Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
November 8, 2012

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge reported that the past month has been busy with multiple fundraisers occurring and multiple fundraisers coming up in November and December. Students filled out appreciation tickets and the directory went out. Communication has been received raising concerns and issues with these activities. Apologies were extended to anyone who might have been offended; no offense was intended.

Mrs. Latta reported that the school is very involved in interesting curriculum discussions. An Act 80 day took place on November 2 with good programs for the faculty. A school-wide fundraiser called Coins for Caring will begin next week to benefit Housing Transitions. Community outreach and support has been a goal for Mrs. Latta. The school has been supportive of PTO activities.

The minutes of the October 11, 2012 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously. The agenda for the next month and the minutes from the previous meeting will be e-mailed the week prior to each meeting for review by the membership.

Beth Adams reported that we have approximately $7,600 in the account as of November 8, an increase of $1,900 from last month due to the Marianna hoagie sale which was very successful. We continue to receive donations. We received a check from the Great American fundraiser from last year's fundraiser. Offsets to the balance include a check to Cats Meow ($400 and we have already sold $100 in merchandise) and we also paid $300 for the Visiting Author Day on November 9. We also had expenses of $1,300 for Spirit Wear which were offset by the amount brought in by sales. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Lisa Edwards; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

The following funding requests were made: $1137.17 to see How I Became A Pirate for students in the higher grades. This amount will be due February. A request for $100 will be made in December to benefit the entire school.

Funds in the amount of approximately of $1,200 to purchase items for the Vera Bradley Bingo will need to be provided in January. A motion to approve the funding requests was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Lisa Edwards. The motion passed unanimously. Teachers are encouraged to have funding requests in by the end of the year.

The PTO very much wants to provide teacher stipends. Discussion took place regarding potentially getting donations from businesses to donate toward these stipends with recognition for that donation. Stipends were approved at the last meeting and will be given out but the timing has not been determined.

Letters of Communication: None were received for review.

Committee Reports

A. Spirit wear: A few extra shirts are available. Orders will accepted again in the spring. Mrs. Latta reported that the school gets a lot of new students in January, especially international students.
B. Marianna's Hoagie Sale: Beth Adams reported that this was a huge success. Thanks Beth! The income from this totaled $1, 884.
C. Great American: Mindy Sabol reported that orders were due today. A reminder will be sent to families. We do not know at this point how many orders have been received. The representative from Great American will come to the January 2013 meeting to discuss the spring fundraiser.
D. Scholastic Book Fair: The fair went very well; thank you Ericka! Funds in the amount of $1,659.20 were received in income which represents the income received in cash or check; we also have funds in credit cards that are not in the checking account. We need to decide how we use the Scholastic funds. A motion was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle to send the cash back to Scholastic for purchasing in the spring. Mindy Sabol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
E. Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Anne Campbell reported that the fair will be held on November 10. An e-mail will be sent out requesting more volunteers.
F. Box Tops for Education: Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that we should be receiving a check for $598 by the end of 600 by December. The classroom challenge will be held in January and February 2013.
G. Giant A+ for Education: This fundraiser is ongoing.
H. Labels for Education: Kirsten Leitizinger has offered to coordinate this; Kathryn Bainbridge has been in touch her.
I. Empties4Cash: Lisa Davis will soon be sending a box of recycled toner cartridges.
J. Retail Merchant Contributions: This is a topic that will be discussed at future meetings.

K. Hospitality: Mindy Sabol reported that the holiday luncheon is coming up. Last year, the PTO spent about $300 for each party for the teachers. The taco truck and pizza oven will be here in the spring, the costs of which have been donated.

L. Family Fun Nights: Elaine Sanders is coordinating an event with Discovery Space in January or February. They will be giving each student a free pass. A staff person from Discovery may come to the PTO meeting in December to discuss this event.

M. thirtyone: Rachelle Coffey reported that a catalog will be coming to every family and orders can be accepted online until November 25. Rachelle will be at school on the last day of school before Thanksgiving to show samples of items available for purchase. The PTO will receive 25% of all sales.

N. Exploration Fair: No report. A chair is needed. Mrs. Latta has the form that the parents need to fill out.

O. Ice Cream Social: No report.

P. 5th Grade Party: No report.

Q. Yearbook: No report.

R. PTO newsletter: No report.

S. Author Visit: Dustin Brackbill reported the author visit with Martha Freeman will take place on November 9.

T. Vera Bradley: This event will be held in February.

New Business: A suggestion was made to develop a wish list "helping hands tree" to provide teachers with “gifts” from families for items needed in the classroom. Lisa Davis will discuss this idea with the faculty at the November 13 faculty meeting. Items for the lists will be sent to Kathryn Bainbridge. Jenny Spearly, Tracy Binkley, and Lisa Edwards volunteered to coordinate.

Unfinished Business: None was presented for discussion.

Announcements: None were presented.

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2012.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jenny Spearly; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Davis 11/15/12

Lisa Davis Date