Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
November 10, 2011

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 pm and introductions were made.

Presidents' Remarks: One of the goals of the PTO is to build community. We have common goals of serving that community and the students and families at our school and need to keep those goals in mind in verbal and written communication.

Principal's Remarks: Mrs. Latta needed to attend another meeting in the building so the remarks were provided by Dustin Brackbill. Next week is the second annual anti-bullying week. The Planet Peace ambassadors at Mount Nittany Middle School will be coming to MNES to teach in the classrooms; these presentations will be supplemented by readings. There are good links on the MNES website with more information.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Anne Campbell moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Marcie Rockey. Motion passed.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: All receipts have been received for recent fundraisers and all bills have been paid. The profit from the Great American Fundraiser was just over $5,300; from the Marianna's Hoagie Sale, $1,500; there was no profit/loss from the Scholastic Book Fair and those dollars will go to Dustin for purchase of books and other materials for the library. There was a deficit of $1,600 for the Spirit Wear since one shirt was purchased for each student at the beginning of the year. We have items through the Cats Meow that can be sold and may want to consider getting an item for MNES that can be available for purchase. Caren Bloom-Steidle made a motion for the annual dues to be paid to the Boalsburg Fire Company; seconded by Dea Bieberdorf. Motion passed. A motion was made by Anne Campbell to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Dustin Brackbill. Motion passed.

Letters of Communication: Letters were circulated for review.

Committee Reports

A. Spirit Wear: No report
B. Great American Fundraiser: About $700 was made in online sales and the remainder was made from door-to-door sales. There were challenges with pickup: 21 families did not pick up their products on the day they were available and two families still need to get their items. Some harsh communication occurred between PTO members and the chair of this activity. We will need to continue to be firm

about when items need to be picked up and will work to ensure that the tone of messages is firm and polite.

C. Scholastic Book Fair: No report

D. Barnes & Noble Book Fair: The book fair is coming up on November 19 from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer. We will get proceeds from the sales in the bookstore and in the café. We should advertise on www.statecollege.com; Dustin will follow up. We also should advertise at Kid-to-Kid and at Weis Markets.

E. Box Tops for Education: These have been submitted and $481 was made; 4,800 boxtops were submitted in all! We should get a check for about $1,100 when this collection is combined with last year's donations. Should we have a contest for designing individual flyers? The next submission deadline is March 1, 2012 with another one is June. Caren will check with Mrs. Smith about having students design the flyers.

F. Giant A+ for Education: No report

G. Empties 4 Cash: Additional cartridges continue to be added to the mailing that will be sent. Large cartridges can be recycled at Staples or Office Depot and the money donated to the PTO.

H. Hospitality: A motion was made by Lisa Clinkey to allocate $1,000 for hospitality; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. Motion passed. December 13 is the date for the holiday lunch for the teachers and other MNES staff.

I. Family Fun Nights: Another night will be held in January 2012. Global Connections has international speakers available for the classroom.

J. Exploration Fair: A committee and a chair have been identified; more information will be available at the next meeting, including the date.

K. Marianna's Fall Hoagie Sale: 14 hoagies were not picked up despite extensive efforts on behalf of the chairs.

L. Ice Cream Social: No report

M. 5th Grade Party: No report

N. Yearbook: No report

O. PTO Newsletter: The next newsletter will to out in December with a deadline of November 28 for information.

P. Author Visit: We should order the books through Barnes and Noble.

Q. Clothing Exchange: No report

R. Vera Bradley: This event will be held on February 10, 2012

A sincere note of appreciation for all of the work for the fall fundraisers was extended to the chairs and other volunteers.

New Business

We would like to put together a calendar for the year.

We are considering applying for non-profit status in collaboration with other district PTOs and need to focus efforts on specific fundraising events that are targeted for specific purposes. Caren will check with the Penn State Law School on student engagement in the process of applying for non-profit

status. We are considering eliminating dues as well as other changes for next year. Suggestions are welcome! One or two fundraisers may build community while a large number of options give families a chance to choose what works for them. We also could have a social in January or February since we didn't have the back-to-school social. Fundraising for a charity was suggested as was eliminating all fundraising, except for one activity, for one year. Restaurants do specific fundraising nights as well.

Funding Requests

A request for $60 was submitted by Dustin Brackbill to host a cocoa party. A motion was made by Anne Campbell to approve this request; seconded by Mindy Sabol. Motion passed.

The ESL teacher submitted a request for $369 to purchase one set of materials and supplies for the listening library. A motion was made by Dea Bieberdorf to approve this request; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. Motion passed.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2011. The meeting location will be announced in the reminder that will be sent home the week prior to the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ 11/12/11

Lisa Davis, Secretary Date