Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
October 8, 2014

Minutes

A. Called to Order: 6:49. Introductions

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

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

- Since our last meeting, we have added 6 new students, 2 new para professionals, and 1 new music teacher for one class. We are currently hiring a para for autistic support.
- Fire company visit: Part one – movie and Smokey bear. Friday is the grade 4 & 5 smoke simulation trailer. Permission being received.
- Fieldtrips – reading at Brookline has resumed and visits to Millbrook Marsh.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Susan McWhirter

- Motion to approve – Kathryn Bainbridge. Seconded – Mrs. Rossman Styers. Unanimously passed.

E. Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Holly Kononchuk

- Included last year's balance sheet as a comparison. Inquiry to check on the box tops check.
- Motion to approve – Caren Steidle-Bloom. Seconded – Mrs. Rossman Styers. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests

- (Request from Carolyn Gardner – orchestra teacher). Buy prize incentives when students meet goals. $40.00 benefiting 4th and 5th grade. 46 students approximately $1.00 / student. Revisit next month.
- (Request from Mrs. Dwyer) carried over from September. Classroom magazine subscription to provide appropriate non-fiction material. $480.00. 120 students ($3.99/student). Revisit next month.
- (Request from Miss Snyder). The 3rd grade and 4th grade are not going to Charlotte's Web, due to undesirable seating choices available. Instead, the grades would like to go to a different show – Frogz and Toad in February. Discussion about whether the 5th grade should switch to the later show, rather than

- Review of Sept request for Charlottes Web. Approval up to $2,000.06 depending on whether the 5th grade decides on. Motion Caren Steidle-Bloom. Seconded Kathryn Bainbridge. Unanimously passed.
- Withdrawing request from May for National Geographic magazines due to price having been increased.

G. Letters of Communication

H. Committee Reports

A. Library:
* Author Visit (winter) – Dustin Brackbill
Notes from Dustin: still TBD. Looking at various developments.
* Barnes & Noble Book Fair – interest in attendance has lowered and nobody has stepped up to chair event. Discussion – to give the event a break. Motion to approve – Caren Bloom-Steidle. Seconded – Kathryn. Unanimously passed.

B. Box Tops for Education (ongoing) – Caren Bloom-Steidle
Submission deadline Oct 30th (to be mailed by Nov 3rd). Collection sheet system has changed, therefore we may just have the students submit them in an envelope / bag.

C. Exploration Fair (winter) – Jamie Cunningham. No report

D. Family Fun Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey (co chair needed). No report

E. 5th Grade Party (May/June) – Rachelle Coffey, Susan Hipp, Lisa Davis. No report

F. Fundraising (ongoing) – TBD
Volunteers – Jenny and Kerry
Discussion regarding fundraising: letter has been drafted to go out to parents from the PTO officers explaining the importance of fundraising. Suggestion – keep the message positive and outline the events for the year so that parents can know what to expect.
Fundraising that involves the students, may help connect the need to the students, parents, and the school administration.
Recommendation to establish a budget in order to anticipate needs.

G. Marianna Hoagie Sale (fall) – Beth Adams
Deadline Oct 17th for orders. Sandwiches to be distributed on Oct. 30th

H. Restaurant Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey and Susan McWhirter.
Sweet frog – Oct 21st. Pizza Hut for Nov. Desire for one in Dec (suggestion for 5 guys).

I. Fun Run (fall)- Mrs. Rossman Styers
- $320.00 came in from the coins.
- Memo to the teachers on Friday – to let them know what will be needed. And then during faculty meeting on Tuesday.
- Classes assigned to support other classes. Sponsoring class creates a cheer/chant.
- Athletes from Penn State to attend / speak.
- Person who raises most gets to break the tape.
- Reminder each morning to fill out pledge sheet.
- Ask children to wear MT Nittany tee shirts.
- Strive for future development: Cougar Cat Run raised $18,000 at Coral Street

J. Giant A+ for Education (ongoing) – Kathryn Bainbridge
Additional request: Phone number, name and bonus card #
K. Helping Hands (ongoing) – Tracy Binkley (co chair needed)
Will set it up for spring conferences.
L. Hospitality (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey
Something for the teachers in November.
M. Ice Cream Social (May/June)– Jen Banfield and Lisa Davis. No report
N. Labels for Education (ongoing) – Kirsten Leitzinger. No report
O. Playground (ongoing) No report
P. Scholastic Book Fair (fall and spring) – Traci Thomas, Cindy Restivo (additional co chairs needed) October 15th – the 17th.
Q. Spirit wear (ongoing) – Mrs. Hartzler and Mrs. Rockey
Ordered last Tuesday. Order will be in in three weeks.
R. Yearbook (Ongoing) – Jennifer McCann. No report

I. New Business

Facebook: Could we do the FB page as a private page?

J. Unfinished Business

Will discuss shade structure at next meeting

A. Announcements

Next Meetings – November 13, 2014 Mrs. California's 3rd grade classroom

Adjourned 8:10PM. Motion to approve - Mrs. California. Seconded - Mary MacDonald. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter. To be approved at November 13th, 2014 meeting.