

**Kennard Classical Junior Academy
PTO Meeting**

May 4, 2016, 6:00 pm, Gym
MEETING MINUTES

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

Also present: Dr. LeFlore.

Call to Order

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

Special Guests - Administrative Staff from McKinley

- Principal: Stephen Warmack – not able to attend
- Asst. Principal: Simone Taylor
- Tracy Bednarick: tracy.bednarick@slps.org

Tracy Bednarick provided some details about the McKinley schedule and class offering then addressed questions from Kennard parents present. Relevant details can be found on the “ New to McKinley Tab” on the website: <http://www.slps.org/domain/9187>

Parents can view sample schedules, parent info, and information about transitioning. For the upcoming school year, Study Hall will not be on the schedule – there will be 4 core classes (Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science), PE or Dance, Music, Foreign Languages, 2 Electives (Art, Computer Coding, Family Consumer Science, Public Speaking). Classes chosen based on student preference. Block Scheduling details also available on McKinley website.

Question from Laura Brink – can students access their individual schedule ahead of time (yes)

Question from Jennifer Beffa – will the Academic Lab continue to be offered (no)

Question from Dave Lloyd – will the enrichment from Academic Lab be rolled into the Elective period (yes)

Question from _____ - are students tested to establish a baseline of what level class they would be placed in. Yes for math, (MAP scores and Teacher Recommendations also considered. If MAP scores not available before placement then would wait till those are available). Language Arts, Social Studies already accelerated curriculum so placement tests are not required. Working on class within a class for enrichment.

Question from Dave Lloyd – the Kennard curriculum is already a grade level ahead, so will 6th grade math be officially 6th grade and students may be repeating previous concepts. McKinley is moving to 3 levels of Math starting next year following a Springboard Curriculum.

Question from Lena Galinurova – will students be tested at end of 5th grade or in beginning of 6th grade school year. Per Ms Beffa – students will test in normal 5th grade class at Kennard.

Question from Susie Anderson Bauer – is McKinley all Gifted, or is there a mixed student body. Middle School is all gifted, High School curriculum is mixed. All teachers are Gifted Certified or will be by end of December 2016.

Question from Melissa von Rohr - how much contact do middle schoolers have with high schoolers at McKinley. Enter through same entrance and bussed together. Classrooms and lockers are on separate hallways and with different schedules interactions are minimal.

Question from Lena Galinurova – is Robotics part of the curriculum today? (Not currently at middle school level but will be available at high school curriculum. Some Robotics concepts will be taught during Computer Coding electives.) Lena may be interested in being a sponsor for an after school Robotics program. Other After School Activities: Middle School/High School Sports (Girls/Boys Basketball, Volleyball, Girls/Boys Track, G/B Soccer, Flag Football, Cheerleading) Science Olympiad, Math Club, Chess Club, Debate, Yearbook. Music Lessons available for students (Band, Voice).

Question from Lena Galinurova – what will the school hours be for next year (7:10 – 2:17).
Question from Jennifer Merlo – is there transportation for after school activities? (Yes – two buses north/south.)

Call for New Business Agenda Items

No new business items.

Acceptance of Minutes from April PTO Meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting (April) 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 Myra Belgeri . Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

PTO President's Report, David Custis

Introduce new board members

- President: Dave Custis
- Vice President: Chad Beffa
- Secretary: Karen Ruggeri
- Treasurer: Grace Kivindy
- 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

Volunteer renewals – Check with Ms. Shivers-Jones and make sure you are up to date Applications are good for 2 years.

Facebook PTO Page - looking for ideas for improvement for PTO page, Board will discuss over summer and have it on the first General Meeting next school year.

May recruitment of chairs/leaders – traditionally the VP contacts current chairs, and sends flyer to recruit new chairs – Jerre Parsons to work with Chad Beffa to do this.

Upcoming events/dates

- May 14 – deadline for turning in reimbursement requests to Grace some exceptions for late in the year events like picnic and field day.
- May 17 – New Families Open House & Registration: New families accepted to Kennard for the 2016/2017 school year will have the opportunity to visit our campus from 9:30-3:30. If you would like to volunteer for this event please contact committee members: Dawn Brandt, dawnbrandt@sbcglobal.net
- PTO picnic – Friday, May 20, 2015, 4:30 to 6:30; Old and new Board members expected to work the picnic. Erica Orrison and Shonte Brown are leading the Event from a planning perspective.
- May 24th: Field Day – Contact Amanda Miller or Nicole Colbert Botchway if you would like to help volunteer. Sign up list is on our Facebook Page <http://goo.gl/JNkga6>
- Promotions Pre K and K, 1 – 4 grade – May 25. 5th grade – May 26
- May 26th Last day of school
- Summer Board meeting – TBD – David will contact about available dates; focus on budget and planning events

- 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. School Reach Contacted via Phone.
- Summer Playdates? Dawn Brandt will provide dates soon.
- 2016/2017 academic year
 - Annual Open House Date TBD (Board members expected to staff tables, welcome people), also have new families ice cream social and uniform resale
 - Wednesday, August 17 First Day for All students (PreK included)
 - Wednesday, August 17 First Day for Parents Coffee/9:00am (need to have chairs for this)

Principal's Report, Dr. Wanda LeFlore

Kennard CJA PTO Principal's Report

May 4, 2016

Welcome New KCJA Board Members:

- President: Dave Custis
- Vice President: Chad Beffa
- Secretary: Karen Ruggeri
- Treasurer: Grace Kivindy
- Information Officer: Erin Bihr
- 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

A welcome email was sent to all new Board members. If you didn't receive my email, please contact the secretary, Ms. Shivers-Jones so I can update your email address.

Assessments: 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 are in the 2nd week of the on-line grade level assessments April 18 thru May 23. MAP snacks are being provided by the school.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2 thru May 6: Take the opportunity to acknowledge our teachers for their hard work and the positive impact they make in their students' lives next week. Special Thanks to Sarah Custis and Laurie Erhard for the scrumptious lunch and treats this week!

National School Nurse Day Wednesday, May 11: Take the opportunity to express your gratitude for the care the school nurse gives your child on a daily basis. Remember to say thank you to Nurse Humphreys. Also, please remember to pick up all student medication from the school health office by Thursday, May 26, 2016. All unclaimed medicine will be disposed.

Character Education: End of Year Tiger Family Celebration is Friday, May 13th at 3:00pm. Kennard's learning community will celebrate the 1st year of Tiger Families. The fun will begin with a Tiger Family Parade, music, treats, and family reflections. See you next year when we continue Part II of our Character Initiative: Tiger Families with an emphasis on The 7 Habits of Happy Kids!

Facilities Update: The bus parking lot has been repaired!!!!

Finances: Box Top check was given to the treasurer and I received a 250.00 check from GO St. Louis that was sent c/o Wanda LeFlore. I'll check specifics with Tricia Moyer, Girls on the Run sponsor.

Lost and Found: Please take a minute to check the Lost and Found area on the lower level. Unclaimed items are placed in the school's donation bin the last week of school.

New Families Open House & Pre-Registration: New families accepted to Kennard for the 2016/2017 school year will have the opportunity to visit our campus from 9:30 - 3:30 on Tuesday, May 17. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact committee members: Lindsey Lawrence, l1awrence13@hotmail.com; Dawn Brandt; dawnbrandt@sbcglobal.net or Liz Toolan; ertoolan@gmail.com.

Student Achievements:

Academy of Science Fair Winners from Kennard

The Academy of Science – St. Louis Science Fair is inquiry-based learning and the perfect platform to support and showcase classroom research.

BLUE RIBBON

5th Grade: Sonali Sharma, Ellie Francois, & Michael Mathis

4th Grade: Lola Harper, Josh Keoshkerian, Rachael Tibbs, Lydia Anania, Jacob Belgeri & Alice Kovarik

RED RIBBON

5th Grade: Elly Christopher
& Andrew Custis

4th Grade: Allison Luther, Sammy Parsons & Henry Lloyd

GREEN RIBBON

5th Grade: Francis Buthod, Emma Franklin, Nick Merlo & Chloe Ong

4th Grade: Grace Fuchs

WHITE RIBBON

5th Grade: Gavin John

Congratulations students and Kim Rois!

Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contest

Three 4th grade students qualified to participate in the state finals of the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contest that will be held in Columbia MO on Saturday, May 21. Good Luck: Arnav Busani, Joshua Li, and Aristuto Paul!

Noetic Learning Math Contest

Students in grades 2 through 5 completed the Noetic Learning Math Contest in April. The contest consists of 20 word problems of increasing difficulty. Grade level winners were:

- Fifth grade: Alex Lebedev with 90%
- Fourth grade: Aristuto Paul with 100%
- Third grade winners: Ben Keoshkerian, Andrew Kabat, Sean O'Brien with 90%
- Second grade: Emerson Brown with 100%

Honor Roll Winners were:

- Second grade: Wesley Balsamo
- Third Grade: Alex Pantazopoulos

- Fourth Grade: Christian Noland, Finn Simmons, Josh Keoshkerian, Joshua Li, Adrian Nguyen, Alex Sullins, and Arnav Busani
- Fifth Grade: Gavin John, Michael Lopez, Aaron Fisher, Sonali Sharma

All winners will receive medals. Congratulations Nick Clement and all contest winners!

JA Hall of Fame

Junior Achievement accepted Hugh Grant, Chairman and CEO, Monsanto and Jim Weddle, Managing Partner, Edward Jones into the JA Business Hall of Fame – St. Louis. The following Kennard students had the opportunity to model leadership skills by participating in this event as speakers, presenters, and ambassadors:

- Andrew Custis
- Lauren Kraichely
- Sonali Sharma
- Ismail Botchway
- Zukai Abuduwasiti
- Alice Kovarik
- Katrin Allen
- Lola Harper

The black-tie optional reception and dinner was held May 5 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Clayton.

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 Promotions @ 1:45pm
- Thursday, May 26 – 5th Grade Promotion @ 10:00am

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.

St. Louis Story Telling Festival @ Kennard: Kid Favorite story tellers, Bobby Norfolk and Heather Harlan are scheduled to delight our students on Friday, May 6 as part of the 2016 St. Louis Storytelling Festival.

- 1:30- Grades Pre-K thru 2
- 2:30- Grades 3 thru 5

Contact Librarian Brenda Kukay for more information.

Summer Reading Lists: As we inspire students to become active life-long readers, our librarian, Brenda Kukay, has compiled a suggested summer reading book list for our families. Also, parents often ask for summer reading suggestions for their children and teachers ask for suggestions for their students at the end of each school year. Although summer reading is not required, the lists below are awesome resources to begin your child's summer book lists. Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

New Books for Missouri Students

<http://www.msta.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-New-books.pdf>

Show Me Award Titles gr. 1-3

<http://tcjags.weebly.com/2015-2016-show-me-reader-nominees-2nd-grade.html>

Mark Twain Award Titles gr. 4-6
<http://2015marktwainnominees.weebly.com/>

Reading List for Early Readers
http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/early_readers.htm

Gifted Reading List by Genre
http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/hot_topics.htm

New York Public Library – 100 Great Children’s Books/100 Years
<http://www.nypl.org/childrens100>

St. Louis Public Library Summer Reading Clubs
<http://slplsr.evanced.info/>

Service Learning Projects:

- Ms. Recke’s 3rd grade class final service learning project is a **Bake Sale** to benefit Operation Food Search. Summer is when the food pantries see their biggest need, because children are not in school so the breakfast and lunch that they count on is no longer available. We appreciate your support in helping us to help feed the children. The sale is Thursday, May 19th, in room 105 and includes a raffle. See Ms. Recke for more details.
- **The National Elementary Honor Society 4th and 5th graders** are sponsoring a School Supply Drive to benefit the Family Resource Center. This nonprofit organization supports families and provides a chance for a safe and better life through counseling and other support services. Supplies will be collected from classrooms thru Friday, May 6th. The most requested items include backpacks, pencils, (new/gently used), crayons, and spiral notebooks. All items are appreciated. See NEHS Chapter Advisor Jennifer Beffa for more details.

Technology Update: Smart board system has been ordered for the art room. I’ll have the opportunity to replace at least 3 old smart board systems with new ones in July for a minimum fee.

Volunteer Renewals: Thank you for volunteering at Kennard this school year. Your time and commitment was appreciated. If you would like to become a registered volunteer or update your application please contact the school secretary or Ella Hungerford at 345-4554.

Finally, a gracious thank you to the following former KCJA PTO Board Members for their dedication and commitment to our learning community during the 2015.2016 school year:

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

Submitted by,
Principal Wanda LeFlore

Treasurer's Report, Grace Kindivyo

Grace presented the report.

As of 4.26.2016:	
Primary	\$1,106.29
Debit	\$434.23
Friends of Kennard (as of 3.31.2016)	<u>\$21,492.79</u>

Total just PTO:	\$23,033.31
<i>Pending checks</i>	<i>-\$2,804.88</i>
PTO Balance	\$20,432.28

Fifth grade account*: \$17,137.43

* separate from PTO balance

OLD BUSINESS

Fund Drive – Gary Siddens and Dale Greenbury. Finished just shy of what we ended with last year. Able to maximize the matching donation from the anonymous donor in February due to parent donations. Purchased the gifts for the \$100 donation.

Website Update – Susie Anderson Bauer – COMING SOON.

Picnic Planning – Jerre Parsons - please sign up for volunteer spots. Email went out from MySchoolAnywhere today and also able to sign up via Facebook.

Gifted Advisory Committee – Dale and Dave Lloyd – has not met since last meeting. Dale tried to contact Isaac P from Central Office, no follow up meetings have been scheduled yet. Dr. LeFlore got email from Dave Vardy no updates.

Transitioning Families in the Buzzbook – Jennifer Anania and Erin Bihr – Outgoing 5th graders will automatically be removed from Buzz Book by end of school year, so if parents want to get contact info, may want to copy details.

Bylaw Review - no updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Myra Belgeri – BoxTop Winners – Mr. Droste's class.

Myra Belgeri – Want to thank Dale Greenbury for his service as President for 2015-2016 school year. Dale presented with a gift from the previous board.

Approval for 2016/2017 Fund Drive - need to get approval to initiate the fund drive each year, propose to continue with current program as in prior years. Dale Greenbury motion to continue with current process. Susie Bauer seconded. All present voted – motion passed unanimously.

Yard signs – Dale Greenbury - suggest we get additional yard signs to promote other events where we are trying to solicit additional participation. Currently have Book Fair, Teacher Appreciation, Beautification Day, PTO Event, etc. Dale moves to allocate funds for additional signs costing no more than \$300. Lauriie Erhardt seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

End of Year Survey – Dale Greenbury and Dave Custis - Dale proposes to do a “360” survey asking what the Board can improve. Susie Bauer moves to approve funds up to \$60 for a survey. Amanda Miller seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Excess Funds –

- **Estimate of Funds Available** - approximately \$4,500 but receipts outstanding.
- **Old Ideas –**
 - **New Murals**
 - **More Library Funds**
 - **Bulletin Boards**
 - **Recess Equipment**
 - **Lighting for Gym**
 - **Outdoor Garden**
 - **Furniture for Upstairs Lobby**
- **New Ideas**
 - **Additional improvements to sound system (microphones – head/body mikes vs hand held)** - likely \$1000-\$1500. Jennifer Beffa requested to see a proposal detailing prices and options. Enrique Von Rohr proposes to allocate up to \$2000 Dale Greenbury seconded. Motion passed unanimously
 - **Dale suggests we move to allow the board discretion to review the list of ideas and make recommendations at the first general meeting of the new school year. Seconded by Dawn Brandt. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Chad Beffa suggests finishing the fence on the playground to allow PreK drop off process.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up for Field Day – all spots filled.

School Picnic - Contact Erica Orrison or Shonte Brown to help out.

Dale was approached at Beautification Day by a neighbor concerned about parents parking in his driveway and blocking access. Reminder to please be respectful of our neighbors.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Erin Bihl , seconded by Grace Kindivyo . Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ruggeri
PTO Secretary, 2016-17