Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
February 9, 2012

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Cori Agostinelli Kalupson at 6:50 pm and introductions were made.

School Board Comments: Dorothea Stahl reported that the school district sent a letter of invitation to families regarding public forums on the budget for next year. Based on the Governor's budget for 2012-2013, the district is expecting a shortfall of $1M to $1.5M. The School Board will present a preliminary budget on February 20 and will hold a public forum on March 1 at 7:00 pm in the High School South Building. Input into the budget for next year also will be solicited from the high school students. The Act 1 index limits taxes to 1% but the current index is 1.7%; the board voted to use an exception to go above the limit.

Presidents' Remarks: No remarks.

Principal's Remarks: A Caring All School Assembly was held today. Each child was given at the end of the assembly a folder that has 10 postcards where information on a contact is provided. The school gets something back on anything that is sold, up to $4,695. The funds could be used for the playground or for something else and will become part of the PTO budget. February is always the time when principals think about budgets. It would be nice to have three classrooms each year. The Traumatic Events Team has been meeting in the building and will hold a drill this month. In future drills, they will try to block an exit to see how things go. The week of March 12 is the time that the PSAA tests will be held.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mindy Sabol to approve the minutes; seconded by Dorothea Stahl. The minutes were amended to correct the Family Fun night to the actual date of January 26. Motion passed.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: The funds taken in so far for the Vera Bradley Bingo are reflected on the report but there will be more expenses. Not reflected on the budget are the anticipated expenses for the spring teacher stipends about $1,300. The budget will be amended to include $300 for hospitality. The students will attend the Magic School Bus event since the students could not attend the Seussical due to a school delay that day. A motion to approve the report was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed.

Election of Officers for 2012-2014: Members were encouraged to think about serving on the Board for next year. Cori Agostinelli-Kalupson and Shannon Messick will be stepping down of the 2 year terms and replacements are needed to continue such a prosperous PTO. The first year of co-president serves to allow the individual to observe the role of the president and then take the 2nd year to service more of the head president contact.

Letters of Communication: One letter of correspondence was passed for review.

Committee Reports

A. Spirit Wear: Cori has a box of t-shirts; these will be sold at the Vera Bradley Bingo. We will have the t-shirts available each year.
B. Scholastic Book Fair: No report
C. Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Done for this year! We will be picking the same weekend next year, the second weekend in November.
D. Box Tops for Education: We are in the midst of February Frenzy! Every single box top needs to be in by February 24. Each grade has a parent volunteer. The box tops will be divided by grade and we will be able to see which grade has collected the most. The PTO will send a reminder the week that the box tops are due. Printed and e-mailed reminders will be sent between now and the deadline. A prize will be awarded to the grade that collects the most.
E. Giant A+ for Education: No report.
F. Empties 4 Cash: A large box of cartridges was sent in the fall and toner cartridges are being collected now for another shipment.
G. Hospitality: We will have cupcakes and juice boxes to celebrate Dr. Seuss Week. Teacher Appreciation Week is coming. We may investigate purchasing benches for the lobby donated by a class or contact local furniture stores about a donation.
H. Family Fun Nights: The Penny Carnival was great with a great turnout (more than 100). Counting the pennies has been more than a bit problematic so we don't have a total yet for the night. Shannon Messick will bring the pennies for counting at the next meeting. The funds from the Penny Carnival will be used for a good purpose. Penn State Hospitality students could be used for future events. We could have a movie night or a skate night at Penn Skates which cost us $375 last fall.
I. Exploration Fair: The flyers went home and 50-250 student projects are expected. The certificates will have room for comments and there will be prize for each student. A reminder will be sent by Mrs. Latta about the deadline. A group of eight Penn State science students will have a display and tour the student displays. Set up will be on Friday night and Monday morning.

During the event, one to three volunteers is needed per grade. Some help will be needed for set up and tear down.

J. Ice Cream Social: No report. The tentative date is June 3.

K. 5th Grade Party: The amount given by the PTO for previous years' parties needs to be determined. The cost of Tussey Mountain needs to be determined and the cost of Welch Pool also will be determined so that the students can vote between those two options. Last year, $750 was spent on transportation and $650 was spent on the venue. A motion to approve up to $1,500 to support the 2012 Fifth Grade Party was made by Anne Campbell; seconded by Dorothea Stahl. Motion passed. Some funds will cover t-shirts and the class photo. The potential date is June 4 with a rain date of June 6.

L. Yearbook: No report

M. PTO Newsletter: The next issue of the newsletter will be ready to be sent out within the week.

N. Author Visit: This will be held on April 12.

O. Vera Bradley Bingo: The Bingo will be held February 10. Six tickets are left. A tremendous response was received for donations and raffle prizes. $960 of the $1,000 allocated by the PTO was spent on products but that already has been recouped and the event hasn't even happened yet!

P. Clothing Exchange: No report.

Unfinished Business: None raised.

New Business: Lisa Davis participates on the district's parent nutrition committee which is looking to have a parent volunteer in each school to lead monthly food tasting.

Funding Requests: Funding requests for the a fourth grade field trip to Penns Cave in June for $2,400 and another field trip for the fifth graders are expected.

Announcements: The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2012 in Room 120, Mrs. Smith's room.

Dorothea Stahl made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ 2/12/12

Lisa Davis, Secretary Date