# Mount Nittany Elementary School
# PTO Meeting
# November 14, 2013

**Minutes**

A. Called to Order 6:45 PM
   Introduction

B. Presidents' Remarks – Rachelle Coffey and Tracy Binkley
   November – thank you. There have been many people (teachers and parents) stepping up to volunteer. Very nice three months – Great American fundraiser, Barnes and Nobles Book Fair, Scholastic Fair, Marianna's sale, welcome dessert.

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta
   Working with master gardener and Boalsburg famer's market person. We completed a grant for an organic garden. We should hear soon about the status of the grant. Our illusionist came on Tuesday for Great American as a culmination of the fundraiser and put on a wonderful show for the students.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Susan McWhirter
   Motion to approve – Elaine Sanders. Second – Caren Bloom - Steidel. Unanimously passed.

E. Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Rachelle Coffey
   Budget summary distributed. $24,000 in bank, but we have not paid for Great American yet (around $7,000 for product – invoice will be received on 11/21). Made about $2,000 for Marianna. Scholastic – we made about $1600 in scholastic dollars. Frog and Toad field trip – we paid out $1300. A donation from a grandparent for $200.00. Classroom funding request – an invoice for the special education tee shirts. Spirit wear keeps offsetting, but there will be a balance for upfront product and for new student tee shirts.
   Motion to approve – Caren Bloom - Steidel /Second - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests

1) Dustin Brackbill - Robin Moore will be here on 1/27/14. Funding for visit – travel and lodging not needed. $875.00 total request. $2.45/student. Benefits all students. Motion to approve – Caren Bloom - Steidel / Seconded - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.
2) 3rd / 4th grade – Penns Cave – Culminating the educational unit – "Building PA One Rock at a Time". Estimate – $1734.00. 116 students. $11.50 – Pens Cave and Wildlife. $15.00 / student – to include bus estimate. Transportation cost still unknown. Additional $42.00 may be needed for para professionals, but school will pick that up. Motion to approve - Lisa Edwards. Second - Mrs. Styers. Unanimously passed.
3) Jamie Cunningham – Chair of Exploration Fair. $250.00 materials – supplies for certificates, Science Lions and Chem Club. Last year certificates were $75.00, but were donated.
   Motion to approve – Elaine Sanders. Second – Caren Bloom - Steidel. Unanimously passed.

G. Letters of Communication

Mrs. Tranell and Ms. Esposito's class wrote thank you's – passed around.

H. Committee Reports

A. Author Visit – Dustin Brackbill – 1/27/13
B. Barnes & Noble Book Fair (November 9th) – Elaine Sanders – a good, fun day. Discussed whether timing was ideal: off football weekends are very busy. Before the holiday season? An increase in profit from the previous year. $2,375.00 worth of product was purchased in store – results in $350.00. This does not include online sales. Name the drink contest – Cubpaccino (Emma from Miss Esposito's class). Lion Cub mascot did attend and tag teamed story telling at the pajama party with Mr. Brackbill. Most schools hold their event the first several weeks in Dec. Pizza party was not as successful, due to limited kitchen capabilities.
C. Box Tops for Education – Caren Bloom-Steidle
   Sent away – 3810 tops for $381.00
D. Exploration Fair (February 24th) – Jamie Cunningham
E. Family Fun Nights –Elaine Sanders
   Caren and Elaine talked about a book / movie night, together with the book fair. Discovery Space tour. Erika Auhn from Sweet Frog will hold a family day. Chick Fill, McDonald, Hoss's

fundraisers. There was a discussion about whether fundraising efforts can be "ear marked" to the playground. Laminated card to the parents outlining monthly fundraisers. Suggestion to start a new committee – restaurants fundraiser. Lisa Edwards offered to help Rachelle Coffey.

F. 5th Grade Party – Cori Agostinelli Kalupson

G. Giant A+ for Education – Kathryn Bainbridge

H. Great American (October 7th – 21st) – Board
Product pick up is next week – 3:00PM – 7:00PM. Sold approximately $14,000 worth of product. Raised approximately $6,300.00. There was a discussion about whether we are soliciting kids to be fundraisers due to the moneys being given as incentives. There was also a discussion about the timing – having multiple fundraisers at the same time.

I. Helping Hands – Tracy Binkley
Email to teachers asking for them to come up with list of what teachers want and a bank of what all teachers need (colored pencils). Sign up genius may be used to forward to parents or a paper may be sent home to the kids – letting them know that there is a way to sign up. Next year – should we set up a physical tree during conferences? This initiative should include all teachers.

J. Hospitality – Ariann Stevenson and Jenny Spearly
Ariann and Jenny met two weeks ago. Holiday Luncheon – December (Tuesday, the 17th? 10:45AM – 1:20PM) / Teacher appreciation week - May. They are in the process of reaching out to the hospitality volunteers – asking who is still interested. They are discussion planning something small every month. It may be helpful to break out committee members by which children are in which class in order to see if we have representation from all classrooms.

K. Ice Cream Social – Jennifer Banfield

L. Labels for Education – Kirsten Leitzinger

M. Marianna Hoagie Sale (October 7th – 21st) – Beth Adams
We made approx. $2,000.00 There was a suggestion that we should sent another reminder before the pick up.

N. Playground – (new committee to be created). If we chose playground equipment items from the sale book (expires Nov 30th), we can get them for a sale price. Mrs. Latta will call Dave from Carlisle. Price would be 2/3rd price of what is in book. PTO would write a check. Mr. Poprick will put forward $3,000.00 this year and $2,000 next year. As a group – how much do we want to put in for a piece of equipment? Estimate 4 weeks for the equipment to come in and 2-4 weeks to set up. We will not have to pay for mulching, paying custodians to set up, moving old equipment, painting old equipment. Next steps – choose pieces and then decide how much money we want to spend. All of equipment and the playground area have to be accessible. Can we add a piece of equipment, like a swing, that is acceptable for physically challenged? A committee can be established in order to determine the pieces of equipment (all equipment in the Playworld Systems catalog are approved by

the school district); parents, teachers, and students should be able to provide input – we will need representatives from the younger classrooms and older classrooms.
Motion; funding request to donate $5,000 to the playground to be used now, but would request a committee to be established in order to make the decisions on what pieces should be purchased. Motion approved – Allen. Second – Caren Bloom – Steidel. Unanimously passed.

O. Scholastic Book Fair (October 16th-18th) – Tracy Thomas, Cheri Jehu, Caren Bloom-Steidle
Went well – looking forward to the spring.

P. Spirit wear – Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler
Just reconciling a few extra pieces.

Q. Terra Cycle

R. Yearbook – Jennifer McCann - a form from the district has to be sent to each parent for permission for photos. The yearbook is exempt from this measure.

I. New Business

"Fun run" in the spring. Mrs. Styers – spoke to Jared to set up fun run, set up through school personnel and parents. Would speak to others that have done it at other schools. The event would potentially be during the school day, possibly in the middle of May. Committee to be established when we have more information.

J. Unfinished Business

Directory – on its way

A. Announcements

A. Next Meeting – December 12, 2013 in Sara Dwyer's room, 111.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM. Motion approved by Caren Bloom – Steidel. Second - Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

Minutes approved at December 12, 2013 meeting