Mount Nittany Elementary School
PTO Meeting
March 15, 2012

AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm by co-president Kathryn Bainbridge. Introductions were made of those in attendance.

Presidents' Remarks: The PTO has exciting new business to roll out. The PTO will begin to implement a "Consent Agenda" at the beginning of next year which will allow us to use our time in the meeting more efficiently. More information was provided later in the meeting (see below).

Principal's Remarks: The students are surviving the PSSAs and seem to be taking it seriously. The results of the testing will be available in July and will be published in the paper. Mrs. Latta will report on it at the September 2012 PTO meeting. The postcards from the fundraiser last month were mailed in and it is anticipated that about $200 in income will result.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 9, 2012 PTO meeting were reviewed. The spelling of Dorothea Stahl's last name needed to be changed in the first paragraph. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mindy Sabol; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

Reading and Approval of Treasurer's Report: The income from the Vera Bradley Bingo has been entered. Upcoming expenses are outlined on the report and include $1,300 for Spring stipends which will be issued in the next week or so, $1,500 for the 5th grade party, the Principal's Discretionary Fund (exact amount to be determined tonight), and the Little Buffalo Trip for 5th grade, for which we have no funding request yet. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Mindy Sabol; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

PTO Plans for 2012-2013: The PTO Board has spent a good bit of time focusing on the monthly meetings and has suggestions for next year.

The PTO would like to suggest that we move away from pure "sales" events, specifically Marianna's hoagie sales and Great American (for which we have no volunteers for next year). We would like to continue with community-building events such as the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, the Scholastic Book Fair, etc. and look to "effortless" fundraisers such as recycling Capri juice bags and other items that are used regularly. And in order to increase membership and participation at meetings, we would like to consider eliminating membership dues as have other schools in the district. The

$1,000 income from memberships could be realized in other ways. We would need estimated funding requests in early October so that we could plan for the year. We could do one big event during the back-to school nights in the fall. It would be great to know the cost of the playground so that we could look to raise funds for that. If we can get a list of equipment and prices, we might be able to have businesses sponsor the purchase. We need to be sure to coordinate our fundraisers with other fundraising events such as the Girl Scout cookie sales. Toffee sales, through the Toffee House in Washington, PA, might be good to try as well. Could we do something in March/April?

There was a good bit of discussion about getting family distribution information for next.

Election of Officers for 2012-2014: Volunteers come forward for positions of co-president and treasurer for next year! Cori Agostinelli-Kalupson and Shannon Messick will be stepping down in June at the end of their 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. Nominations are due in April with elections at the May 10 PTO meeting.

Letters of Communication: none

Committee Reports

A. Spirit Wear: Jamie Cunnigham has offered to do Spirit Wear next year.
B. Scholastic Book Fair: Next month will be the "Buy One, Get One" program.
C. Barnes & Noble Book Fair: No report.
D. Box Tops for Education: 10, 427 boxtops were collected! Third grade won with a total of 1,746 boxtops collected. The check for $1,042.60 will be coming. Thank you for to Lisa Edwards, Kirsten Leitzinger, Mary Knipe, Tara Arnold, and Sonia Van Horn who did a wonderful job of counting; thank you! The third grade will get a pizza party on March 19 at the end of the PSSAs. Great job, Caren. Caren will continue to collect boxtops through the end of the year which will be counted toward next year.
E. Giant A+ for Education: No report.
F. Empties 4 Cash: Toner cartridges are being collected and will be sent once a box can be packed.
G. Hospitality: The PTO had cupcakes for Dr. Suess, donated partially by Wegman's. A thank you will be sent. Reduced price drinks came from the new Weis Market in Bellefonte. Mindy Sabol met with a designer from Wolf Furniture regarding furniture for the lobby. What would the teachers like to see for the next few months? It would be

great to have a space to showcase rotating art, a full wall bulletin board in the lobby, and a full wall bulletin board by each classroom. Please let Mindy know how many boards are needed and the approximate cost.

H. Family Fun Nights: About $55 was made from the Penny Carnival. Penn Skates is offering two hour skate nights during TV turnoff week (April) which would be free to the PTO and to those who come and need to bring something to donate. We will schedule a night.

I. Exploration Fair: this was a huge success and was a wonderful event. It was great to bring in the Penn State students and have the great rewards for the kids. Thank you, Jane!

J. Ice Cream Social: This will be held on Sunday, June 3.

K. 5th Grade Party: No report.

L. Yearbook: The co-chairs are very glad to have a yearbook for the students, who clearly love it. A team to work on it would be optimal which should be organized at the beginning of the school year which could include a parent from each grade level. The co-chairs will develop a timeline and outline for future years. Thank you Jen and Rachelle!

M. PTO Newsletter: The latest issue went out a few weeks ago and another will go again in May. Sarah Williamson will contact Lisa Davis in late April to meet regarding the content.

N. Author Visit: The orders for Barnes and Noble went out today; 160 books were ordered. There will be four sessions on April 4

O. Vera Bradley Bingo: Well loved by all! Be sure and do it next year!

P. Clothing Exchange: No report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business

The results of the survey regarding having a summer library were positive. It was decided to hold the library on Tuesdays from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Two will be held in June and four in July for a total cost of $864. A motion to approve the expenditure was made by Mindy Sabol; seconded by Caren Bloom-Steidle. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Davis announced that the school district's Food Service Department is introducing new foods in the cafeterias on the second Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are needed for MNES. A note will be sent to the MNES PTO membership.

Funding Requests

The 3rd and 4th graders will visit Penns Cave in June; tickets will be $1,608.90 and transportation will be $255. A motion to approve the

funding request was made by Caren Bloom-Steidle; seconded by Mindy Sabol. The motion passed unanimously.

A discretionary fund for Mrs. Latta for teachers to use for specific needs for students was discussed. An amount of $1/student will be given to the principal to use as needed. This will be a one-time obligation for now. Mrs. Latta will provide a report as to how the funds are used. The funds will be held by the school district's accounting department. A motion to approve this fund was made by Rachelle Coffey and seconded by Lisa Edwards. The motion passed unanimously.

Caren Bloom-Steidle requested t-shirts for one of her classes so that the students can create positive message t-shirts. A motion for a maximum amount of $200 to support the cost of the t-shirts was made by Sarah Williamson; seconded by Dustin Brackbill. The motion passed unanimously.

The next PTO membership meeting will be held on April 12, 2012 and will be held in Room 102, Mrs. Tubbs' classroom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ 4/3/12

Lisa Davis, Secretary Date