

George H. McVey PTA
General Membership Meeting
February 10, 2026

Call to Order:

- I. Pledge of Allegiance: 10:02
- II. Approval of November Minutes: No corrections; Minutes stand as approved
- III. Treasurer's Report: Siobhan Licastro: Last Statement Balance (1/31/26): \$49,399.16
Current Balance (2/10/26): \$39,405.13
Recent Fundraising Income: Used Book Sale- \$275.50
Upcoming Fundraisers: Double Good Popcorn and Barnes & Noble Night
Reconciliations: November: Jennifer Reinhardt signed
December: Michelle Robertson signed
January: Ed Connolly signed
- IV. President's Report: Allison Vardakis
 - a. Nominating Committee: Determines who will be on PTA Board next school year.
Volunteers for Nominating Committee:
 - 1- Julie Williams
 - 2- Ed Connolly
 - 3- Michelle Robertson (Alternate)
 - b. National PTA Smart Talk by Norton presentation: Presentation to follow next month's meeting
 - c. Walmart and National PTA Grant: \$1250.00 grant to put toward teacher appreciation; Walmart will donate supplies
 - d. LMNT Donation: Mixed drink company: will donate beverages and be put in staff lounge
 - e. PTA Council Carnival: Would run from July 1-4 at Salisbury Center; Run by school volunteers; we will vote on this next month
Allison Vardakis: Who would run a ticket booth? No volunteers
- V. Principal's Report: Ms. Dunne
 - a. Arcademics Challenge: This is a multiplication challenge for grades 3-5; McVey took first place; beat a middle school; celebration will be hosted
 - b. Mad Science assembly was a success; thank you PTA
 - c. Looking forward to PARP
 - d. Staff Updates: Mrs. Hoskin had her baby; our beautification team worked on cafeteria A; have done some beautiful work
 - e. Character Ed Team: Held a meeting and came up with the "Character Ed Shed": Teaches us how to use tools to promote kindness; includes 6 pillars; we are working on examples of each of these pillars; we like to give the students "moment of truth" scenarios kind of like "what would you do" in a specific situation; more coming soon; the rest of the district has the pillars going up
Art Contest flyer sent home: (Question by Julie Williams): What is flyer about?
Dunne: Trying to create a story about the pillars that children can relate to; maybe the art contest can help; kindness a very abstract word; how can we make it less

abstract; children need concrete examples; team working on something tangible to use for children to relate to and understand

f. Children and social media: Egregious things happening that Dunne does not wish to repeat to parents; lack of awareness in chat groups; children are exposed to so much more now than in previous generations; big issue

g. School Construction and Safety:

i. Construction: At McVey-room 116 will become three separate units so there is more privacy for those classrooms; children who get pulled out will have a better experience; Classroom next to entrance will become pantry; room 109 will become a regular side classroom; another portion of that will become speech room; 109 will be fifth grade classroom next year

ii. New Arrival Program: Week after we get back Dunne will pilot a new arrival plan:

-Nassau County police were here this morning but morning drop-offs have been an absolute disaster; nothing seems to work; security guards are restricted because the street is not the jurisdiction of the school

-New Plan: Close exits 8 and 11 for student arrival- instead they would go in through the main entrance; the dumpsters in teachers parking lot will be relocating; busses will go through the parking lot; Bus will pull up in front of exit 8; breakfast students will go to breakfast before entering the parking lot and then the busses will pull into parking lot; Use exit 10 as the door the children go in; it will open up the front circle to arrivals all morning; Exit 3, main entrance and possibly exit 2 (Scope) will be used for walkers; if traffic flow is too much for front entrance then another entrance will be opened; One security member for one entrance (8); and internal security will be on arrival at 10 and then security in the front of building

Allison question: Can we make circle for drop off only; if you are getting out of the car you need to park?

Dunne: We have to work out some stuff but the majority of people will follow; let's see what happens with new plan; Bottom line- we will never solve problem completely; school was not designed for this many cars; this will dramatically change our safety protocols; let's give this a shot and if it stinks we will try something else; town worked with us by moving dumpsters

Jennifer Reinhardt: Has town committed to helping us through this process?

Dunne: Extra security for first couple of days; Minerva and Dunne will be out there working with people; we can't always guarantee police; we don't always get them; we don't have as many problems on Devon as on Franklin

Jennifer Reinhardt: Utility jackets for workers helping with traffic?

Dunne: I don't think it's necessary; parents recognize staff; we do have those vests so we can think about that

Reminder: Student council fundraiser at Pietro's tomorrow night and Kiwanis doing Change for a Change- collecting change; Friday is PS I Love You Day- wear purple; kindergarten 100-day celebration; Pajama day on calendar for Thursday

- VI. Assistant Principal's Report: Mr. Minerva: Dunne covered everything
- VII. Teacher Liaison's Report: Ms. Jalfin: Not much to say; Halfway point of school year; enjoy a nice February break
- VIII. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Rosner: Glad to hear about the new drop-off traffic plan; will deploy security staff and help out
Bond Presentation 2026
- a. Bond Presentation: Bond is how a school district borrows money for big ticket items not voted in the budget; we cannot complete these changes because of the price they hold; Cost: 71.5 million loan and we pay that back over time; first year has negative tax impact on residents; most \$31.81 Increased until 2036; When bond is paid off price goes down; interests rate say this is the time to do this
- First thing: Elementary schools: Safety Vestibule; bullet proof; ID swipe; buzzer controlled
- Doorknobs swapped out; one button lock; no keys; this was done at McVey already
 - Fire alarms changed: not to code; change fire alarm in all 10 buildings
 - playgrounds old and rusted; going to install sensory playgrounds; change to high grade surfaces; these are expensive; playgrounds recently redone will be left alone
- Performing Arts Improvements:
- Hello Dolly at Clarke was amazing; there is a need to redo HVAC systems and sound boards
- Athletics: Secondary school; bleachers need to be redone; add lights to football field for Friday Night Lights; Same at Clarke; Add bathrooms to high school concession stands at athletic complex; turf baseball fields; Woodland has most complaints about field; going to get brand new turf and bleachers
- Trying to put a track at Woodland: but perimeter is convoluted and we can't fit it in there; we are stuck and unable to do woodland track; would have to give up girls softball field and we can't do that; redo lockers at East Meadow high school- original locker rooms from 50's in bad shape; we need to vote on March 5; Forum February 26 at Salisbury- come and bring questions
- Nothing is final; still taking feedback
- If this goes well on 5th it goes up for state approval; this summer, we can start playgrounds; Fall 2026- fields and restrooms can start; aggressive construction timeline that wouldn't impact a lot of athletic seasons

Reinhardt: What in budget is specific to McVey?

Rosner: Fire alarms; safety vestibule; and playgrounds.

Expansion Project starts Friday: APR change starting and Rosner wants to meet with more people and reassess for expansion; still juggling a few things and still on the radar; this is a lot

different than what was planned in 2022; Rosner in touch with Dunne and PTA; this is not part of the bond; cost 4-5 million; 5.3 million in reserves for McVey but it has to be voted on.

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

X. Secretary Report: Amy Ramnarine & Jessica Shea: Nothing to report; Have a great break

XI. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership: Karen Heckman Goal: 604 members; Currently: 483
- b. Access & Curriculum: Amy Ramnarine, Allison Vardakis & Lily Chan: Jess Ugalde was there and they went over different pathways to graduation BOCES etc; Access workshop Wednesday at 7pm at Salisbury Center- navigating stress and anxiety; Next meeting is Wednesday at 9:30
- c. Advocacy: New crossing guard at Clarke; contact if any advocacy needs
- d. Arts in Education: Amy Ramnarine, Andrea Yorek & Ed Connolly:
 - i. Mad Science Assembly for 3rd grade
 - ii. Dinosaurs Rock for 1st grade (1/28)
 - iii. Marvels of Motions for 4th grade on the (2/23)
 - iv. Jared Campbell in June for all the grades
- e. Safety & Transportation: Jennifer Reinhardt: Thank you for everything done for safety of our students
- f. 5th Grade Committee: Amy Ramnarine & Taleen Krug:
 - i. Smencil Sale 2/26-27; Lots of little knick knacks for them to enjoy; prices vary from \$1
 - ii. Irish Sida bread sale (3/2-3/13)
 - iii. Fifth Grade roller skating event in the beginning of March
 - iv. Comedy Night flyer came home last week- raffles – open to all parents (3/8 at 7pm)
 - v. Pie a Teacher is in the works we are hopeful
 - vi. Movie Night April 18- Super Mario Brothers; open to everyone
- g. Cookiefest: Karen Heckman & Andrea Hanna; Kids had a great time; thank you to volunteers
- h. Used Book Sale: Kim Gonzalez & Lori Wissert went well; 2 books for \$1
- i. Popcorn: Amy Ramnarine: Flyer went out yesterday; popcorn is delicious and we get fifty percent back; scan QR code on the flyer

Upcoming Events:

-Guest Reader Day (3/6): Allison Vardakis, Amy Ramnarine, Jolene Skinner & Haze Chan: Invitations were sent out; we usually invite community members and they read to kids; we need to figure out a new date because that is the same day as the bond vote; To be continued

-PARP/Barnes & Noble Night: Karen Heckman & Alessia Silbowitz: Possibly March 27

-Founders Day (4/27): Amy Ramnarine; Three honorees voted on; at Fox Hollow; trying something new

March 10 @ 7:00pm Next Meeting

Motion to Adjourn: 11:03