



**Board Members**

**President:** Susan Pastir  
**Principal:** Dr. Sasha Slocum  
**Treasurer:** Joe Cole  
**VPs of Fundraising:** Ana Mota & Jeff Petrella  
**VPs of Programming:** Shannyn Johnston & Sonal Agrahari  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Nicole Kobis  
**Recording Secretary:** Nicole Sharkey  
**McGinn Staff Representatives:** TBD

**William J. McGinn PTA**

William J. McGinn Elementary School  
1100 Roosevelt Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
Phone: (908) 233-7950  
Fax: (908) 233-6766  
[SusanMcGinnPTA@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMcGinnPTA@gmail.com)  
<https://www.spfk12.org/McGinn>

**William J. McGinn PTA**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes: APPROVED 5/17/24**

**Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 7:30pm**

**Establishing a Quorum:**

See sign up sheet.

**Call to Order/Welcome:**

7:35pm

**Approval of Minutes: (Only if we have a quorum)**

Susan: Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from September’s General Membership meeting?

1st: Nicole Kobis

2nd: Lauren Murphy

Susan: The minutes are approved.

**Principal’s Report:**

*“Giving connects two people, the giver and the receiver, and this connection gives birth to a new sense of belonging.” - Deepak Chopra*

<p><b>WELCOME to the 2023-24 School Year!!!</b> <b>Welcome 549 McGinn Dragons</b></p>
<p><b>1. CONGRATULATIONS on a Great Opening! Students, Parents and Teachers</b></p>
<p><b>2. NEW and RETURNING STAFF MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ayleen Noriega - Kindergarten</li> <li>❖ Kelly Schmidt - 2nd Grade</li> <li>❖ Robert Walters - Instructional Aide</li> <li>❖ Maria Baiada - Main Office Clerk</li> <li>❖ Patricia Shanberg - Lunch Aide</li> <li>❖ Alexa Aldredge - Student Teacher, HPE</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. SPECIAL THANKS to the Whole McGinn Community!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Johnnie Riddick, Keith Cadogan, Giovanni Fornino</li> <li>❖ Neelambari Save, Cheryl Ward and Maria Baiada</li> </ul>





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- ❖ The PTA for preparing us with homework folders, subscriptions, agendas, volunteer opportunities for our families, Dunkin' gift cards, \$75 towards school supplies - and the most beautiful Welcome Back luncheon!
- ❖ Teachers for a fabulous kickoff to the year!

### **4. CURRICULUM**

- ❖ Back-to-School Night was well-attended and so beautifully positive! Thank you for the wonderful feedback!
- ❖ Socio-Emotional Learning - Morning meeting is scheduled across all classrooms this year.
- ❖ Curriculum
  - ❖ Everyday Math curriculum
  - ❖ Teacher's College Readers and Writers Workshop; Foundations and Words Their Way
  - ❖ FOSS experiments
  - ❖ Social Studies
- ❖ Assessments - MAP (9/26 - 10/13), **COGAT**, NAEP, NJSLA
- ❖ We have begun teacher observations.
- ❖ [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) – September 15 – October 15
- ❖ [Diversity Book Challenge](#)

### **5. TECHNOLOGY**

- ❖ Google Classroom is available for teachers to communicate with families.
- ❖ First grade iPads are in process of being initialized.
- ❖ Kindergartens will receive five iPads each.
- ❖ Use of technology will be sparing

### **6. GARDENS**

- ❖ We still have many veggies and some raspberries left to pick.
- ❖ We are ready to set up a clean up time.
- ❖ Celebration for Owen Wasik and Troop #33 will take place on October 18th after school. **Nicole Sharkey suggested we target the cub scouts at McGinn for attendance.**

### **7. FAMILY COMMUNICATION**

- ❖ Google Classroom, McGinn Website, Teacher Newsletters
- ❖ Swiftk12.org School Communications, PTA eblast, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook
- ❖ [McGinn Family Culture Survey](#) **Global Family Night is moved to a Thursday night this year.**

### **8. MCGINN/DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- ❖ **Be Kind**
- ❖ **Be Fair**
- ❖ **Be Responsible**
- ❖ **Be Respectful**
- ❖ **Be Helpful**
- ❖ **Be Safe**





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#### 9. SCHOOL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

- ❖ **School Climate Committee** - HIB training and planning, School Culture
- ❖ **Health and Wellness Committee** - Plan events, such as fitness days and PE Week
- ❖ **McGinn Gardens Committee** - We will start to meet once a month.
- ❖ **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee** - Assess how we are including all families and students and design programs
- ❖ **School Improvement Panel (SCIP)** - Works on GEOY and PD and school/district improvement goals

#### 10. GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

- ❖ Deadline to Nominate an Educator - **November 1, 2023**
- ❖ [Eligibility criteria](#)
- ❖ [Nomination Form](#)

#### 11. AROUND THE DISTRICT

- ❖ Upcoming district event - [I Don't Know What I Don't Know About Sports](#) - Ryan Miller's research
- ❖ [Holiday Cards for Our Military challenge](#) **Possible Partnership with PTA.**
- ❖ Spacing - Options for more classroom space being discussed **Referendum coming. Looking for state incentives.**

#### 12. MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Right At School is improving. **They have more staff now.**
- ❖ School pictures went well. If your child needs to retake a picture or needs one, you can go to Reflections Studio in Scotch Plains.
- ❖ **Start with Hello Week** tied in nicely with our Schoolwide Morning Meetings.
- ❖ Emergency Drills - We had our first one last week.
- ❖ Fire Drills - We also had our first one last week.
- ❖ Job opportunities - We need substitutes and lunch aides and welcome your participation!
- ❖ Halloween is October 31st

## Old Business:

### Programming (Reported on by Sonal Agrahari/Shannyn Johnston:

**New Student Scavenger Hunt** - The New Student Scavenger hunt was held on Tuesday, September 5th from 2:15-3pm. It was a great opportunity for new students and families to become familiar with the various landmarks in the school, sign up for the PTA eBlasts, MobileArq and to meet Dr. Slocum. Green personalized pencils with McGinn Elementary were given out.





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**First Day of School** - We hired Card in the Garden, lawn sign company, for the first day of school for the students to take pictures as they walk into school. One for the front of the school main entrance and one for the back by door 9.

**Party on the Blacktop** - Our annual POTB was Sept 22nd at 6:30pm. Jenn Kutchinski was the chair. We had a little over 766 registered attendees. The movie was The Super Mario Bros, families ordered from Fabio's Bistro, Hershey's Deli, and Max's. Kona Ice Truck and Chillin' Out Ice Cream Truck were dessert trucks. Summit Soundz was the DJ, Swank for the licensing. We used Officer Tom as security. And officer Ostrowski set up the floodlights. **Kona is giving us 10% of the profit for the night: \$100.**

**Kindergarten Picnic** - The kindergarten picnic was Thursday, Sept 21st. Kinder families were invited to enjoy a picnic dinner outside of McGinn on the main entrance to mix and mingle with other families. Great turn out! The 4th grade parents graciously donated desserts by signing up on a sign up genius sent out a few weeks ago; not all who signed up dropped off their donations.

**PTA Reflections Art Program** - Kicked off the week of Sept 18th. Mary Athungal is the chair. Students can create and submit original works of art in the areas of dance, choreography, photography, and visual arts in this cultural arts competition. The theme this year is, "I Am Hopeful Because...". Deadline for submission is November 20th.

**\*And Music too.**

### **IHM Food Pantry Food Drive-**

Karen Chen and Erin Decker are taking the lead on our Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) food bank collection every other month this year. The dates for this year are: 9/18-9/22, 11/13-11/16, 1/15-1/18, 3/18-3/21 and 5/12-5/16. McGinn families will have the opportunity to donate non-perishable food items and toiletries to one of several designated locations **Door 2**. Items will be delivered on the Friday of each week to the food pantry. The first session was a success. The 4th graders will help advertise the future events.

### **Room Parents (Nicole Kobis)**

Room Parents were chosen already. We had over 100 parents interested in being selected which was an overwhelming response. We have a meeting on 10/2 for the room parents. **27 classrooms.**

### **Fundraising (Reported on by Ana Mota/Jeff Petrella):**

#### **McGinn Magnets & Blanket sale @POTB:**

Received \$155 in profit from sale.





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### **Fall 2023 Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt**

Received in profit from sales of shirts, blankets and magnets: \$309.

### **Fall 2023 School Photos**

*Chairs: Sara Taner & Lisa Marcus*

School photos were held on 9/18 & 9/19. Class photos were a hit! Details will be provided at an upcoming PTA meeting.

### **Fall 2023 Spirit Apparel**

*Chair: Michele Sobel & Naomi DelMastro*

Sale closed 9/18. Received \$604 in profit from sale.

**Mums Sale Pick Up** – details are in the New Business Section

**Fall Fun Color Run**– details are in the New Business Section

### **Membership (Nicole Sharkey)**

We made the decision to offer 2-adult memberships with just an easy click in the MobileArq store and it has helped! We are at 301 members at the time of creating this report, which is especially exciting because we only hit 300 total members in June last year. This year our donations are also up. We have \$480 so far and someone is pursuing having their company match their donation! Wow!

## **New Business:**

### **Programming (Susan Pastir):**

- Reflections Arts Program
  - The Reflections Arts Program kicked off on September 18th with our ad in the weekly Sunday eblast. This year the theme is “I am hopeful because...”. Students are encouraged to respond to this theme through a variety of art forms including visual arts, dance, literature, music, photography and film. The deadline to enter is November 20th. Mary Cherian is our chairperson. We may look for teachers to promote this program in their classrooms by sharing a poster to display. **Request a flyer to hang up in classrooms. Dr. Slocum said this could happen.**
- Walk to School





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Shannyn and Sonal have begun planning for our annual Walk-to-School Day that will take place on October 4th. We will have three different meeting places - the top of the back path, the corner of Trenton and Martine, and the parking lot by the Kramer Manor tennis courts. Councilperson and McGinn parent, Matt Adams, has accepted the invitation to meet us at the Kramer manor parking lot near the tennis courts to walk to school with the children. Flame most likely will also make an appearance. We may look for staff members to meet at one of the three meeting places to make the experience extra special for kids. **8:15 meeting time.**

- Week of Respect & Assembly
  - McGinn's Week of Respect will run from Monday, October 2nd through Friday, October 6th. We will continue to place an emphasis on practicing kindness with various suggested activities planned throughout the week, one being "chalk kindness" while the kids are outside for recess on Wednesday, October 4th. Is this ok?
  - We are excited to host the Building Character through a Hip Hop Assembly with DJ Reggie on Wednesday Oct 4th for the Week of Respect. The assembly will include grade level appropriate discussions about anti-bullying and showing respect for each other with responsible choices. Nicole Castellano is our assembly chair and found this program last spring. They will arrive at 8am. The shows are scheduled for grades K-2 from 9:00-9:45 and grades 3-4 from 10:00-10:45.
- 4th Grade update
  - This year Katie Smith, Suzi Pellegrino, and Rachel Nudel-Feldman are in charge of the committee for Fourth Grade activities. Sub committee positions have been appointed and accepted.
  - Parental Consent Forms and Parent Volunteer Interest Forms were shared to 4th grade families. They are currently gathering those responses from families as well as payments. We have about 80% of the forms and fees collected so far. They are due on Friday, September 29th.
  - The committee is working to finalize the logo and t-shirt which will be shared in the coming days. Sharing Lunches will be their Service Learning Project this year. The committee will reach out to the 4th grade teachers in the coming weeks to coordinate. Mrs. Cacciatore is our fourth grade teacher liaison. The 4th Grade Volunteer Meeting is on the calendar for Monday, October 23rd at 7:00pm. **The theme is Broadway. They are working on the design for the shirts.**
- Wellness Nights
  - We have three dates for Family Wellness Nights. This is a new addition to our Programming Events this year.
    - 11/14 at 6:30pm Myke Washington will be introducing us to TaeKwonDo and giving a brief history of the martial art. **45 minute session.**
    - The other dates will be 2/6 and 4/30





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- Amanda Marchica will be hosting an evening of Yoga and Kathy Fritz will be hosting an evening of family fitness.
- We are thinking about giveaways for this event, such as McGinn towels for the first registrants.
- October Sharing Lunches,
  - Sara Taner is again organizing this wonderful community event. There will be five sharing lunches collections this year and each month one of the fourth grade classes will be in charge of creating programs to advertise for the day, making morning announcements, collecting the lunches from the halls and sorting the lunches.
- Halloween Costume Drive
  - Kelly Sacchetti paired up with Shannyn and Sonal to bring a Halloween Costume Drive to McGinn during the days of October 2nd and 3rd. New and gently used costumes can be dropped off in front of the MPR door and will be brought to UCCYC of Rahway. It has been advertised on the PTA FB page and in the eblast. **Door 2.**
- November Food & Coat Drives
  - Karen Sullivan and Erin Decker will be running our Thanksgiving Food Drive in November from the 13th-16th. Food will be delivered that Friday to the IHM food pantry.
  - Kelly Sacchetti is chairing the Coat Drive that will be held from 11/27-11/29. Coats will be delivered to UCCYC of Rahway.
- December Author Visit: Audrey Vernick
  - McGinn's author visit is scheduled for Monday, December 4th. The committee, in conjunction with Mr. Lohn in the spring, selected Audrey Vernick to visit McGinn. A contract has already been signed. Meaghan Eschbacher and Sarah Breivogel have created the flyer and the sale of books will run from October 1st through Oct 20th. Students will also have the opportunity to fill out an entry form to win lunch with Audrey. **The entry form consists of coming up with 5 adjectives to describe yourself.**

### **Fundraising (Susan Pastir):**

- Mums Sale Pick Up
  - Mums will be available for pickup on Thursday, September 28th from 3-4:30pm. We made \$956.50, exceeding our budget projection of \$600 and surpassing last year's sales!
- October & November Pretzel Sales
  - Our first pretzel sale is happening this week and pretzels will be distributed on Friday, October 6th. Dina Lindner is chairing the sales again this year.
- Fall Fun Color Run





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- We already have over 330 children signed up to participate! There will be bright colors and bracelets this year. The DJ has been contacted and 250 shirts have been ordered. Dina Lindner is also chairing this event again. We need to discuss safety plans for the younger children. We plan to have fourth grade helpers lead the Kindergarten students on their own for the first few minutes of the event and then release each subsequent grade in two minute intervals. A volunteer signup for throwing color, directing children and giving out bracelets will go out soon. We encourage teachers and staff to participate at one of the stations if they have time on the afternoon of Friday, October 13th. **The plan is to have the children run in heats.**
- Lego Club; Coding Classes
  - Dr. Mast approved PTA sponsored stipends for two teachers to lead our after school enrichments this year, Lego Engineering and Coding Classes. We will be putting together a posting for an enrichment chair as soon as we have dates for these classes. **Mr. Lohn and Ms. Gonzalez will be running the two programs.**
- November Pie Sale
  - Andrea Quintanilla is chairing our pie sale for November. She has reached out to Dreyer's to find out their offerings and pricings for this year. More information to come. The pie sale pickup date is 11/21 from 3:10-4:30pm.
- Book Fair
  - Our Book Fair will be held from 11/14-11/17 with Wednesday the 15th being our Family Night from 6:20-8:00pm. Dawn Weinstein and Alli Kagan will be chairing this event. Jeff and Ana will be reaching out to them shortly. **Since this will be taking place in the gym during one of our wellness nights, we will host the wellness night in the MPR.**

## **Looking Ahead:**

### **Programming (Susan):**

- Bingo Night
  - Bingo Night will be hosted at McGinn on Friday, January 12th from 7pm-8pm. We will be collecting donated toys for this event, but I already have many leftovers from last year in my basement. We will be encouraging pre-registration for this always well attended event.
- Global Family Night
  - Global Family Night will be on Thursday, January 25th this year. Families will be encouraged to bring their favorite family recipes for a potluck dinner. Pavlina Perry and Alexandra Casanova will be chairing the event. They will be reaching out to find entertainment for the night soon. They will also be meeting in November to plan more





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details of the event. A parent recently expressed an interest in helping out with planning the educational aspects of this night while she was filling out the McGinn Family Culture Survey. **Ms. Fuerst has volunteered to help with this event again.**

### **Fundraising (Susan):**

- Breakfast with Flame
  - Breakfast with Flame is being held on Saturday, December 2nd from 9am-11am. We will once again have two seatings, which parents will register for ahead of time. We are happy to have Dom Cody and Andrew Flavin back as our chairs and captains for the WG cooks. **We will be looking for a chair for the activities/crafting portion of the event.** More on this to come.
- Family Skate Night
  - Family Skate night will once again be held at the rink in Westfield. It will be on Saturday, February 10th from 5:30-7:15pm. Kelly Sacchetti, our chairperson, has already reserved the rink for this day and time.
- Parent Social
  - Nina Durante and Jamie Glickman are the parent social chairs this year. Allison Sanchez and Kair Gebauer will be in charge of the tricky tray portion of the night. We will be having our first parent social meeting on Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30pm. The tentative date is Saturday, February 24th and the tentative venue is Shackamaxon G&CC. **Dancing vs. Casino? We shall see.**

## **Treasurer's Report:**

**Joe:** See spreadsheet from our previous meeting (attached)

## **Unfinished Business, Questions, Comments, Announcements:**

**Susan:** Final comments and opens the floor.

**Mike Searles:** Could there be a Music Diversity component to the Diverse Reading each month? Diverse instruments perhaps? (Dr. Slocum thanked Mike for the suggestion/reminder and said





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that Ms. Filipski incorporates lots of diversity into her classes and song choices. Someone else noted the diverse music at the Global Family Night.)

Joe brought up the idea that a football super bowl pool is an easy way to raise lots of money. (This has been brought up in the past and it is not something the PTA is allowed to do. Nicole Kobis mentioned there are ways around it because something similar was done at the JCC. The PTA can't "host" it, but they can accept a donation from one.)

Joe brought up the idea that there could be a special olympics. (Dr. Slocum said that was something that the SEPAG/district level would pursue.)

**Susan:** Finally, we would like to introduce Kori Rushton who has been nominated to serve as the Co-Treasurer.

We will now ask for a membership vote that the PTA Executive Board position of Co-Treasurer be filled with Kori Rushton.

All those in favor?

Is anyone opposed? (No)

Thank you!

### **Installation Ceremony**

(Kori, please respond with *I WILL* after each question.)

Kori, will you, as an officer of the William J. McGinn Parent Teacher Association hold the welfare of our children and youth paramount in all you do? "I will" -Kori

Will you represent the William J. McGinn PTA, the New Jersey PTA and the National PTA so that the dignity and worth of parent-teacher work may be upheld before the community to the honor of those who have elected you? "I will" -Kori

**Congratulations!** Welcome to the McGinn PTA Executive Board!





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**Adjournment:**

Susan, "Can I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?"

First: Lauren Murphy

Second: Nicole Kobis

Susan: Meeting is adjourned at 8:37pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Nicole Sharkey**

**Recording Secretary**







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A	B	C	D	E	F
	<b>BUDGET</b>		Actual	Actual	
	2023-2024		Income	Expense	Profit
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Audit/Tax & State Filings/Software/Directory	-\$200			-\$100.00	-\$100.00
Bank Service Charges	-\$50.00				\$0.00
Constant Contact (e-blasts)	-\$378.00				\$0.00
MobileArq (family directory / online store)	-\$700.00			\$700.00	\$700.00
Copying Charges	-\$50.00				\$0.00
County PTA Dues	-\$50.00				\$0.00
District PTA Dues	-\$135.00				\$0.00
Insurance	-\$375.00				\$0.00
PayPal & Amazon Business Prime	-\$2,600.00			-\$3.45	-\$3.45
Postage & Supplies	-\$50.00				\$0.00
President's Discretionary Fund	-\$750.00				\$0.00
<b>ADMINISTRATION TOTALS</b>	<b>-\$5,338</b>				\$596.55
<b>PROGRAMMING/SERVICES</b>					
Assignment Pads & Folders	-\$2,000.00				\$0.00
Author Visit	-\$2,500.00				\$0.00
Bingo Night	-\$50.00				\$0.00
Cultural Arts (Assemblies, In-School Field Tr	-\$5,000.00				\$0.00
SPF PTA Council Expenses	-\$950.00				\$0.00
Field Day	-\$150.00				\$0.00
Fourth Grade Activities	-\$2,000.00				\$0.00
Garden/Beautification	-\$500.00				\$0.00
Global Family Night	-\$500.00				\$0.00
Hospitality: Back to School	-\$100.00			-\$199.00	-\$199.00
Hospitality: Back to School Staff Lunch	-\$500.00				\$0.00
Hospitality: Kindergarten Picnic	\$0.00				\$0.00
Hospitality: Scavenger Hunt	\$0.00		\$763.00	\$463.70	299.3
Hospitality: Staff Appreciation Week	-\$800.00				\$0.00





**Board Members**

**President:** Susan Pastir  
**Principal:** Dr. Sasha Slocum  
**Treasurer:** Joe Cole  
**VPs of Fundraising:** Ana Mota & Jeff Petrella  
**VPs of Programming:** Shannyn Johnston & Sonal Agrahari  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Nicole Kobis  
**Recording Secretary:** Nicole Sharkey  
**McGinn Staff Representatives:** TBD

**William J. McGinn PTA**  
 William J. McGinn Elementary School  
 1100 Roosevelt Avenue  
 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
 Phone: (908) 233-7950  
 Fax: (908) 233-6766  
[SusanMcGinnPTA@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMcGinnPTA@gmail.com)  
<https://www.spfk12.org/McGinn>

A	B	C	D	E	F
	<b>BUDGET</b>		Actual	Actual	
	2023-2024		Income	Expense	Profit
Hospitality: Staff Appreciation Week	-\$800.00				\$0.00
Hospitality: Valentine's Staff Breakfast	-\$232.00				\$0.00
Nurse	-\$100.00				\$0.00
Party on the Blacktop Movie Night	-\$1,780.00				\$0.00
Sharing Lunches	-\$250.00				
SPFHS Scholarship	-\$4,000.00				\$0.00
School & Classroom Gifts (hospitality misc e	-\$1,000.00				0.00
Student Council	-\$400.00				\$0.00
Student Subscriptions(Scholastic/Time for Ki	-\$4,300.00				\$0.00
Super Science Saturday	-\$800.00				\$0.00
Teacher Amazon Wish List	\$0.00				\$0.00
Think Purple Week	-\$350.00				\$0.00
Week of Respect	\$0.00				\$0.00
<b>PROGRAMMING/SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$28,262</b>			\$264.70	\$100.30
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$33,600</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>			\$868.70	\$868.70
<b>Last Year Roll over (2022)</b>			\$10,922.13		
PNC as of 06/30/2023					
PNC O/S Checks					
QB Balance					
<b>Current Year Rollover</b>			\$26,558.74		
Cash in hand					
Plus Expected Income			\$0.00		
Total Income			\$0.00		
Less Expected Expense					
<b>Net available</b>			\$0.00		
<b>Amount to rollover</b>					\$0.00



