Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
February 21, 2013

MINUTES

Call to Order: Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

Presidents' Remarks: Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge welcomed everyone. She noted that the Vera Bradley Bingo was great and extended thanks to Anne Campbell and Marcie Rockey for a wonderful event! A lot of fundraisers have occurred this year and we are doing quite well.

Principal's Remarks: Mrs. Latta reported on the school-wide behavior program. The school will be adding weekly data on specific infractions and student behaviors. The rewards have been changed and are now alternated and mixed between grades 1-4. MNES was represented at a recently held Coaches Summit where activities at MNES were shared. The second trimester will feature a carnival and games on March 8 and all grades will be invited to attend. The emphasis at the school has been on safety and security. The Traumatic Events Team met several times and did a fire dill with a blocked exit. They found that the staff and faculty worked well together and the students responded very well. They will be holding a fire drill at lunch. On February 14, the school had a district security audit, which was a team of nine, including three police officers, who walked the building and reviewed the building from a safety perspective, especially in the case of an internal threat. The results indicated the following:

1. It was recommended that the main office door have a second buzzer. Mrs. Belinda recommended that the PA system be moved next to her desk.
2. The gym is in the line of vision as soon as the building is entered. The doors to that space need to be locked and propped open when in use.
3. The classrooms are surrounded by glass so the faculty should consider where the teaching desk is located and consider moving it to the side. Teachers also should consider where the file cabinets are located. Placing a doorstop inside the door was recommended.
4. It was recommended that the students understand where the safe area is located. The Lion Cub mascot could be used as a marker for that area.
5. Put in security cameras by the doors, especially the back doors along with a silent buzzer or light that is activated when the door is used.

At the March 19 faculty meeting, the school resource officer will present on safety and security. A Secure-in-Place drill will take place by the end of the month which will simulate real-life issues.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 10, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Mindy Sabol. The motion passed unanimously.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: Beth Adams provided the PTO Treasurer's Report. The balance hasn't changed much and is still at about $6,600. Most of the Vera Bradley income is not reflected yet in the budget but it is expected that we will make $2,500 in profit. The primary grades attended "How I Became A Pirate." The bill from Penn State was $1,000, $800 less than budgeted. We also had some minor printing bills. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dustin Brackbill; seconded by Matt Burns. The motion passed unanimously.

Funding Requests: Jamie Barbarich requested $100 to fund a trip to DelGrosso's Amusement Park for the K-2 autistic support classroom students to mark their achievements this year. One or two adults will accompany each student. A motion to approve the funding request was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Karen Styers. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for Officers for 2013-2014: Nominations for Co-president-elect and Secretary-elect are being accepted. The plan is to bring forward names in April for vote in May.

Letters of Communication
Several thank you notes were distributed for review.

Committee Reports

A. "Helping Hands Tree": No report.

B. Great American: Mindy Sabol reported that she met with Nate Yocum. He will present a school-wide program on March 11 that will feature an illusionist; the time of 2:15 pm was recommended for that program. Mindy will post signs about the Great American fundraiser before the Exploration Fair and the teachers will get lanyards with penguins. There are great rewards for certain levels of items sold, with potential profits of $5,000-$7,000. Mindy passed around samples of the penguin keychains that will be used. Mrs. Latta might dress up as a penguin. The packets will go out the week before the event.

C. Author Visit: Dustin Brackbill has reserved April 29 for the spring author visit which will feature Dan Guttman, who is the author of the Weird School books, the Baseball Card mysteries, and more. This event already has been paid for and since Mr. Guttman will do the

visit by Skype, there will no travel costs.

D. Box Tops for Education: Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that boxtops are due on February 25. To date, 5,591 have been received from the classrooms which will bring in about $560. She also has 1,500 that were donated before the competition started. The class prize will be supported by the PTO, the approval for which was already provided.

E. Exploration Fair: Jamie Cunningham was not able to be at the meeting but reported via e-mail that the all details of the event have been finalized and she has confirmed volunteers to cover lunches. Thank you, Jamie!

F. Vera Bradley Bingo: Marcie Rockey and Anne Campbell reported that the bingo was a very delightful evening and that the net income is expected to be about $2,500. This year, there were a lot of obstacles due to additional guidelines at the state level for these kinds of events. The chairs are going to step down and Marcie noted that the interest in this event seems to be waning. Attendance was at about 130 and approximately 20 tickets were not sold. Thank you for all of the work over the last four years!

G. Spirit wear: No report.

H. Yearbook: Jennifer McCann reported that the yearbook is coming along very well. A draft was distributed. The deadline for information is March 15.

I. Ice Cream Social: We do not have a chair for this event. Jen Banfield is very interested in being involved. A note will be sent to all the MNES families asking for volunteers for a chair. If a chair is not identified, we may use a committee instead or list this as a family fun night. The date for the social is June 2.

J. Scholastic Book Fair: Ericka Ahn reported that set up will be on April 1 at 10:00 am and the fair will take place on April 2-4. Classroom visits will take place on April 2-3 from 9:00 am – 1:15 pm. Family nights will take place on April 4 and 5 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This is a buy-one-get-one-free event and every student will get a free book. Anne Campbell and Susan McWhirter volunteered to participate in the fair next year. The dates for 2013-2014 are November 16-18 and April 7-11.

K. 5th Grade Party: Jen Barber and Stephanie Dry are co-chairing the event. They will do a butter braid fundraiser with the fifth grade class and will hold this before Easter. The party will be held at Spring Creek Park and expenses are expected to be low. A letter is ready to be sent to the fifth grade families. If additional funds are needed, the PTO will support those costs. A motion to approve the butter braid fundraiser and additional support from the PTO if needed was made by Ericka Ahn and seconded by Linda Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Hospitality: Mindy Sabol reported that she is coordinating Teacher Appreciation Week; dates are pending. She is interested in working with another volunteer. Last year, the week included a lunch and

treats with a cost of ~$800. Much of the luncheon can be donated by families so this amount can be cut by ~$300. We could get a large discount on lunch from Gemelli Bakery; the taco truck and pizza truck will be free to the teachers. Mindy will summarize the costs for review at the March PTO meeting.

M. Giant A+ for Education: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that this fundraiser is moving forward.

N. Labels for Education: Kirsten Lietzinger reported that she will send everything in at the end of the year.

O. Empties4Cash: Lisa Davis reported that a box is filling up and will be sent when full.

P. Family Fun Nights: We may want to consider doing a Book Bingo at some point.

Q. thirty-one: Rachelle Coffey was not able to be at the meeting but reported that this event can be held again this year if needed and she plans on holding a fundraiser next year.

New Business:
Dustin Brackbill reported that TV Turnoff Week will be April 29-May 5 and asked if this can be promoted through the PTO. Certificates will be given out to students who pledge ahead of time. A motion to have the PTO promote TV Turnoff Week was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Dustin also reported that a request has not yet been put in for the summer library program and needs to be submitted soon if the school is interested. The fee for this summer will be $80/hour for two staff to run it. MNES scheduled 12 hours last summer, two hours a week for six weeks. Dustin will send a survey to the families to determine interest.

Unfinished Business:
No unfinished business was presented.

Announcements
The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2013 in Room 102, Mrs. Hartzler's classroom. Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge asked those present to consider being an officer for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Caren Bloom-Stiedle; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectively submitted:

Lisa Davis 2/25/13

Lisa Davis Date