Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
October 10, 2013

Minutes

Call to Order – 6:54PM

Introductions of attendees

Reading and Approval of Minutes – Rachelle Coffey

Motion to approve – Jen Banfield, Lisa Davis second. Unanimously approved.

Presidents' Remarks – Rachelle Coffey and Tracy Binkley

Marianna's, Great American, and Barnes and Nobles are all occurring Great American – controversial fundraiser – people love it or do not like it. Booklets – more than double submitted. First monkey distribution on Monday. Board has taken over the fundraiser and a committee is assisting

Marianna – orders due on the 21st and then pickup day on the 31st.

Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

Tues Oct 1st – Famers market shared lunch. Organic garden discussion. Jim Bely shared chocolate goat milk with the kids. This past Tuesday on the 8th – the fire company came. They ran a drill and spent the day with our students.

Next Monday – School wide positive behavior program: Penn State woman's basketball team will be coming to the school.

Each school district building will be starting to hold a strategic planning workshop – to have a building strategic plan. What do we want for our children and their learning to look like? Request for one parent on the committee. Possibly meeting in November. Foresee an every other month meeting, either after school or evening. Faculty will also be invited,

approximately 8 members will be on the committee. Maybe have some older children involved. If you would like to be a part of it – email Principal Latta. Will draft a parent or two if no response.

1) Developing in school a culture of trust
2) Teaching / learning
3) High expectations for everyone
4) Safety – welcoming a safe climate.

A parent asked about some of the safety measures being taken by the schools – 6 recommendations were made. This is a work in progress. Some doors were fixed. A camera, buzzer system, emergency 911 button in main office were installed. A traumatic events team and an AED needs to be in each school. Police visit our school regularly in order to become familiar with our building.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Rachelle Coffey
Treasurer's reports are available for viewing. Some highlights – income of $2,010 for spirit wear will be offset when billed. $246 – paid for Way trip. $352.75 – ice cream for social. Paying out teacher's stipend this month. Motion to approve – Caren Steidel. Karen Styers – second. Unanimously passed.

Funding Requests

1) Jaime and Kyle Cunningham - $500.00 for exploration fair materials – for flyers, certificates, prizes and ribbons. Benefit all students. Expense last year was $28.12 / $33.00. Table until we can confirm amount with Jamie.
2) Karen Styers on behalf of 5th grade teachers. $975.00 for all 5th grade students (62 students). Buffalo State Park – June trip. Environmental studies and history of America. $15.73 / student. Includes the buses. No entrance fee to the park. Maybe less if bus bids come in lower. Motion to approve – Caren Steidel. Second – Allen Metheny. Unanimously passed

3) Mrs. Latta - $184.00 School wide positive behavior program – Tier 2 behavior program. 10 students may be involved (kindergarten – 5th). This number could fluctuate. Check in / check out program in order to provide additional support. $18.40 / student. Items purchased through approved site. Discussion was held around whether this is a PTO function versus a district-funded request. The feeling is that it benefits the whole school because it limits disruptions in the classroom. Mrs. Latta clarified that if this request is turned down, the school would try to fund it. Motion to approve. Seconded. Unanimously passed.

Teacher Stipends

Will be going out this month. They were approved at the last meeting.

Letters of Communication

No letters to review.

Committee Reports

A. Author Visit – Dustin Brackbill
Event will be January 27, 2014. Robin Moore – connects nicely with our units. Cost will be $575.00, which is considerably lower then the past. He is now coming to all the schools in the district.

B. Barnes & Noble Book Fair (November 9th) – Elaine Sanders
Event on 11/9. Met with Barnes and Nobles. Calling it a family fun day. Some differences this year – vouchers can be used for Sunday and Monday, in addition to the Saturday. Online can shop Saturday – Thursday. Drink of the day – name the drink contest. Turn in name suggestions by Oct 31st to be entered into the contest. Personal pizza's will be available to fill the late afternoon down time from 5:00PM – 7:00PM. Reservations should be made. The lion cub is not available that weekend. Sign up sheet is being distributed for teacher reader sign ups. Committee – 20 names were identified by parent sign ups. Elaine will reach out them to see if they want to help with a craft table. Discussion was had about whether we should do a wrapping table? The decision was to not have it this year. The flyers will be distributed shortly.

C. Box Tops for Education – Caren Bloom-Steidle

A flyer will go out possible by the end of the week. Submission deadline is October 25th. Mr. Kamats class will count the box tops and check for expiration dates. Classroom competition will be in January / February. The next due date is March 1, 2014. We will possibly have the students design a box top flyer for future collections. A flyer can be submitted directly to the company if there are 10 or 25 tops on each flyer.

D. Exploration Fair (February 24th) – Jamie Cunningham
Email read by Rachelle from Jaime. Event will be February 24, 2014. Flyers will go home after Christmas break with a reminder in the beginning of February. Her family will handle event, so they will not need volunteers. They are considering eliminating the comments section, because teachers were not adding comments last year. Mrs. Latta clarified how the comments are used – teachers would be asked to come in separate and add comments. Teachers expressed that it is hard being on a Monday, because they do not have specials and a chance to stop down. This can be discussed at a staff meeting. Parents can also write feedback, but should we limit to just teachers? We can discuss all of this with Jaime. No food will be allowed at displays. Additional attendees may be the PSU pesticide education with their mini golf course, the Science Lions, Discovery Space, and hopefully the Nittany Chemistry club. Funding will be used for flyers, certificates, prizes and ribbons, and supplies for the Nittany Chemistry Club – hopefully they will do the liquid nitrogen ice cream with the kids.

E. Family Fun Nights –Elaine Sanders
Banes and Noble Book fair is a family fun night. We are starting to look at a movie night in the future. We are also looking at the Discovery Space, before the exploration fair. Mrs. Latta said that our site license may have expired and asked for Mr. Brackbill to look into this.

F. 5th Grade Party – Cori Agostinelli Kalupson
No report at this time

G. Giant A+ for Education – Kathryn Bainbridge
Only 40 people have signed up. It started this week. We will send an email out reminding people to sign up.

H. Great American (October 7th – 21st)
Distribution will be on November 20 from 3:00PM – 7:00PM. Perishable items cannot be kept after 7:00PM.

I. Helping Hands – Tracy Binkley
In November, will collect lists from the teachers and to make sure that the teachers feel comfortable asking. Parents want to give and like to know that it benefits the classrooms

J. Hospitality – Jenny Spearly, Ariann Stevenson, and Tracy Binkley have agreed to step up to co-chair.

K. Ice Cream Social – Jennifer Banfield
No report at this time.

L. Labels for Education – Kirsten Leitzinger
No report at this time.

M. Marianna Hoagie Sale (October 7th – 21st) – Beth Adams
Collecting order through the 21st and distributing orders on October 31, 2013.

N. Scholastic Book Fair (October 16th-18th) – Tracy Thomas, Cheri Jehu, Caren Bloom-Steidle. Request for another cochair. Materials coming in on Tuesday. Set up will be Tuesday afternoon or after school. Fair is Wednesday 4:00PM – 8:00PM, Thursday 8:00AM – 3:00PM, and Friday 8:00AM – 3:00PM. Can use some more volunteers. Chairs will be there or on call the entire time. On line fair will be occurring at the same time as the in person fair. Mr. Brackbill will provide a computer to be used during the fair. All orders credit our book fair for Spring Scholastic dollars and to be used for the buy one get one free sale. Parents can also do prepaid orders. There will be teacher baskets again, so a request will go out to teachers to ask which books they would like in their bin to be used for their classrooms. Teachers can shop on Wednesday. There will not be a class preview in the Fall, maybe in the spring. The fair is packed up at 3:30PM on Friday.

O. Spirit wear – Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler
Waiting for spirit wear to arrive. The hoodies were popular.

P. Yearbook – Jennifer McCann
Rachelle read an email – discuss later the option to pay online with credit cards through e-commerce. Definite need for pictures – a link on the PTO website, a link on the facebook page, or just email them to Jen. Discussion was held around FERPA – privacy issues. We will need to look into further to see if this affects the yearbook.

New Business

Discussion to have a run / bike a thon in the spring or fall to raise money. Discussion was had about timing and if we could designate the funds for the playground. Is there someone to chair this event? Discussion was also had around our current fundraisers not empowering the kids. A run will give the kids a chance to participate. Discussion was had around how other schools hold these events and outside vendors that help set up these types of events. We will continue discussion regarding this.

Unfinished Business

Playground Equipment

Mr. Poprick accessed our current equipment. Mr. Eelie (sp?) – Eelie Associates – subcontractor of Playword systems also evaluated our playground. Preliminary ideas – move the silver monster and balance beam down by the gym – so it can be used under supervision of a PE teacher. Taking out the big wooden structure. Bringing the swings up by the basketball courts down by the other set and moving the older two sets over by the Panorama pavilion – opening up the mulched area. Leaving the slide. Freeing up room for a playground system. The kindergarten one (by Panorama) may be salvaged, but updated for ADA requirements. We also need handicapped accessible areas. Removing some asphalt and edging it so it is a perfect square. Removing the basketball structure with the numbers. Removing one of the three basketball hoops, using the newer one. Future – place a large pavilion over the upper basketball court, so that there could be classes or activities outside. He said that it is really whatever we want to spend.

Next step – we need a definite idea of what the school district is going to fund, versus what we have to raise. Recommendation was also presented to get the teachers feedback on what types of equipment can be used. A committee will be established. Please provide your email to Rachelle.

A. Announcements

A. Next Meeting – November 14, 2013 in Susan Hipp's room, 311.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter

Approved 11/14/13