  - Note that all positions are open, it is an election.
  - We can nominate people; they can turn down or accept.
- From Current Board members at meeting:
  - Staying the same: Ms. Beffa – Security; Lara Fuchs – Room Parent
  - Leaving the Board: Tiffany Tibbs, Myra Belgeri, Lisa Granich Kovarik, Jennifer Anania due to many years on the board and having 5<sup>th</sup> graders next year.
  - Staying on the Board: Dale Greenbury plans as Fundraising, Chad Beffa is interested in Vice President, but would do other positions as well.
- Nominations process began. Here are the nominations:
  - Communications officer: Elizabeth McNulty, Susie Anderson-Bauer. Susie withdrew her nomination initially saying she would just focus on her continued work with the website. However, at the end of the meeting, she put her name back on as an official candidate for the Communications Officer position as she felt it might be more effective to get the website done as the official Communications Officer.
  - Security officer: Ms. Beffa
  - Information officer: Erin Bihl
  - Fundraising: Dale Greenbury
  - Enrichment resource officer: Amanda Miller (via text message)
  - Parliamentarian: Chad Beffa, Nicole Colbert-Bochway. Chad withdrew his nomination once Nicole Colbert Bochway was nominated.
  - District Affairs: Dave Lloyd
  - Room Parent Relations: Lara Fuchs
  - Treasurer: Grace Kivindyo
  - Secretary: Karen Ruggeri
  - Vice President: Chad Beffa
  - President: Dave Custis
- Discussed the election process: If there are no contested positions, then a simple vote for all will occur at next general meeting. If there is a contested position, candidates get a chance to speak before the vote. Nominees need to be present at next meeting.

### ***School Calendar Bell Time Survey Update – Dale Greenbury***

- There was a survey out regarding the schedule to give comments, which Dale mentioned last time
- Note that times go back to last year's bell times.
- A number of early dismissals or late starts are proposed on this calendar. This is new for our school. Some half days for professional development or voting.
- Can make comments until March 4 for survey.
- Calendar will be presented at March 10 at SAB meeting. Public comments on calendar at the SAB at CVP school from 5:45 to 6 pm. Actual meeting starts at 6 pm. Dale also mentioned that there may be public comments given from 5:30 to 5:45 regarding the gifted meetings (but he was not positive about this).
- Give comments at [www.slps.org/calendarcomments](http://www.slps.org/calendarcomments) or call 314.345.4636
- Chad Beffa noted that calendar added more days to teacher's schedules. Dr. LeFlore indicated that professional development at an autonomous school is set by school, not by District content. Elizabeth McNulty noted that we

should as parents support that our professional development days are done by the school, rather than using general district content.

- Elizabeth McNulty noted that at upcoming election in April 5, they will be voting on tax increases for teacher salaries. Chad noted that they haven't gotten raises in eight years. Lisa mentioned that teachers sometimes leave city schools for county due to salary issues. Chad noted that some city schools are losing gifted specialists.

### ***Diversity Committee Awareness Dates: Tuesday, 4/19/15 at 5:30 – 7:30 – Keica Smart***

- The Listen, Talk, Learn program (which was proposed at last PTO general meeting) has been scheduled for Tuesday, 4/19/15 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, pending building permit. More information to follow.
- Keica noted that there is a maximum of 40 attendees for this program; per program leadership, it was suggested that there needs to be a diversity of perspectives, and specifically it would be helpful to have at least 7 attendees (about 20%) who are minorities in order to make this program as helpful as possible. Registration ahead of time will be required.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Building Events & Conditions – Dale Greenbury***

- Some complaints have been made about the condition of cafeteria after PTO events. If you see trash or mess at a PTO event, please clean this up immediately, do not leave it over the weekend. It is difficult for kitchen staff. Dale will send out a note to the committee chairs reminding them. All volunteers were encouraged to be good stewards of the building.

### ***Gifted Advisory Council Meetings – Dale Greenbury***

- The process: On February 2, the district announced they would have gifted advisory meetings; 3 meetings held for 3 subcommittees. At least one member of Board was a part of each subcommittee. A number of teachers also attended meetings.
- Gifted Curriculum – was discussed in Dr. LeFlore's report, Lara Fuchs attended.
- Identification and Assessment – Dale and Chad attended.
  - Informational first meeting
  - Recommendations: for process of identification and assessment, universal testing, the standards for eligibility
    - Have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit of process, review how application process occurs, expand the number of testers (in a variety of ways), do a more comprehensive exam
- Opening 3<sup>rd</sup> gifted school – Keica attended this subcommittee.
- March 10 SAB meeting is where Dr. Adams will present recommendations, based on gifted advisory meetings.
- Question from parents: was there a difference in the number of those identified as gifted this year? There appears to be a reduction in the number eligible this year. In previous years, there have been between 25 – 31% gifted, vs this year which had 14%. There are still a number of people still waiting to be tested. There is a new person testing, and also a different test.
- Lara suggested to share concerns with Kipp Ward and SAB. Dale encouraged parents to go to SAB meeting on March 10. Dave Lloyd suggested to contact Dr. Adams directly.
- Heather Murch asked if we are full for next year. Dr. LeFlore said according to the website Kennard and Mallinkrodt are full. But parents noted that some of the slots are taken, before being tested.
- There was a question about neighborhood priority, whether they are filled. Chad indicated that he didn't think that the neighborhood slots were filled. We are bound to the neighborhood priority for enrollment until 2019 desegregation expires.
- Dale will put SAB meeting on the Facebook page to let know the details.

### ***Diversity Committee Acronym (KENNARD) – Keica Smart/Blythe Burkhardt***

- Blythe passed around the position statement of the diversity committee. The interest is to retain the name Kennard Classical Junior Academy for the program, but have the school come up with a positive acronym that represents our values as a learning community using the letters K-E-N-N-A-R-D.
- Dale asked about how this process would occur.
- Blythe indicated that Dr. LeFlore was going to bring the position statement to the staff, to see how staff would want to get student involvement in this process.

- Keica suggested that the diversity position statement through Facebook and myschoolanywhere be sent, to get parent input.
- Blythe indicated the implementation plan is still being developed.
- Grace asked if Blythe would wait to send to parent community until after Dr. LeFlore and staff comments. Blythe was interested in informing parents now.
- Elizabeth McNulty asked about declining minority enrollment, hoping that next year Diversity committee tackles this. Dale mentioned that this was discussed during some gifted advisory meetings. Blythe indicated that this has been addressed by Diversity committee, and that they talked with district officials about this. Keica indicated this was also discussed during the subcommittee regarding opening a 3rd gifted school.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Outdoor Learning Garden: Heather Moreland is a parent leader. Their committee is going through process with Gateway Greening (application process). Phase 1 – we now have a site liaison, a Mallinckrodt parent who is helping with this. Then after application, the plan is to start small. They are coming up with a maintenance plan over the summer. Each year, they will apply for more and more additions to the project. First, just a space for kids to go out and read. Then they will consider vegetable garden. They are looking at the site to the left of the front of the building, which has a water source. Chad said to consider raised beds on parking lot. Heather said one of the issues is the closeness of the water source. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Heather at hmorelan@gmail.com.
- Book Fair Next Week sale dates – March 9 & 10th
- Grace Kivindyo asked about potholes; Dale said that this has been addressed by Dr. LeFlore at previous meetings. Parents have voiced concerns about this.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by David Custis seconded by Grace Kivindyo. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Tibbs  
PTO Secretary, 2015-16