Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
April 11, 2013

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by Co-president Kathryn Bainbridge.

Presidents' Remarks: Co-presidents Kathryn Bainbridge and Rachelle Coffey reported that it has been a busy, and very good, month.

Principal's Remarks: Mrs. Latta reported that the PSSAs are taking place and seem to be going well. The Pennsylvania Department of Education visited Mount Nittany Middle School and Ferguson Township Elementary School during test week but did not come to MNES, although the school was prepared.

On Wednesday, April 17, Mrs. Latta will be making an announcement over the PA system to the students regarding the dress code, which includes no spaghetti straps, no hats, etc. She will then send an e-mail to the parents reiterating the contents of the student handbook. She noted that the dress code at the middle school seems to be consistent with the code at the elementary school. By next Friday, the students should be adhering to the code.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: Beth Adams reported that the balance in the PTO bank account is almost $21,000 which will be reduced by $1,179 for the 5th grade party. The committee for that activity had a great butter braid fundraiser and raised about $1,100. That amount is being held in the PTO bank account until the bills for the event are received and paid. Beth anticipates that the balance next month will be about $13,000 which will be carried forward to next year. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Mindy Sabol. The motion passed unanimously.

Funding Requests: Four funding requests were presented for review. The third graders won the box tops competition and have asked for ice cream sandwiches. Caren Bloom-Steidle will purchase the sandwiches and submit a request for reimbursement from the PTO.

The Autistic Support Program has requested $150 to support the students to participate in Special Olympics. The students would like to make their own lime green t-shirts that will feature a design developed by one of the students. They will have peer partner coaches this year, since the 5th grade students will be volunteering. A motion to approve the funding request was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by everyone. The motion passed unanimously.

A request for $175 was made to purchase a mini-fridge for the faculty lounge which will be used to hold drinks, etc. The sale of these items will support the School-wide Positive Behavior program which is expected to become self-sufficient within the year. A motion to approve the request was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Anne Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Mindy Sabol requested $900 to support activities during Teacher Appreciation Week which will take place during the first week of May. The taco and pizza lunches will cost ~$250. A motion to approve the request was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously. A total of 77 people will benefit.

Nominations for Officers for 2013-2014: Kathryn Bainbridge announced that we are seeking nominations for Co-president and Secretary for the next two years. Rachelle Coffey nominated Tracey Binkley for Co-president. Lisa Davis has approached someone to be Secretary who is giving that some consideration. Voting will take place at the May meeting.

Summer Library Program: Dustin Brackbill sent a library newsletter via e-mail that providing an update on activities for the library.

Teacher Stipends: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that, due to the hard work of volunteers, we are able to support additional teacher stipends this year. Caren Bloom-Steidle made a motion to provide $50 teacher stipends; seconded by Mindy Sabol. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion took place regarding purchasing larger items such as playground equipment. Next year, discussion will focus on how to use funds.

Letters of Communication: We received many lovely notes of thanks from students for the books received through the Scholastic Book Fair.

Committee Reports

A. Great American: Well done Mindy! The event raised $6,500 and the penguins were a great success. Look for monkeys for next year. It has been suggested that we do one big Great American fundraiser rather than two and that we do ours in early fall, probably at the end of September. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

B. Author Visit: The virtual visit with Dan Guttman is coming up on April 29. Dustin Brackbill sent a newsletter via e-mail that includes information on ordering books for autographing as well as other information on the summer library program, a writing competition, and more.

C. Box Tops for Education: Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that the third grade won the competition and has requested ice cream sandwiches. Box tops will be taken through the end of the year. Congratulations Caren!

D. Exploration Fair: Jamie Cunningham will chair this event again next year.

E. Spirit wear: Jamie Cunningham will be stepping down from this activity. Marcie Rockey and Amber Hartzler will coordinate this next year.

F. Yearbook: Jennifer McCann thanked the teachers for being so responsive. Everything has gone very smoothly this year using the on-line portal. Getting the photos was the most challenging part. A total of 78 orders have been received so far. Orders are being accepted through April 26. Thank you!

G. Ice Cream Social: Jennifer Banfield reported that this will take place on June 2. We will give out door prizes rather than having a raffle. We will have either baskets (by grade) or another kind of prize. The cost of purchasing the pizza is about ~$700. The decision was made to not offer pizza this year and to provide the ice cream free of charge. The cost of the ice cream is expected to be about $400; there will be no pre-sale tickets. We will have bottled water available.

H. Scholastic Book Fair: This was a great success. Caren Bloom-Steidle reported that we had $4,310 in sales, $800 in books purchased, and we earned $2,096 Scholastic dollars. We also earned $15.98 in the All-for-Books Donation program which bought four books for our library. Scholastic will buy 15 books for a needy school. The fairs will be held next year on October 16-18, 2013 and the BOGO will be held April 7-11, 2014. Thank you to a great committee! And many thanks to Ericka Ahn and Heather Bodenschatz who chaired the book fair for so many years.

I. 5th Grade Party: The planning for this event is moving along.

J. Hospitality: An update on this activity was provided earlier in the meeting by Mindy Sabol.

K. Giant A+ for Education: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that this activity is moving forward.

L. Labels for Education: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that this activity is moving forward.

M. Empties4Cash: Lisa Davis reported that a box of toner cartridges will be sent when it has been filled.

N. Family Fun Nights: Marcie Rockey reported that a movie night will be held on April 19 at 6:30 pm and will feature the movie "Bedtime Stories." The announcement will go home with students on April 12.

Kathryn Bainbridge reported that Tyson Chicken has started a fundraiser called Tyson A+ where labels can be redeemed for $.24 each.

New Business: Kathryn Bainbridge reported that MNES magnets were ordered through the Roar Store at the high school and need to be picked up. These will sold at the June 2 ice cream social, along with the Cats Meow school.

A committee has been formed to consider larger projects, such as purchasing playground equipment, which can be supported by the PTO. The faculty will retrieve the tack strips from the Panorama building.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented for discussion.

Announcements: The next meeting, the last one of the school year, will be held on May 9, 2013 in Room 201, Mrs. Styers' classroom

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectively submitted:

Lisa Davis 4/15/13

Lisa Davis Date