Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
March 20, 2014

Minutes

A. Call to Order: 6:49PM. Introductions.

B. Presidents' Remarks –Rachelle Coffey / Tracy Binkley

February's meeting was cancelled due to weather. Since our last meeting, 2 family restaurant nights have occurred: Sweet Frog and Chick-Fil-A. These raised approximately $200.00. Box Tops raised approximately $1,400 and Labels for Education will also be submitted. Playground meeting will be held next month. Author visit was in January.

C. Principal's Remarks – Mrs. Latta

Mrs. Latta was not able to attend this evening. One of the teachers reported that report cards come out tomorrow and that the portal opens at 9:00AM.

D. Reading and Approval of Minutes – Susan McWhirter

Motion to approve – Mrs. Styers. Seconded by Lisa Edwards. Unanimously passed.

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

$17,450.00 currently in the account. Another check was received from Great American for $930.00. A donation from Brookline was received as appreciation for our children coming to read to the residents. The family restaurant night at Chick-Fil-A netted us $135.00. Sweet Frog netted us $75.00. We paid $98.00 for exploration day expenses. We paid $71.00 for the Dr. Seuss cake party for the whole school. We paid $875.00 for the visiting author. Motion to approve - Caren Bloom-Steidle. Seconded - Jen Banfield. Unanimously passed.

F. Funding Requests

* 5th grade party – will occur the end of May or beginning of June. Formal fund request will not exceed $1,000. Hoping to receive

donations of cash and food to offset costs. Still deciding on 2 different locations.

* Beth Adams will run the estimate for average requests made over last 5 years in order to get a better idea of whether there are excess funds.

G. Letters of Communication

Letters of thanks being passed around. 2 donations were received.

H. Committee Reports

A. Author Visit (was on January 27) – Dustin Brackbill
CDT was here documenting visit. Morning visit and then afternoon story writing sessions with different groups. Event was very successful. The author will now be visiting some of the other local elementary schools.

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

C. Box Tops for Education (ongoing) – Caren Bloom-Steidle
Thank you! Box Tops - $1,431.00 from the 6-week collection last month. A handful of expired box tops were received. Expired box tops cannot be submitted for reimbursement. 3rd grade won the competition. 3rd grade will decide on type of party once PSSA's are complete.

D. Exploration Fair (was on February 24th) – Jamie Cunningham
80 kids participated which was about the same as last year. The kids enjoyed having the PSU groups. The Chemistry group's liquid nitro oxygen ice cream was a big hit.

E. Family Fun Nights (ongoing) –Elaine Sanders
No report

F. 5th Grade Party (May/June) – Cori Agostinelli Kalupson
No report

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

H. Great American (was on October 7th – 21st) – Board
No report

I. Helping Hands (ongoing) – Tracy Binkley
No report

J. Hospitality (ongoing) – Arianne Stevenson and Jenny Spearly
*Will be sending a sign up sheet/ sign up genius asking for different things that can be donated for the staff/teacher kitchen.
*Spring teacher stipends will be issued. Matching the fall = $50.00 each teacher. Part time staff based on hours – prorated. Motion to approve – Karen Bloom-Steidle. Seconded - Allison. Unanimously Passed.
* Teacher appreciation week May 5th – 9th.

K. Ice Cream Social (June 1st)– Jennifer Banfield
Date has been set as Sunday, June 1st. The event will be similar to last year: ice cream, games, books give a way. No charge to

attendees. A sign up genius will be sent out in order to get volunteers for all of the stations.

L. Labels for Education (ongoing) – Kirsten Leitzinger
Tracy reporting for Kirsten – an email just went out asking parents to submit by 3/31/14. Points correlate to being redeemed for prizes. Points may be different for depending on brand that the label is found on.

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

N. Playground (ongoing)
At the last playground meeting, Mr. Pawprick showed a presentation on how playground was going to be redesigned. This will include one new pieces of equipment – a slide for special needs children. They will be moving mulch beds and re-topping surfaces. He anticipates trying to get his crew together before the end of the school year to begin the work – depending on weather and availability of crew. He is also looking at Panorama to see what effect that may have on project. Some of the redesign will include moving the old Kindergarten climber, moving metal equipment to where physical education teacher can use it. They are also purchasing a dome and the slide. When presenting the design, Mr. Pawprick outlined what his crew was going to do and what we will need to fund. Our funds will support other new equipment. Concern was shared about the curbs and making surfaces even – this was not directly addressed. At this time, he said that we couldn't regrade, to help add more grassy surfaces.
* A suggestion was made to have a strategy meeting in April. As a PTO, we should present back to Mr. Pawprick what our priorities are. We then need a commitment from Mr. Pawprick, including measured time: what is going to be done and by when. Last meeting, Mr. Pawprick said that he would give his presentation to Mrs. Latta. Was this received? If so, can she distribute it to the playground committee? The PTO originally decided to give $5,000. Are we reapplying for the Lowes grant?

O. Restaurant Nights/Spirit nights. – Most places host these Monday – Thursday. This month – April 15th will be at Pizza Hut. May 8th will be at 5 Guys. Proceeds for the 5 Guys fundraiser are made off of anyone purchasing food between 5:00PM -8:00PM (they do not need a separate MNE coupon). Several questions were asked - Could you get a parking voucher? We could put a poster outside of the restaurant to advertise. Could we have the Lion Cub make an appearance? Future restaurant nights – should we do it over the summer? Once a month? What about Rita's?

P. Scholastic Book Fair (April 7th – 11th) – Tracy Thomas, Cheri Jehu, Caren Bloom-Steidle
April 7th – 11th. BOGO. Because we raised enough in the fall, every student gets a free book – from PTO through scholastic dollars. Approx. 366 books!

Q. Spirit wear (ongoing) – Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler
No report

R. Terra Cycle (Ongoing)
No report

S. Yearbook (Ongoing) – Jennifer McCann
Report given by Rachelle for Jennifer - Last year 200 books were order 14.96 + tax. We charged $15.00 / book. This year, the books will cost $15.18 + tax. Motion to approve – $15.50 charge / book. Approved - Lisa Davis. Seconded - Caren Bloom – Steidle. Unanimously passed.
March 28th – class pages need to be submitted back to Jennifer for final approval. She is looking for help – to sort books, etc.

I. New Business

Co president and treasurer – are two positions that will need to be filled for next year. If interested please see/email Rachelle or Tracy.

J. Unfinished Business

K. The State High Project presentation will take place next month following an abbreviated PTO meeting at 7:30PM. Mrs. Latta has asked for us to provide childcare. Parent – Arianne Stevenson volunteered to be a parent volunteer. Lisa Edwards will reach out to Dea – for Key Club volunteers. Question asked: If we need to pay the sitters, can the cost be picked up from district?

A. Announcements

A. Next Meetings – April 10, 2014 currently scheduled in the Art Room (Candace Smith). We may start at 6:30PM due to the abbreviated time.

B. PSSAs are as next Tuesday - 6 days. Fifth grade writing in April, science in April. Special Olympics – April 10th. 5th grade can't go – because of testing.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:16PM. Motion to approve – Arianne Stevenson. Seconded by Jen Banfield. Unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted by Susan McWhirter.