



# CATHERINE M. McGEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Berlin, Connecticut 06037

pto4mcgeems@gmail.com

JEN JURGEN, *President* • PATTY DEVAUX, *Treasurer*  
IMELDA MONGILLO, *Secretary* • KELLY SMITH, *Fundraising*

## MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, October 19, 2022 6:30-7:30 p.m. McGee Library/Media Center

**In attendance:** Jen Jurgen (8) PTO President, Imelda Mongillo (8) PTO Secretary, Mr Urso (Principal), Ms Froeb (Lead Teacher), Ms Rogers, Ms Garncarz (Team 8A Lead Teachers), Ms Salina, Tracy Andersen (6), Sarah Patel (6), Jaime Albright (6), Katie Niemiec (8), Nancy Barbagallo (8), Carolyn Kozak (6/7)

### **McGee Extracurricular Club Offerings Discussion - Danielle Salina**

Efforts are being made to increase communication on club opportunities and awareness for all students. On the McGee website, under Student Life, a new "Club" section is listed. This will list all clubs. In addition, clubs are listed in Schoology and are announced during morning announcements. In the near future there will be a Club Expo for 6th graders. One to two members from each club will share information about their club. For 7th and 8th graders or kids that were absent, there will be videos for each club listed on the website. Clubs developed based on interest and available teacher volunteers, as such the list will change over time. In addition, Student Council will put out a list of possible activities, that might include a school dance, for the students to vote/rank.

As a reminder students can take the late bus. All they need to do is get a pass from a teacher, counselor or office staff. Note, late buses have a slightly different route than the normal bus.

A parent shared that in some schools once a month, on a Monday there is a one-hour delay for the start of classes so all students can participate in a club.

### **Team 8A Updates - Gabby Garncarz and Abby Rogers**

Co-team leaders on 8A discussed the various activities and plans for getting students back into play time, while getting involved with each other. Give them an opportunity to be kids (vs during the pandemic where they were asked to do more on their own). Examples discussed were fun activities, the field trip to YMCA Camp Ingersoll in Portland CT, where they will get to play, connect, and meet a new friend. Decision was made to do this team building event in the fall to increase connections earlier. Goal to have one team building activity per month. Team 8A had a funding request for an upcoming activity (specifics removed as students are not aware of this yet), more specifics of the funding request will be reviewed by Mr Urso first then coordinated with the PTO. [Mr Urso reviews all funding requests first and foremost before being presented to the PTO, per Mr Urso's request].

### **Principal Urso's Update & Request for Programming Funds**

- Athletics in full swing. Invitational for cross country's 30th year was this past weekend, Mr Griswold organized it. They had an opening by Sound Express.
- A new Drama Club Director – Carolyn Daniels joined last week. She is in the process of securing the rights for the show.
- During the short session days for staff focus has been on goal setting and RULER training. Ms Froeb is running the training.

- Report cards will include a new section on valued habits – arriving on time – effort – listening – respect

Ms Froeb reviewed the request for programming, this included a request for 3 assemblies, one for each grade (6, 7 and 8) featuring Chris Poulos. Chris is a world champion athlete, youth motivational speaker, and aspiring author who shares powerful life lessons as he demonstrates amazing bicycle stunts. He specializes in core values, anti-bullying, and character education. Request was for \$2,500. Chris Poulos comes recommended from other local schools. After some discussion and review, a motion for the full amount was made and voted on, unanimous vote for yes.

### **Fundraising Discussion:**

Katie shared that a \$500 check will be mailed to McGee's PTO as a result of a grant she completed. Thank You Katie!

### **"Un-fundraiser" Direct Donation**

Jen explained the "Un-fundraiser" will be a direct ask to build out a new courtyard/outdoor space. Mr Urso explained that due to the Meriden/New Britain YMCA Preschool being relocated at McGee the outdoor courtyard in back will be used by the Preschool. The PTO set a goal of \$4,000 to be raised through direct donations for this outdoor space that will include roll-away picnic tables, a shed to store them, a stage and other beautification materials. Plan is to use it as outdoor class room space, lunch and a place to hold music events. Plan is to have a diagram to share along with the ask or maybe a video.

### **PaintNite**

Sarah and Jaime provided an update on a PaintNite event for families with two options, an in-person event or a buy a kit option. Group decided on the in-person option and a suggestion was made the "buy a kit option" could be used as a fundraiser in May. A date in January/early February will be announced with more information to come.

### **Brainstorm Family/Community Building Activities**

A few ideas were brainstormed around this topic. Bingo (need to review the guidelines from both the central office/finance, and BINGO permits), Game Right Game night (where attendees get to try out different games and get to purchase games), Scavenger Hunt, a family/teacher night to come join in games and competition, Kahoot (Parents vs kids). More discussion around this topic will take place at the next meeting.

### **Other ideas**

- Imelda shared a sweatshirt fundraiser; these would be imprinted with the zip code for Berlin or East Berlin on the sleeve and four color options will be given. Idea was approved and a price of \$45 per sweatshirt was set. Timing to be determined but hopefully soon to have for the holidays.
- Bills Pizza night, Imelda will reach out to schedule pizza kits before the December break.
- East Tokyo has been secured for Nov 2nd.

***We would like to have a few more volunteers to help with fundraising. Maybe you have a great idea you want to implement or maybe you want to take over Restaurant Nights, either way send us a note if you can help!!***

### **Treasurer's Report - Recent Fundraising and PTO Membership Fee Update**

Budget was reviewed during the programming ask.

Jen provided a membership: Staff membership is doing great with 63 new members!! (38 staff and 25 families)

### **PTO Bylaws**

Updates were reviewed and Bylaws were voted on and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Sorry for going over but we appreciated everyone's attendance and participation!!