

**Draft Minutes
PTA Meeting
November 7, 2011**

Speaker: Miguel Villarrea, Director of Nutritional Services, Novato Unified School District

In attendance: Kate Boyd, Antoinette Butts, Susan Cook, Elizabeth Fee, Carlin Finke, Janet Hayes, Tena Jackson, Jennifer Mattox, Anita Morris, Jason Sutter, Marjorie Turrel

I. Meeting Called to order at 7:26pm by Kate Boyd

II. Susan Cook motioned to approve the September minutes, Jason Sutter second the motion.. There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.

III. Friends of McNear updates from Jason Sutter.

A. Distribution of money raised by the next fundraiser, April 2012, will be distributed as follows:

1. \$3000 to Renaissance Place,
2. \$1000 to playground,
3. \$3000 to computer lab.
4. The rest of the money will go to “hands on” science, art and emergency preparedness.

B. Last year’s FOM money is earmarked for technology. To be purchased:

1. Webspiration, a writing process program to help student create reports, and can be accessed on line from classroom, computer lab or home.

Webspiration Classroom™ is the online diagramming, graphic organizer, mind mapping and outlining tool for writing, brainstorming and collaboration, designed specifically to meet the needs of students, teachers and schools.

As a full-service diagram and outline maker with storage in the cloud, Webspiration Classroom’s visual thinking and learning tools provide students with necessary writing support to improve performance on Language Arts assessments, while giving them the tools they need to evaluate, synthesize and retain information across the curriculum.

Webspiration Classroom teaches students how to develop their ideas, beginning in the brainstorming stage the entire way through to an organized, polished project. (from the website: <http://www.inspiration.com/webspirationclassroom>)

2. Dragon Speak – voice recognition software for students who need it.

<http://www.nuance.com/for-individuals/by-industry/education-solutions/index.htm>

3. Outfitting Room 18 with White Board, 2 new teacher computers, 6-8 student computers in classrooms.

IV. Walk to Read program for 4th through 6th graders is an opportunity for differentiated instruction. Four days per week, for 30 minutes, the children will get Language Art instruction at their specific assessed level. This is pilot program and will be continuously evaluated. Children may be moved after the assessment periods to meet their instructional needs.

V. A request was made that potentially sensitive police notices showed be folded in a sealed envelope to be included in the Wednesday envelope, to avoid students reading the notices without a parent's input.

VI. Are there opportunities outside the classroom or school day to take Accelerated Reader quizzes? Jason Sutter suggested talking to the classroom teacher about a parent supervising students in computer lab when it is available during the school day. Lab stays open until 3:30. It would be possible to coordinate time for students to take the AR tests.

VII. "Friends of McNear" as a fundraising tool is no longer necessary. After discussion, Kate Boyd moved to absorb FOM committee into the PTA. If approved all FOM efforts would now be considered PTA efforts. Antoinette Butts seconded the motion. Kate Boyd moved to appoint Liz Foote as VP for Fundraising. Susan Cook seconded the motion.. There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Antoinette Butts motioned to add \$300 line item to PTA budget for tax preparation. Anita Morris seconded the motion. . There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Announcements:

1. McNear Wear Pull Over Hoodies are available for purchase in the office.
2. Jamba Juice EScrip cards are available in the office.

X. Discussion: McNear wear for all. Anita Morris is coordinating the effort to produce T-shirts for every student at McNear A corporate sponsor would allow the shirt to be given to each child for free. Project approved by PTA and Jason Sutter.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm..