

George H. McVey PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
February 11, 2025, 10:00am

- I. Call to Order: 10:05am
- II. Pledge of Allegiance: 10:06am
- III. December 2024 Minutes: Correction made to XII:h; minutes approved and stand as corrected.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Siobhan Licastro
  - a. Balance as of Last Statement Balance (01/01/2025): \$47,509.08; Current Balance (01/31/2025): \$39,508.06
- V. Principal's Report – Ms. Dunne
  - a. McVey is the 4-time defending Arcademics champions; there are several individual champions as well.
  - b. School play (High School Musical) this week; yesterday was first in-school performance.
  - c. Chess club thanks the PTA members that donated chess sets.
  - d. Kindergarten wrapped up their dance program.
  - e. ELA/Math Academies going strong; invite as many students as we can; boosters for students in ELA and Math.
  - f. Field Day theme TBA; something "wild" and will tie in with Mental Health month, being outdoors and nature.
  - g. February break is fast approaching.
  - h. Digitech Apparel online shop updated with new shirt colors.
  - i. Meeting 2 weeks ago with students grades 3-5 about device usage; teachers can see what students are doing on Chromebooks; device information can be tracked; YouTube has been disabled on student devices; there is immense oversight to make sure there is no inappropriate usage.
  - j. Spotlight on Education: papers were handed out to members; members were given 10 seconds to remember a list of "nonsense words" and were given time to write down what they remembered; teaching of learning strategies discussed when learning vocabulary.
  - k. Have a great break!
- VI. Assistant Principal's Report – Mr. Minerva
  - a. Not in attendance.
- VII. Teacher Liaison's Report – Mrs. Jalfin
  - a. We are excited for Guest Reader Day; it is very organized; the teachers liked that they were able to have a say in the timing of the readers.
  - b. Working on school supplies list for next year.
  - c. Report cards will be out in about a month or so.
  - d. Have a great break!
- VIII. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Rosner
  - a. Good news for the expansion project; finally approved for construction to start and will receive state aid; district will get back about half of what is spent; no permits yet.

- b. Not so good news, costs have increased since vote in 2022; trying to find money to fill the gap; there are no reserves to cover the extra costs.
  - c. Looking into other capital projects for McVey and around the district; putting together a master project list for the next 5 years; refreshing and replacing parts of the building.
- IX. President Reports – Allison Vardakis
  - a. In need of members to participate in the bylaws committee: Amy Ramnarine, Siobhan Licastro and Michelle Robertson volunteered.
  - b. National PTA dues are increasing which will increase the price of membership.
  - c. Current bylaws have been uploaded to the website.
  - d. Received \$1250 initial funding of the \$1500 grant awarded to us by NYS PTA in collaboration with AT&T; remaining \$250 will be awarded after our Ready, Tech, Go! presentation on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- X. Vice President Reports – Michelle Robertson
  - a. Nothing to report.
- XI. Secretary Reports – Amy Ramnarine
  - a. Have a great break!
- XII. Committee Reports –
  - a. Membership: Allison Vardakis for Karen Heckman – We are currently at 550 members.
  - b. Access & Curriculum: Amy Ramnarine & Allison Vardakis – We went into a deep dive of the Course Catalog, presented by Dr. Gerilyn Smith, Director of Guidance; we learned about the different paths a student can take in high school, and it is never too early to prepare; next meeting is on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am; anyone is welcome to attend.
  - c. Safety & Transportation: Jennifer Reinhardt – Discussed response times, building walkthroughs, bussing protocols, notifications for bus delays, playground needs and new water fountains; reach out if you have any concerns.
  - d. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee: Jennifer Reinhardt – a lot of fundraisers: Valentine pretzels (to take home); Smencil sale from 2/12-2/13; selling concessions at the school play; Tape-a-Teacher on 2/14: taping Mr. Minerva to the wall; yoga fundraiser and Irish soda bread after the break, Pura Vida bracelets in March and Smanimals.
  - e. Nominating Committee: Victoria Lango – Nominations due tomorrow.
  - f. Cookiefest – Allison Vardakis for Karen Heckman, Maureen Manis & Andrea Hanna – thank you to the volunteers.
  - g. Clothing Drive: Allison Vardakis for Julie Leake – Clothing Drive ran from 12/9 to 1/11; collected 2,818 pounds of clothes and raised \$563.60; this committee is looking for new chairpeople.
  - h. Used Books: Allison Vardakis for Kim Gonzalez & Lori Wissert – held on 1/9 and 1/10 during lunch periods; raised \$645.65; books were 2/\$1; in need of chapter books.
  - i. Double Good Popcorn: Amy Ramnarine: Sale raised \$696 and ran for 10 days.
- XIII. Upcoming Events
  - a. GOAT Hoodie Sale: Amy Ramnarine – GOAT sale will run from 2/17 to 3/3; hoodies available in Youth and Adult sizes and in 3 different colors; delivery at the end of March.
  - b. Guest Reader Day: Allison Vardakis & Amy Ramnarine – Guest Reader Day is on 3/6 during PARP; readers invited to read to students; 2 readers per classroom.

- c. PARP/Barnes & Noble Night: Karen Heckman, Laura Vegas & Alessia Silbowitz – theme is “Wild About Reading” and runs from 3/4-3/14; ends with Barnes & Noble Night on 3/14 from 5:30-8pm.
- d. Founders Day: Amy Ramnarine – Founders Day Dinner will take place on 4/28 at Leonard’s Palazzo in Great Neck; we are excited to celebrate our honorees; dinner invitations being sent out soon; please consider purchasing a journal ad to congratulate our honorees; money raised at dinner will go towards high school scholarships.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn: 10:56am

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