Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
December 12, 2013

Minutes

A. Call to Order: 6:56PM

B. Presidents' Remarks – Rachelle Coffey

Thanks to everyone who came. So impressed with such a good turnout month after month.

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

* The school participated in the school wide bingo bonanza. Every student was involved in this 30-minute event. School wide faculty core group organized the event. Mrs. Hartlzer was the lion cub mascot. Mr. Brackbill participated by spinning the bingo wheel.

* This past Tuesday, the school participated in a 'secure in place' drill. Two State College borough police officers and 4 members of the traumatic events team were present. Mrs. Latta sent out a notice to all parents communicating the drill. A debrief occurred about the drill at the Tuesday afternoon faculty meeting. Some items are being addressed. Additional types of drills will occur in the future.

* Fire drill will be held in the near future.

* Playground meeting was held at 5:30PM this afternoon.

* The district is holding their strategic planning meetings. 4-targeted areas are addressed focusing on the question, "What do we want for our building over the next 5 years". January 25th will be the next meeting. Mount Nittany elementary committee includes 2 parents (Allison and Elaine), seven teachers and Mrs. Latta.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Rachelle Coffey

Motion to approve – Lisa Davis / Second – Caren Bloom-Steidle.
Unanimously passed.

E. Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Beth Adams

Budget reports were provided for review. The current PTO balance is approximately $17,000. We have paid the outstanding bill for the Great American fundraiser. We deposited Barnes and Nobles book fair earnings - $330.00. We continue to get monies from Great American for on line sales profits. Last month we paid the bus fare for Frog and Toad - $400. We also made our annual donation to Boalsburg fire department of $50. We issued teacher appreciation gifts. Motion to approve – Caren Bloom-Steidle / Second – Lisa Davis. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests

- 3, 4,5 th grades (185 students) – have requested $50.00 to support their hot coco celebration. Estimated cost is $.30 / student. Motion to approve – Caren Bloom-Steidle / Seconded. Unanimously passed.

G. Letters of Communication

There have been several unsolicited donations (2-3) made by family members to the PTO. It is assumed that these are in response to outreach cards mailed for the Great American fundraiser.

H. Committee Reports

A. Author Visit (January 27) – Dustin Brackbill. Robin Moore will be the visiting author. Mr. Brackbill will be promoting the event in January when we return from break. We will not be pushing a book order for this event, as in the past, as Robin Moore is more of a story teller.

B. Barnes & Noble Book Fair (November 9th) – Elaine Sanders
No report

C. Box Tops for Education – Caren Bloom-Steidle
We will have a classroom competition right after break. A thought is to include pictures of playground equipment on the flyer to help promoted participation. The next submission deadline for box tops is March 1, 2014.

D. Exploration Fair (February 24th) – Jamie Cunningham
No report.
There will be freeze-dried ice cream at the fair.

E. Family Fun Nights –Elaine Sanders
No report.
Discussion occurred regarding community involvement with local vendors. If we designate a day at Sweet Frog we will be given 15% of profits from our attendees for the day. They will give us a PDF

file to print out or email. Do we want to do every month at sweet frog or choose a different vendor for each month; Chick-Fil-A, Hoss's, Texas Road House. Perhaps one each month in the spring

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

G. Giant A+ for Education – Kathryn Bainbridge
No report.

H. Great American (October 7th – 21st) – Board.
Bill was paid to vendor.

I. Helping Hands – Tracy Binkley
Tracy spoke at the faculty meeting in order to try to solicit participation.

J. Hospitality – Arianne Stevenson and Jenny Spearly
* Holiday luncheon will be in room 221. We are looking for some set up or clean up help.
* A few recommendations were made:
- to send a questionaire to teachers asking the teachers questions like, "what is your favorite drink?" "What is your favorite candy bar?" Once a month we can profile a teacher.
- Do all classes have classroom parents as a contact?
- Doing some smaller things to let people know we are thinking of them.
- It was brought to our attention that the faculty dining room is very sparse. Could PTO paint it? They do not have pot holders or a drying rack. Could we put together a wish list?
- Plans are underway to thank the custodian staff – both day and evening. Discussion was had about whether we can do something over the holidays – does the evening staff get overlooked? $10 gift card to Myers Dairy. Motion to approve – Arianne Stevenson / Second – Caren Bloom-Steidle. Unanimously passed.
- Bus drivers. Can we give a small token of our appreciation over the holidays? Maybe we can give it the same day of the holiday party. Lisa Davis agreed to make little gift bags. Fifth grade and kindergarteners get on bus first – can they give them out? Attach a note as a "Thank you from the PTO".
- Emails – are teachers on the email distributions?

K. Ice Cream Social – Jennifer Banfield
No report.

L. Labels for Education – Kirsten Leitzinger
No report.

M. Marianna Hoagie Sale (October 7th – 21st) – Beth Adams
No report.

N. Playground – (new committee to be created).
A meeting was held just prior to this meeting. Progress will be reported separately.
A recommendation was made to ensure that replacement pieces are available and included in the plans – nuts, bolts, etc.

O. Scholastic Book Fair (October 16th-18th/ April 7-11th) – Tracy Thomas, Cheri Jehu, Caren Bloom-Steidle.
Should we collect scholastic dollars in the spring or cash out? Is it possible to do half and half? This book fair will be a 'buy one get one free'.

P. Spirit wear – Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler
No report.

Q. Terra Cycle –
Will ask Cori if she is still handing this.

R. Yearbook – Jennifer McCann
Keep sending pictures. It has to be turned in the first week of March to be made by the end of the year. Pictures can be submitted online for the yearbook. They cannot be put online, but can go into the yearbook.

I. New Business

- Target cards – Request to add info onto our website about how to register for our school. Add onto committee report.

- School picture – likes the format of the class pictures.

J. Unfinished Business

- Hardy and O'Donnell – a drive to get younger parents registered to vote. More information to come.

- Can local businesses donate items/ portions of playground – some recognition (a plaque, a bench with names, bricks in the playground)? Mrs. Latta will look into this.

- Brookline – loving the kids coming to read. Can the residents come to the school, maybe create a pen pal program?

Announcements

Next Meeting – January 9, 2014 in Jamie Barbarich's, autistic support room. Room 203.

Meeting adjourned 8:01PM. Motion to pass – Caren Bloom-Steidle / Second - Lisa Davis. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter.
Revised and approved on 1.9.14