Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
January 9, 2014

Minutes

A. Call to Order – 6:53PM
   Introductions

B. Presidents' Remarks – Rachelle Coffey and Tracy Binkley
   Welcome back and Happy New Year. We distributed gifts to some staff during Christmas.

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta
   Back from break – difficult with the early dismissal and delays. It will be nice to get back to the routine of our schedule.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Rachelle Coffey
   * funding request for coco party was approved by Karen Bloom Steidle.
   Motion to approve minutes by Mrs. Dwyer / Seconded by Karen Bloom - Steidle. Unanimously passed.

E. Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report – Rachelle Coffey
   * Box tops check and Great American fundraiser check were received. Great American will continue throughout the year because of on line sales. Question – does the school benefit from magazine sales – yes. The PTO paid for a pizza party for Miss Snyder's class because they won the Great American fundraiser award. Gifts were distributed to custodians and bus drivers for the holidays. Motion to approve the budget – Karen Bloom - Steidle / Seconded by Kathryn Bainbridge. Our current total is reflected on the top of the spreadsheet = approx. $17,000. $5,000 will go to playground.

F. Funding Requests
   No new requests at this time. A question was asked: are all of the teacher requests in? They should be. Question asked: is there an average of the total amount of requests over the past 5 years? We will look into that. Question asked: will there be enough for teacher stipends? – yes.

G. Letters of Communication

Thank you letters were passed around.

H. Committee Reports

- Author Visit (January 27) – Dustin Brackbill
  Added flyer to the website.
- Barnes & Noble Book Fair (November 9th) – Elaine Sanders
  No additional report
- Box Tops for Education – Caren Bloom-Steidle
  Classroom competition – Will put out bins. Start Monday. 6 weeks, due Feb 21st. This quarters submissions need to be postmarked March 1, 2014. Looking for a rep for each class to count (Arianne – second grade, Kathryn – any grade but third/fourth). Choice of prize for winner. Last year they chose ice cream sandwiches (after student testing). 2 yrs ago they chose a pizza party. Will send an email to teachers and parents. Question asked: Can we designate earnings to playground. Motion to approve: money raised from this 6 week Box Tops event will be donated to the playground – Approved – Kathryn Bainbridge / Seconded by Arianne Stevenson. Unanimously passed.
- Exploration Fair (February 24th) – Jamie Cunningham
  We have confirmation from a few PSU groups that will be attending. Registration forms – will be removed from PTO box daily and will be given to Mrs. Belinda for Jaime to pick up. 48 ft tables and a few chairs will be needed. Use of building form needs to be completed, if it hasn't been already. Mrs Latta will contact Jamie to see if this will be done. We will add a copy of the registration onto the website, if we can get an electronic copy.
- Family Fun Nights –Elaine Sanders
  Lisa Edwards – committee head for restaurant nights. We will go ahead and schedule Sweet Frog, McDonalds, Hoss's, Chick Fil-A, and/or Texas Roadhouse. Question asked: Can we request Tues – Thursday? It will probably need to depend on the business. Marketing theme - "Family night on the town", "Dine Out".
- 5th Grade Party – Cori Agostinelli Kalupson
  No report this month. Will have a report next meeting.
- Giant A+ for Education – Kathryn Bainbridge
  Only 40 cards came through this year. Can we do another push?
- Great American (October 7th – 21st) – Board
  No report. Questions asked: Do we have ideas for other fundraisers. Does Innsbrook do wrapping paper? Is it appropriate to provide an incentive? Suggestion was made to do an end of year survey to parents – what they like, what they don't like? A request was made to do activities/events that build community.
- Helping Hands – Tracy Binkley
  Tracy sent out an email providing parents with the lists given by the teachers that participated. Donations should be made by the end of the month. Question asked: Do we want to do it around conference time next year?
- Hospitality – Arianne Stevenson and Jenny Spearly

- Luncheon was well received. Missing a reusable bag. Hoping to do little things each month. Will brain storm ideas for the kitchen. Immediate – no silverware. But the real silver disappears or then they need cleaning supplies. Disposable – will need 100 forks/knives per week. A suggestion was made to look at Habitat Restore for a cabinet or shelves.

- Ice Cream Social – Jennifer Banfield
  No report
- Labels for Education – Kirsten Leitzinger
  A parent brought to our attention that there was an ad in the Sunday CDT – a way to redeem 100 pts by Feb.
- Marianna Hoagie Sale (October 7th – 21st) – Beth Adams
  Will look to do it again in the Fall.
- Playground
  Donation – donating $5,000 now. Looking to make another donation by the end of the year, amount TBD.
  A meeting with Mr. Poprick was held right before this meeting. He will have more information at the Feb 13th meeting. We are confirming that pieces of equip can be moved. Hoping to start beginning of May into end of June. Made a plan with a prioritized to do list. Will contact Randy Brown in finance office – to see if businesses can donate to the playground. We have been approached by a business to donate $10,000. Other options - a buddy bench, pavilion, picnic tables. No approval needed. Buying bricks by parents (cost to engrave is approx. $30). "Pave the playground". Kathryn Bainbridge and Marcie Rockey have volunteered to be chairs. Will wait and vote on the details. The bricks can hold 3 lines with 11 characters each line. Some questions asked – would the brick company sell the bricks to us at cost if we can mark them as a donator? Can we have kids help participate in order to assist with cleaning / setting up the space? Can families sign up in the summer to maintain the space? (Old peace garden was never maintained)
- Scholastic Book Fair (April 7th – 11th) – Tracy Thomas, Cheri Jehu, Caren Bloom-Steidle
  Next month – report. Questions asked - Could we set up a table of spirit wear and cats meow?
- Spirit wear – Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler
  Still have some items to sell. Do we want another sale in Spring?
- Terra Cycle – Cori Agostinelli Kalupson
  No report
- Yearbook – Jennifer McCann
  Pages are laid out with student portraits in place. Will send to teachers for approval. Can we send parent email again, soliciting pictures? Can Mrs. Latta ask faculty for pictures?

I. New Business

* High School Project – more information to come at next meeting.

* Lisa Klinke – Red card from Target - benefits to the school

* Nurse can still use gently used clothing.

* Board positions – Beth Adams and Rachelle Coffey will be stepping down from their two-year terms. Co President and Treasurer will be needed in the Fall.

J. Unfinished Business

* Mr. Brackbill – We have been receiving multiple emails. This is being looked into.

* Fun Run – Physical Education teacher. We need to email him and ask if he wants a committee to be formed. We need a committee chair? Follow-up with Mrs. Styrers.

A. Announcements

A. Next Meeting was scheduled for – February 13, 2014 in a third grade classroom – Miss Snyder 302 (note, this meeting was later canceled due to snow. Next meeting currently scheduled for March 20, 2014 in the Library.)

Adjourn – 8:15PM

Approved by Caren Bloom-Steidle. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter