Mount Nittany Elementary PTO
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2011

Call to Order: The business meeting was called to order at 6:48pm in Room 201 by co-president Cori Agostinelli Kalupson.

President's Remarks: Cori Agostinelli Kalupson & Kathryn Bainbridge welcomed everyone and expressed excitement for the new year and the new school.

Principal's Remarks: Mrs. Latta, school principal, welcomed all parents and shared how it has been an exciting first few weeks of school in the new building. She shared how the fire alarms went off multiple times since the first day of school and the children responded very well to all of the false alarms. Several minor issues are being smoothed out such as lighting in the library and the bus pull up gate, but overall it's been a very successful start of the new school year.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 12, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: Shannon Messick, the PTO treasurer, reviewed the PTO Budget Summary Report for 2010/2011 as well as provided the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 yearly reviews. Shannon shared that last spring the teachers chose to forego their $50 stipend from the PTO and receive a $100 stipend from the PTO for this fall. Approximately 25 full time staff will receive the $100 stipend for school supplies and 6 part time staff will receive a pro-rated stipend. The distribution of the stipends was approved by the committee. Shannon also reminded the PTO that all checks require two signatures from the PTO board and this can take some time due to arranging of schedules to sign checks. Reimbursement forms were available at the meeting and it was mentioned to only use the school address of 700 Brandywine Dr. and Attn: PTO treasurer for any financial correspondence.

Letters of Communication: Seven letters of appreciation to the PTO were shared from the following individuals: Linda Marshall, Linda Margusity, Cathy Quick, Wendy Espy-Metz, Dustin Brackbill, Jan Becker, and Karen Rossman Styers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A description was given about each committee as well as a reminder that funding requests are preferred as soon as possible. Mrs. Latta stated she would share with her staff in her upcoming staff meeting to provide funding requests to the PTO as soon as possible so the PTO can determine the appropriate level of fundraising.

Spirit Wear: Each child received a Mt. Nittany Elementary t-shirt the first day of school as a gift from the PTO. If your child did not receive one, you are to provide your child's name and teacher and email to Jamie Cunningham at jamie@landscape2.com. The t-shirts are maroon with gray writing. Adult t-shirts will be available soon with gray material and maroon writing. A women's fit shirt will also be available this year as well as the standard cut shirt. Order forms

will be sent home shortly.

Great American Fundraiser: This fundraiser, *The Great American Fundraiser,* is new to the PTO but has been very successful with other elementary schools. There will be an all- school assembly later this month supporting the fundraiser and a representative from The Great American Fundraiser will be present to speak with the students. The fundraiser will run from 9/ 19/11 to 9/30/11.

Scholastic Book Fair: Ericka Ahn, Cheri Jehu, and Heather Bodenschatz will be chairing this event this year. It was decided last year to have a fall and a spring fair to support the school. The fall fair will be on October 10th and 11th during parent-teacher conferences only and this is a for-profit sale. The fair will be set up on 10/7/11 and will run on the 10th and 11th from 8:00am-4:00pm. The spring fair will be a buy-one-get-one-free sale, using some of the funds raised in the fall sale to support each child receiving a free book of $5 or less value. Volunteers are needed in 2-hour shifts to help with both these events.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair: This event will be held on November 19, 2011 at Barnes and Noble. Dustin Brackbill will be meeting with Barnes and Noble staff soon to discuss the event and volunteers are needed for this event.

Box Tops for Education: Caren Bloom-Steidle shared that a Box Tops collection box is needed in the school to begin collecting box tops. She will begin sending flyers to all children to begin collecting. The box tops are mailed in October and March and last year the schools collected over 15, 000 tops worth more than $1,100! Caren shared that she may develop a display to show the progress of collection over the school year. ** *Please note that expired box tops do NOT count toward our school earnings***

Giant A+ for Education: Kathryn Bainbridge shared a report from the committee chair, Lisa Wolf, on the program. The school name has not yet changed on the Giant A+ account but will be changed by the time the program has started. Information was sent home with the youngest child of each family this week on the program. Registration does need to occur each year to participate. Individuals are encouraged to use the form sent home to sign up or register on-line.

Information was also shared on the Target credit card program. Anyone with a Target credit card can indicate Mt. Nittany Elementary to receive a percentage of the sales on that card. This is a one-time registration through Target. Last year $370 was raised.

Empties 4 Cash: Lisa Davis will be the chair of this committee and a collection box will be made for the school. All personal size printer ink cartridges are accepted and Lisa mails the collected cartridges and receives a check in return for the school. Last year over $200 was earned.

Hospitality: Mindy Sabol will be the committee chair for this year and will contact volunteers as needed to provide special snacks and gifts to the teachers over the course of the school year. Last year the committee provided soft toilet paper, a dessert bar, candy bars and other items to the teachers and staff to express appreciation.

Family Fun Night: Shannon Messick shared that due to having a Family Fun Night at Penn Skates last spring, Penn Skates has offered to provide a free night of skating this fall to the school. A date of Sunday, October 9th was selected from 4:30-6:30pm. Admission is free if each skater brings an item to donate (Penn Skates determines this item and it will be printed on the event flyer) or $4 without the item. There is a fee for skate rental of $2/person. More information will follow on this event. Other suggested ideas for Family Fun Night included game night and open gym.

Exploration Fair: is in need of a committee chair and volunteers. This is a winter event that allows children to explore an area of interest and create a display highlighting the given topic. Past participants have shared about horses, rabbits, making bubbles, etc. The committee chair would be responsible for organizing volunteers to help in creating certificates given to each child as well as assisting in setting up tables and organizing the space to fit all the participants.

Marianna's Fall Hoagie Sale: Lydia Olsen and Tanya Labosky will be co-chairing this fundraiser and volunteers are needed the date of delivery, which will be October 31, 2011. Volunteers arrive at the school around 6:00am to help sort the deliveries and are finished at approximately 8:00am.

Ice Cream Social: Mary Ellen Hurley will be chairing this event for the last time this year and would like to have a co-chair to pass the information onto for upcoming years.

5th Grade Party: no report.

Yearbook: Cori Agostinelli Kalupson has an individual who is willing to be the graphic designer for the yearbook, but volunteers are needed to collect and organize candid photos. The yearbook is not prepared by school staff.

PTO Newsletter: Sarah Williamson will be distributing a PTO newsletter on an every other month basis highlighting upcoming events and fundraisers. Information is to be sent to Sarah by given deadlines, with the first deadline being September 26th. To send information to Sarah, please email her at smw25@scasd.org and cc: Lisa Davis, PTO secretary at lad3@psu.edu. This information will also be shared on the PTO website. A PTO Facebook page has also been created as a means of sharing information.

Author Visit: Dustin Brackbill has scheduled author Helen Lester to visit the school on 4/12/ 2012. More information will follow.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Funding Requests

$725.74 was requested by the kindergarten classes this year to go to Way Fruit Farm for a field trip, which includes a tour of the apple processing plant as well as the pumpkin fields. Each

child will be given a jug of apple cider, a bag of apples, and a pumpkin to take home. This fee also includes $1.25 per child for the use of buses. A motion was made by Dea Biberdorf and seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dessert Social scheduled for 9/9/2011 has been postponed.

PTO informational packets were distributed to the youngest of each family member this week.

It was suggested that different teachers host the PTO meetings throughout the year as a way to show the new school. Mrs. Rockey offered to host the next meeting on October 13, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

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9/8/11 Kathryn Bainbridge