Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
September 18, 2014

Minutes

A. Call to Order: 6:52. Introductions

B. Presidents' Remarks – Tracy Binkley / Alison Martin: Welcome

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

- Our public performance site license has been renewed and is good for three years. We can show certain movies, etc.
- Centre Parks and Recreation sent a letter to all administrators as a reminder of the proper arrangements that are needed before using the parks.
- Mt Nittany Middle School was going to work with us on a sign for both schools. PTO's have paid for signs at other schools. The district will install it. Average cost $1,000. A funding request will be made when more information is available.
- First 6 days of the school year were exciting – taught rules for school wide behavior. Covered 6 different locations for the school, - cafeteria, etc. Paws tickets began week of 9/8. Every wed, tickets are pulled for a prize drawing.
- Map benchmark testing for grades 3-5 is almost finished. We will hear more about scores soon. Teachers are able to use scores to determine grouping, etc. Scores are very reliable. Testing 3 times / year.
- School pictures will be taken the last week in Sept.
- There have been 3 fire drills so far. Boalsburg Fire Company will come in October. Smoke trailers will be brought onsite for upper grades (4-5). Permission will be asked for prior to activity.
- Back to school nights – well attended. Thanks to PTO for providing daycare.

- Sound panels were installed in cafeteria. Grades 3-5 have been offered activity time, once they are done eating (students can go to the other side of the gym to play with sporting equipment they can read a book or bring an activity). Younger grades take longer to eat, so they don't need to supplement with extra activities.
- This past week, our faculty completed traumatic events training. There will be more training in the fall and in the spring.
- Building strategic plan group: Alison Martin was our parent rep last year. Looking for additional representation for this year. Will meet within the next week to review plan to see if anything needs to be tweaked for this year.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Susan McWhirter
Minutes available on website after they have been approved.
Motion to approve – Lisa Davis. Seconded – Steven Haas. Unanimously passed.

E. Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Holly Kononchuk
Starting school year at approximately $4,707. (Monies had to be paid out for playground and outstanding activities) over the summer.
Motion to approve – Rachelle Coffey. Seconded – Allan Metheny. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests
Requests were read, but then a discussion was had regarding the fall fundraisers. The voting occurred after all of the committee reports were read.

1) (Request submitted by kindergarten teachers). Kindergarten – Ways Fruit Farm: ride through orchard, guided tour, and life cycle of apple. $6.00 / student. 50 kids. $300.00. Trip will be held on October 2nd. Transportation has already been paid for. Motion to approve – Rachelle Coffey. Seconded – Jen Banfield. Unanimously passed.
2) (Request submitted by Mrs. Ishler) Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 5th grade to attend Charlotte's Web. $9.86 / student. 203 students =

$2,000.62. Trip to be held on November 10th. Motion to approve – Allan Metheny. Seconded – Rachelle Coffey. Unanimous passed.

3) (Request submitted by Miss. Snyder) – 3rd and 4th grade to attend Charlotte's Web. $984.00 ($492.00 will be reimbursed because transportation will be provided through learning enrichment). Motion to approve – Allan Metheny. Seconded – Rachelle Coffey. Unanimous passed.
4) (Request submitted by Mrs. Dwyer) Intermediate team – nonfiction materials – for grades 3 & 4. $480.00. Hold until October meeting and then revisit.

G. Letters of Communication

H. Committee Reports

A. Author Visit (winter) – Dustin Brackbill: no report
B. Barnes & Noble Book Fair (fall) – TBD: no report
C. Box Tops for Education (ongoing) – Caren Bloom-Steidle
Will check with Caren to see if there is a deadline in Oct, for all of the submissions from the summer.
D. Exploration Fair (winter) – Jamie Cunningham
Feb 23rd – set up Friday evening 2/20.
E. Family Fun Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey. Co chair needed. Lisa Davis can help.
F. 5th Grade Party (May/June) – Rachelle Coffey, Susan Hipp, Lisa Davis: no report
G. Fundraising (ongoing) – chair needed
- Fun Run
- Marianna
- Restaurant cards
- Restaurant fun nights

H. Fun Run (fall) - Mrs. Rossman Styers. (Oct 21st with a rain date of Oct 28th).
40 minutes – 60 minutes in the afternoon. Sept 29th to bring in coins that they were collecting. Money will be placed in buckets in a wagon. Bulletin board will be up tomorrow. Next Fri sending a letter home providing parents with the date of the fun run and pledge sheets. Participation pledge rather than pledges per lap. Pledge sheets to be returned day before the run. Class with most participation will receive a prize. Faculty, staff, and students will participate for our first run. We will look at expanding this for next year. Mr. Brackbill will take photos for website. We will look into CDT coverage. We are looking at the option of each class running at different intervals, so that each grade can support each other.
I. Giant A+ for Education (ongoing) – Kathryn Bainbridge: no report

J. Helping Hands (ongoing) – Chair needed. Tracy Binkley will help.
Teachers let us know what they need and then parents can buy things through the year. Option to have a tree displayed during conferences.

K. Hospitality (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey
Arianna Haas will help.

L. Ice Cream Social (May/June) – Jen Banfield and Lisa Davis

M. Labels for Education (ongoing) – Kirsten Leitzinger will be the counter and Tracy Binkley will be the collector.
There are 20,00 points to be redeemed from last year still. A new prize catalog has been provided to the teachers so that they can select desired items.

N. Marianna Hoagie Sale (fall) – Beth Adams
Distribution will be the morning of October 30th, because there is no school on October 31st. Discussion – can we add a spring sale too?

O. Playground (ongoing) – chair needed
Should a committee be formed again this year?

P. Restaurant Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey and Susan McWhirter
Discussion was held and an agreement was made to continue these types of events. Request was made to vary the night of the week so that every fundraiser is not on a particular day of the week.

Q. Scholastic Book Fair (fall and spring) – Traci Thomas. A co chair is needed.

R. Spirit wear (ongoing) – Mrs. Hartzler and Mrs. Rockey
Invoice just received. Order forms went out today.

S. Yearbook (Ongoing) – Jen McCann: no report

I. New Business

- Lori Smith spoke to the attendees about trees and / or shade structures for the playground.
    - An initiative is taking place right now to plant trees at the local school to help with dermatological guidelines. Dense, fast growing, and native trees are being selected. Min of 6-12 trees is recommended. Lemont is currently taking place in the initiative. Their PTO is funding 2/3rd of the cost. OPP funded the rest.
    - Some questions that will need to be addressed: what will Ed Poprick let us plant? Do the trees have to be a certain distance away from equipment?
    - Trees - $150.00 2inch clipper tree. 8 ft. tall to begin. Trees are delivered as root ball or canister, which determines delivery fee.

Approximately $700.00 for 6 trees with delivery. 12 trees will cost approximately $1300.00.

- There are two planting seasons – fall and spring. Sara Ferguson – dermatologist, has a child in our kindergarten has offered to consult.
- Shade structures can be used instead of trees. This is something that we can try to get grants for. ADA can help provide recommendations and suggestions.
- Discussion was held. Decision was made to table the funding request until spring - while we collect more information regarding shade structure, how many trees, Office of Physical Plant limitations, etc.

- Monthly PTO Newsletter – to communicate what the PTO does and how the monies raised benefit the students. Lisa Davis will help with this. A request was made for parents to help paint the swing sets. We can put that in the newsletter.
- Boalsburg has a local clean up day. Is this something that the PTO can support?

J. Unfinished Business

K. Announcements

Next Meetings – October 8, 2014 Mrs. Ishler's, 1st grade room (115)

Motion to adjourn: 8:41PM. Motion to approve Rachelle Coffey. Seconded – Tonya Labosky. Unanimously passed.

Respectively submitted by Susan McWhirter.

To be approved at the October 8th, 2014 PTO meeting.