Unapproved MNES PTO Minutes
September 9, 2021

Call to Order - Co-President Jenny Kaniecki called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm in the MNE library.

President's Remarks – Introductions from Officers. Asked attendees for introductions. There were no other remarks.

Principal's Remarks - Mr. Feldman - Tomorrow is 3 weeks back to school! About 98% of students are back in the building. We have more students in the building than ever. The 5th graders are doing well in Panorama. Outdoor tents for students to eat lunch outside. The start seems more stressful than last year, but we are learning a lot and doing well!

Approval of Minutes - The minutes were presented from the May 2021 meeting. Motion for approval was made by Nicole Craft and seconded by Kari Allat. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report - The treasurer's report was presented. Motion for approval was made by Nicole Craft and seconded by Amanda Nyman. The motion was unanimously approved.

Funding Requests -

Budget for Fun Run – In the past, we've had $1,000 for the budget. We'll be purchasing prizes, items to incentivize the kids, printing the packets. If we purchase water bottles, we'd likely need about 500-600 bottles. With the addition of water bottles, we'd like to request $1,500. Motion by Kari Allart to approve, second Andrea Snyder. The motion was unanimously approved.

Any other Requests?

- none

Committee Reports –

- Fun Run- Nicole Craft
  - All students run for about 15 minutes. We usually have a DJ and family to encourage them. (Possibly some Penn State Football team members and the mascot will join!)
  - Fun Run will take place October 15. This is the main fundraiser MNE PTO will have this year.
  - Would like to establish some sub-committees to help organize. If you'd like to help, please contact Nicole at funrun.mne@gmail.com
  - Teacher competition (funny outfits - let kids vote and the teacher wins a prize)
  - Prizes for kids - in the past, we've done "highest earner" which hasn't been great. We've also done raffles (each kid gets a ticket), but this became difficult to organize. This year, streamlined to the teacher's classroom -- each class gets prizes and the teacher pulls names for 5-10 prizes.
  - Request for volunteers to count money the day of the event. We tend to get a lot of cash the day of the Fun Run.
  - Our fundraising goal will be $10,000. We are still looking for a challenge for Mr. Feldman.

    - We have calls out to the Fire department and Spikes. If you know any local businesses, please let us know! (Offer monetary donations; offer to come and get the kids excited) MNE PTO is tax exempt.
    - Parent Volunteers (or parent visitors) should expect to be masked. Clearances are not required for parents to attend the Fun Run.
- Yearbook - Martha Sherman and April Cockburn
    - Martha and April will be working on yearbooks this year.
    - mneyearbook@gmail.com
    - Each 5th grade student receives a free copy of the yearbook.
- Book Fairs - Marnie Kocher
    - The first book fair will be the week of School Conferences (as in the past, in the front lobby).
    - PTO will receive a significant amount from sales, including some "Scholastic dollars" which helps to fund the Scholastic Magazine.
    - Volunteers needed (clearances required).
- Helping Hands - Tiffany Myers
    - Looking for volunteers from October through December. Volunteers help gather donations; help sort; help deliver; etc.
    - Serves MNE families needing extra help. Some items provided include: food, personal care, holiday gifts, etc.
    - Contact Tiffany Myers or Jenny Kaniecki /Danielle Kaniecki if you are interested
- Marianna's Hoagie Sale -Jenny Kaniecki
    - Not able to select Halloween because of no-school days and Halloween on Sunday. So, we have a delivery date of Tuesday, Nov 23 (at MNE All Purpose Room).
    - Need volunteers to help sort from 3:00 to 6:00 pm Tuesday, November 23.
- Restaurant Nights - Jocelyn Pezalski
    - The first restaurant night will be Thursday, Sept 30 from 4-8 at Wings over Happy Valley (includes Take out!)
    - This year, we are making sure locations offer take out.
    - Possible future locations include: Jersey Mike's; Angelo's; Chipotle's; Cold Stone Creamery
    - Closer to May, perhaps we could do a Food Truck/Dessert Truck.
- Kindergarten Connection - Kari Allat; Amanda Nyman
    - Just starting and working on ideas
    - [posted on MNE PTO Facebook Sept 16] First Kindergarten connection will be September 26 from 10:00 to 11:30 am at Fasik Memorial Park.
- Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation - CHAIR NEEDED
    - Idea this year to combine these committees.
    - Benjamin's Catering has offered to throw a banquet for teachers.
    - Custodian day is October 2, we'd like to try and do something for custodial staff.
    - Martha Sherman and Heather Benjamin offered to be co-chairs
- 5th Grade Party - CHAIR NEEDED
    - Susan Ishamel has offered to lead
    - We will look at details closer to date
- Exploration Fair- **CHAIR NEEDED**
    - We will first need to determine whether we can have the fair this year**.**
    - We will need to make a decision by the first of January for a February Fair.
- Library Events - Dustin Brackbill

    - Dustin is currently looking for ways to promote reading through events; and looking at visiting author options.
- Spiritwear- Danielle Kaniecki
    - We have a store open now. Closes on Sept 15. We want to have orders in before the Fun Run.
    - Items will be delivered to MNE and then distrubuted.
    - A request for options for slim cut and women's cut shirts, especially for teachers/staff.
    - We also have some magnets available for sale.
- Mrs. Ulba Memorial Fund
    - Currently, the account has a balance of $1,700.
    - Originally, the thought was to use the fund to purchase school supplies for MNE students. However, PTO has covered the cost of school supplies for the last few years.
    - Perhaps we could purchase something that could be longer lasting, such as a walkway for the garden. (We do already have retiree bricks near there.) Perhaps a bench? Can we incorporate Penn State? Perhaps rename the garden in memory of Ms. Ulba.
    - Dedication ceremony. Perhaps a spring-time event.
        - Nancy's birthday - April 12 (Tuesday)
- Other Committees
    - Clothing Drive will be held at the beginning of December. Jocelyn is leading, but looking for volunteers. We are coordinating with MNMS (Mount Nittany Middle School)

<u>Looking Forward</u>

- PTO Directory information requests coming soon (Kerrie)
    - Form is ready to go.
    - We will work on the directory over the next month.
- Possible spring fundraising ideas
    - Seed fundraiser - easy for us, because we can set it up and "forget it"; would need to be in February
    - Spring Marianna's - maybe April-ish.

Next meeting is October 14 (may change because Fun Run is the next day). Location To be determined

Motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Snyder and seconded by Nicole Craft. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kerrie Ferchalk September 16, 2021