Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
December 13, 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 thanked everyone for coming. This has been a busy month which has been very financially successful. Thank you for the time, effort, and support.

Mrs. Latta reported that the last piece of the school-wide positive behavior program has begun. This includes a wreath outside of each classroom made up of paws. Rewards will go to the entire class. The cocoa celebration will be held. The luncheon was wonderful; the faculty and staff felt very much appreciated. Thank you! The 3rd and 4th grade students will be attending a performance of The Wiz in January at the High School North. This is a good opportunity for learning how to attend public events. About one-third of families do not seem to access the progress reports.

The minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Tracy Binkley; second by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Beth Adams reported that, as of December 13, 2012, the PTO bank balance is approximately $12,600. This includes gross receipts from fundraisers such as Great American but does not show expenditures. The balance in the account will be about $8,000 after the bills have been paid. The Barnes & Noble Bookfair brought in about $400 which paid for two of the author visits. The Thirty-One fundraiser brought in $331 plus the $100 in free products we will get which will be donated to the Vera Bradley Bingo. The Tait Farm fundraiser brought in about $92. Checks from BoxTops and Empties4Cash will be coming in the next month. A recommendation to list the approved funding requests, coded by approved and paid, on the bottom of the funding report would help in determining our true financial needs. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Lydia Olsen; second by Ericka Ahn. The motion passed unanimously.

The following funding requests were made. Approximately $90 was requested to fund cocoa, cups, and candy canes for grades K-5 for a celebration the week before the holiday break. This benefits every student at a cost of

$.30/student. A motion to approve the request was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

The music department has requested $300 from each elementary school that is involved with the Penn State Music Appreciation program that occurs in the fall. The funds will be used to support the costs of the buses to transport the approximately 20 students per school who participate in the program. It was agreed that it is not the responsibility of the PTO to fund this program. Mrs. Latta may consider funding this next year from the building fund.

The PTO has the funds to support the teacher stipends in the amount of $50 for full-time teachers and $25 for part-time teachers, given twice during the year. A suggestion was made to support $50/teacher and $50/department which includes music, art, counseling, Title 1, ESL, learning enrichment, nurse, and library. The total cost would be $1,350. A motion to approve the teacher stipends was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Elaine Sanders. The motion passed unanimously.

We received several letters of appreciation which were distributed for review.

Committee Reports

A. Spirit wear: A spring sale will be held which will be coordinated by Jamie Cunningham.
B. Great American: This was very successful; thank you to everyone who participated and to Mindy Sabol for the great coordination!
C. Scholastic Book Fair: No report.
D. Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Thank you to Anne Campbell for a great event!
E. Box Tops for Education: Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that the classroom competition will be held in January and February. Information will be coming home soon.
F. Giant A+ for Education: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that this will be on-going.
G. Labels for Education: Kirsten Lietzinger is coordinating this. We may see flyers come home at some point.
H. Empties4Cash: Lisa Davis reported that a box of recycled toner cartridges was mailed on Thanksgiving weekend. It usually takes six weeks or so for a check to be received.
I. Hospitality: On behalf of Mindy Sabol, Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that the holiday party was very, very successful and much appreciated. Mindy was approached by a staff member who had tears in her eyes.

Thank you for all of your contributions!

J. Family Fun Nights: We are planning a Family Fun Event at the Discovery Center. Elaine Sanders has gotten several dates of availability, all of which are 5-6 weeks before the Exploration Fair. The agreed-upon date will be Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Elaine will check with Mrs. Margusity to see if she is interested in attending; Mrs. Styers will participate.

K. Thirty-One: Rachelle Coffey reported that this was very successful. There have been some requests to have this event again in the spring.

L. Exploration Fair: We are still looking for someone to chair this event. The event, originally scheduled for February 25 was postponed to March. Further discussion will take place in January. A motion to move the date was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded my Tracy Binkley. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Ice Cream Social: No report.

N. 5th Grade Party: No report.

O. Yearbook: Jennifer McCann continues to collect information.

P. PTO newsletter: Sarah Dwyer reported that a newsletter can be put together but it was agreed that we will hold off on this for now since we have a good list of volunteers, which was one of the purposes of the newsletter.

Q. Vera Bradley Bingo: Marcie Rockey and Anne Campbell reported that they will need about $1,000 to purchase supplies for this event, which they will do in January. The bingo will be held on February 8. Ticket prices will be raised from $15 to $20. A motion to approve these expenditures was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Karen Styers. The motion passed unanimously.

R. "Helping Hands Tree": This was new this year and was done on a tight timeframe. We will have an idea next month of the level of success of this project and will discuss how this should be organized in the future.

S. Author Visit: These have gone very well; the next one is in March.

There was no new business brought forward and no unfinished business was discussed. The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2013 in the Library. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle and seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Davis 1/10/13

Lisa Davis Date