Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
November 13, 2014

Minutes

A. Call to Order: 6:46pm. Introductions

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

Welcome. A survey was administered school-wide in order to gather input about fundraising. 9 responses were received. The responses will be reviewed for appropriate action.

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

* Tues – Oct 21st was the schools first "fun run". There was press coverage from the Centre Daily Times and the district press.

* Wed – Oct 22nd Apple Crunch Day - district wide activities focused on healthy eating

* Thurs Oct 30th was the Autumn Festival, which was attended by 15-20 students. The rest of the students attended their respective class Halloween parties.

* Nov 5th was the School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) trimester reward – the Chinese Acrobats from Beijing.

* Sun Nov 9th was a 5k run/walk in our community to support Jamie Barbarich – our autistic support teacher. The 5k raised funds for the National Brain Tumor Society. Our school children and staff wore purple the Friday before the race to show support.

* Tues Nov 11th – Training was provided to the students that missed the initial SWPBS training. Additional training will be given school-wide in January in order to reteach rules for the 5 core areas.

* The ESL classes will have their Thanksgiving feast next week to teach the students about the holiday.

* A progress report survey will be distributed to look at whether we need to revamp the process. Responses will be due on Nov. 17th

* A Fire drill was held recently. The school intentionally "hid" 2 students in order to assess whether the counts were being taken correctly during the drill. The school responded appropriately.

* There will be a “secure in place” drill in the near future. Parents will receive an email with details.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Susan McWhirter

One spelling correction was noted and made. Motion to approve - Mrs. Rossman Styers. Seconded – Allison Witt. Unanimously passed.

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

We paid for the Marianna hoagie sale. The sale resulted in a profit of $1,800.00. We paid for the Scholastic Book Fair. A profit is not recorded because the successful sale provides a buy one get one free (BOGO) for our students in the spring. We still need to pay for spirit wear. The Fun Run netted a profit of $2879. 52. Motion to approve the budget report – Allan Metheny. Seconded - Mr. Brackbill. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests

1. Mrs. Rossman Styers – 5th grade Little Buffalo trip - social studies and science cumulative activity. $520.00 request. The trip will benefit 52 students. Motion to approve – Lisa Edwards. Seconded - Allan Metheny. Unanimously passed.

2. Mrs. Dwyer – Subscription for Time for Kids - intermediate team. $480.00 (will be prorated for partial year). The subscription will benefit 3rd and 4th grade. Motion to approve - Dea Beiberdorf. Seconded - Allan Metheny. Unanimously passed.

3. Mrs. Gardner request that was tabled from last month. The PTO will be providing teacher stipends again this year that can be used toward this request. This request has been respectfully denied.

4. Miss. Snyder – tickets and busing for 3rd and 4th grade to attend the Frogz and Toad show at Eisenhower on Feb 6th . Half of $928.00 for tickets and half of the busing (approx. $500.00). We will be reimbursed for half because it is a cumulative activity. Motion to approve up to $984.00 – Allan Metheny. Seconded – Mrs. Tranell. Unanimously passed.

G. Letters of Communication

Passed around – thank you’s from kindergarten and Mrs. Tranell’s class.

H. Committee Reports

a. Author Visit (winter) – Dustin Brackbill
We are looking at different options from the other surrounding schools. Ours maybe a skype session with a different author.
We are considering a literacy day – after testing. We discussed the possibility of adding a readathon. We could add a “teacher favorite” competition. We could tag

it on read on state, which is a high school initiative. Mr. Brackbill will review options with his committee.
Barnes and Noble – maybe a Fri night in spring.

b. Box Tops for Education (ongoing) – Caren Bloom-Steidle.
Submitted for Nov.
c. Exploration Fair (winter) – Jamie Cunningham. No report.
d. Family Fun Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey (co chair needed). We just received a name of someone who maybe able to help. We will review and report back.
e. 5th Grade Party (May/June) – Rachelle Coffey, Susan Hipp, Lisa Davis. No report.
f. Fundraising (ongoing) – TBD
    g. Marianna Hoagie Sale (fall) – Beth Adams – completed and was a success. A recommendation was made to consider doing another sale in the spring. The chair will be moving on from MNE. We have received the name of someone who would be interested in chairing the sale next year.
    h. Restaurant Nights (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey and Susan McWhirter. Sweet Frog – October event was completed. We will revisit again later in the year. Pizza Hut – we will look into the Tues./Wed. before Thanksgiving.
    i. Fun Run (fall)- Mrs. Rossman Styers – The event took place on October 21st and was a success. Feedback form the kids was that they loved it. Feedback – fun, relaxed, school centered. The students enjoyed making signs to cheer on their peers. The students liked having the event in the gym so that they could see their friends.
    Pledges – Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Rossman Styers' classes had 100% participation, therefore, we will give the classes a Myer's Dairy ice cream party. The top student donor will be given a Rapid Transit gift card. Alison Martin has offered to help with the committee going forward. Motion to approve Myer's Dairy ice creams (.75 each) up to $40.00 for two classes with 100% participation - Dea Bierberdorf. Seconded by Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed. Motion to approve $25.00 certificate to Rapid Transit for top seller reward – Allan Metheny. Seconded – Mrs. California. Unanimously passed.
j. Giant A+ for Education (ongoing) – Kathryn Bainbridge. No report.
k. Helping Hands (ongoing) – Tracey Binkley (co chair needed). No report.
l. Hospitality (ongoing) – Rachelle Coffey
A little surprise will be given to teachers prior to Thanksgiving thanking them for their service. A recommendation was made to look at the cookie exchange that is held for the staff at the Mt Nittany Middle School. Dea offered to help.
m. Ice Cream Social (May/June)– Jen Banfield and Lisa Davis. No report.
n. Labels for Education (ongoing) – Kirsten Leitzinger
Emails went out for collection. We have redeemed 11,000 pts. Prizes are currently being distributed to teachers.
o. Playground (ongoing) – Looking at future equipment
p. Scholastic Book Fair (fall and spring) – Traci Thomas (co chair needed). The fall sale raised scholastics bucks for a BOGO in spring.
q. Spirit wear (ongoing) – Mrs. Hartzler and Mrs. Rockey
Our order was placed. We have exhausted the surplus. There are some extra short sleeve shirts for new students.
r. Yearbook (Ongoing) – Jennifer McCann

We are considering a yearbook cover design contest for the fifth graders. There would be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize. Each would receive a free yearbook. 1st place design would be on the yearbook cover. 2nd and 3rd place designs would be somewhere else in the yearbook. We will need to review the contest guidelines. The design should include the concept of being respectful, responsible, and safe. The paw print should be incorporated. Participation is open ended, not a requirement. Photos are being taken by students. Motion to approve 3 free books for the prizes. Motion to approve - Jen McCann. Seconded – Mrs. Tranell. Unanimously passed.

I. New Business

Stipends to be paid to the teachers. Last year we spent $1370.00 in Nov. and again in April. Discussion was had regarding whether in the future the fall stipends can be paid in Sept.

Consideration for $50 for each fulltime teacher and prorate for part time teachers for fall distribution with consideration for an additional distribution in the spring. Motion to approve up to $1,400.00 now – Allan Metheny. Seconded - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

* Tracy brought to Mrs. Latta's attention that there will be a mini thon fundraiser being held at Mt Nittany Elementary on Dec 6th. The event will be a pancake breakfast. Clarification – this is not a MNE sponsored event, rather it is a thon event being held at our school.

* Tracy asked Mrs. Latta if we have made donations to the Boalsburg Fire department in the past. She said yes. A recommendation was made that the PTO could donate a monetary donation to the Boalsburg fire dept. in order to support all that they do for our school. A motion was made to donate $100.00. for this year. Motion to approve - Mrs. Rockey. Seconded - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

J. Unfinished Business

November newsletter is being created and will be emailed shortly.

K. Announcements

Next Meetings – December 11, 2014 Library, Dustin Brackbill

Meeting adjourned at 8:16PM. Motion to approve - Lisa Davis. Seconded - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter. Minutes to be approved at the December 11th meeting.