

George H. McVey PTA
General Membership Meeting
October 7, 2025

Call to Order:

- I. Pledge of Allegiance: 10:02 am
- II. Approval of September Minutes: No corrections; Minutes stand as approved
- III. Treasurer's Report: Siobhan Licastro: Last Statement Balance (9/30/25): \$33,979.47;
Current Balance (10/7/25): \$37,871.47
School Supplies: \$515.84 profit
GOAT: \$363.10 profit
Raffle Basket Fall Festival: \$1,650.00 profit
- IV. Principal's Report: Ms. Dunne
 - a. Thank you, PTA, for wonderful 75th Anniversary celebration; The Herald and a lot of faculty showed up; A "McVey Museum" was set up in cafeteria w/artifacts, old yearbooks, and the unveiling of a new mural; McVey tours were well attended.
-There were celebrations in school for students- special themed days.
-There will be more 75th anniversary events throughout the year- hopefully a time capsule. Graduates of the class of '55 came back. They have a time capsule
 - b. New fence cups completed over the weekend reads "Mighty Minds" -Much Thanks; they are beautiful
 - c. Picture Day was a success
 - d. Met with Rosner; made framework for revitalization of courtyard -funding from Kiwanis; would like to make it a more meaningful space
 - e. Red Ribbon Week: Wellness Walk through the community not just around the field; happy to have the walk extended again. Will walk to Seventh Street. Letters will be distributed to houses along the walk's path
K-2 will make one loop around for their walk
3-5 will make two loops around for their walk
 - f. Friday: Emergency drill for the full school
 - g. Spotlight on Education: Our children have difficulty dealing with stress.
Introduction to the "Grit Scale"
Grit- The ability to persevere; to overcome adversity; how well you face challenges.
12 question survey administered by Ms. Dunne which measures your grit
-Faculty has taken the grit survey; Dunne asks how our children would answer this survey. Struggle is part of the learning process, and you need to be able to overcome adversity and be resilient. Teachers are modeling this behavior for their students. Students do wordles everyday
-Word of the week: Encounter; Next week's word: Struggle
We are trying to prevent mental health issues in the future.
Parent Question: What can we do at home?
Tell your children how smart they are GETTING not how smart they are. Focus on effort and not the outcome. Make sure your feedback is accurate. Don't allow them to give up when things are tough. Let the kids struggle a little. Think about the vernacular we use when providing feedback to our children.

V. Assistant Principal's Report: Mr. Minerva not present. Things are hunky-dory

VI. Teacher Liason's Report: Ms. Jalfin

- Discusses new curriculum utilized: 7 Habits of Healthy Kids: Focusing on a different habit every month. Setting a goal and following through with that goal. Children will not realize they are learning a "habit."
- Final class parent contact list was emailed

VII. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Rosner: Everything hunky-dory. Discussing expansion project at tomorrow's meeting. Great 75th Anniversary Festival; thank you for all you do!

VIII. President's Report: Julie Leake and Allison Vardakis

- Pink McVey Tshirt: Breast Cancer Awareness: Would like to donate proceeds to a Breast Cancer Nonprofit
Motion by Julie Leake: *Motion to have all the proceeds from the sale of pink shirts donated to a Breast Cancer nonprofit organization*
Approved: Michelle Robertson
Second: Jennifer Reinhardt
Donation Vote Passed
- School Of Excellence Survey: How we can make McVey better and work with teachers and the community; please fill out the survey and let me know if you did not receive it
- Committee Chairperson and Class Parent Committee: An email will go out to all chairpersons and email will be sent to every class parent; Email will offer assistance and support
- 75th Anniversary Fall Festival: Went over great! Corn maze and hayride were a great success

IX. VP Report: Karen Heckman & Taleen Krug- Nothing to report

X. Secretary Report: Amy Ramnarine & Jessica Shea- Nothing to report

XI. Committee Reports:

- Membership: Karen Heckman Goal: 604 members; Currently: 444
- Access & Curriculum: Amy Ramnarine, Allison Vardakis & Lily Chan: Meeting tomorrow at 9:30 at the Salisbury school and McVey will be featured
- Arts & Education: Amy Ramnarine & Andrea Yorek: Andrea is taking over Arts & Education next year. Cory the dribbler coming in November (maybe the 11th). Jared Campbell is booked for the end of the year. We love Jared and his positive message. Several different grades asked for mad science assemblies so we will work with Ms. Dunne on this. Possible Kindergarten inclusion in this event. Every grade gets their own special event.
- Safety & Transportation: Jennifer Reinhardt: First meeting is tomorrow. Once a week 8:30-9:30 they walk around the hallways. Need fans for the gym installed; Traffic on Franklin has been great. Locks on all doors are installed. All is well.
- 5th Grade Committee: Amy Ramnarine & Taleen Krug: First Smencil sale and pretzel sale at Fall Festival; First in-school Smencil sale the end of September. End of October there will be another Smencil sale. Glow items will be sold at the Halloween Howl
- World's Finest Chocolate Sale: David Molina, Vanessa Molina & Sue Arias: Runs from 9/9-10/10; Pay for your chocolate if you haven't already. Reach out to chairs if you want to sell more chocolate

- g. Fall Photos: Julie Leake & Amy Ramnarine: Picture Retake Day November 21; super smooth; schedule completed by noon; so many volunteers- possible record number of people came to volunteer; Making a form to sign up for retake so that teachers are aware of which students need to retake a picture. 5th graders will receive graduation t-shirt on retake day
- h. Apparel Sale: Karen Heckman: End this Friday: Website LI Athletics Code: McVeyfall25 There are some new items on there.
- i. Reflections: Liz DeRiggi & Renee Murphy Due October 24
Reflections@mcveypta.org

Upcoming Events:

-Fall Catalog: Michelle Robertson & Siobhan Licastro: Wrapping paper and fun stuff. Coming home by the end of the week

-Unity Day: October 16: EMPTA Council selling shirts for awareness and if you ordered they will be coming home today. Memo going to parents about wearing orange on Unity Day

- Chuck E Cheese Night: Michelle Robertson & Siobhan Licastro 10/17: Children will come home that day with a flyer

- Red Ribbon Week: Fire Prevention Day: Mark and Julie Williams 10/21: Fire Safety and prevention; Trying new activity; drawing floor plan of a house and figuring out how to get out of the house if you need to; Ready to start at 9:30 and have a good number of people attending

- Wellness Walk: Danielle Mathis 10/22: New expanded walk; the whole week is spirit days; off the 21; Wellness week is when we really talk to the kids about making good decisions about their health; not doing drugs; wellness walk permission slip going out today

-Spooky Walk: Allison Vardakis, Allison Benzenberg, Dan Benzenberg & Ms. Tsouristakis: Set Up: 10/24-10/26 Takes Place: 10/27: Wishlist was posted; Please help; involves lifting and stapling and screw guns; sign up to volunteer on PTA page

-Halloween Howl: Lauren DaSilva & Julie Williams: 10/27: Flyer coming home next week; Need volunteers; will rotate volunteer schedule so you get time with your child; Need people for handling snacks, traffic in hallway; bring a non-perishable item for food pantry

-Plant Sale- Pick up starts today

-Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch: Kathleen Volpe, Jennifer Reinhardt, & Kathryn Marascia 10/29 Delivery 10/27; Stew Leonard donates cornstalks and bales of hay; volunteers needed; cute event

-Election Day Bake Sale: Colleen Rubino & Julie Leake: 11/4 While school is closed; please donate homemade baked goods; drop off at Julie Leake's house

- Fall Book Fair: Allison Vardakis & Lily Chan 11/4-11/7: Book fair is later in the year because we were waiting for two titles to come out: Dog man and Diary of a Wimpy Kid; 11/4 Booksale preview at night same day as bake sale

Motion to Adjourn: 10:50AM