



Nixon Elementary School

PTA Minutes

November 15, 2011

MINUTES

PTA Board Members

Audra Sarafin – President

1st Vice President-KellieAnn Keyes

2nd Vice President- Christine O'Connor

Secretary- Susan Mendelsohn

Treasurer- Rob Geraci

The meeting was called to order by Audra Sarafin at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 12, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance as of October 1, 2011 was \$25,077.29. The ending balance as of October 31, 2011 is \$23,869.44. Report was approved and filed for audit.

Correspondence

Thank you letters for the Book Fair were shared.

Old Business

Reimbursement forms can now be found on the PTA website.

Plant sale for the spring was brought up but with no new ideas.

Principal's Report

Due to bad weather in October, the Fall Festival was postponed several times.

The Environmental Center supplies have arrived. This Saturday, 8:30-2:30 volunteers are welcome to come and help lay the block borders. The pavers will be done in the spring. Building and Grounds will be on hand to oversee the project. The parent to child ratio needs to be 1:1. Items to bring to help are: shovel, gloves, wheel barrel, and level.

A banner created by Mrs. Nester and Mrs. Melillo was delivered to Wal-Mart. Nixon is Wal-Mart's School of the Year and was awarded gift certificates to be used for our school. Items purchased to date are: area rugs for reading corners, book baskets, bean bags, pencil sharpeners, book shelves, and playground items.



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Our school will also receive a lot of items due to the success of the Fall Book Fair. So far, the media center has received 16 books for 3rd and 4th grade literature. More is to come.

The Veteran's Day Assembly was a success. Fourteen veterans's attended and thanked during the Assembly. Boy Scout Pack 188 was on hand to present the colors.

Science Family Fun night was cancelled during October due to poor weather. The night was initially planned to be a pre-cursor to the Science Fair. Due to November holidays and teachers convention, rescheduling the night has been difficult. Ideas are being brainstormed to have the activities during the school day and to schedule the Planetarium that the PTA sponsored.

Due to attendance for Reading Partners dwindling last school year, the program will be scheduled fewer times during the school year. It will also be scheduled for the end of the school day, 2:45 to 3:10 to accommodate more parents. December 9th will be the first scheduled Reading with Partners.

The School Store will open December 6th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences took place during October however; communication between Parents and Teachers is always open. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Students submitted drawings for a School Mural. Through the expertise of Mrs. Wall, a winner will be chosen from each grade level and their artwork will be recreated in different areas of the school where there is some bare wall. The first area to receive a mural will be next to the Information Center. All students will help with the murals during art class.

Due to new focus on Anti-Bullying, Nixon has developed a School Safety Team. The team this year consists of staff, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. LaCapra, Mrs. Wall and Mrs. Watkinson, and parent, Mrs. Howell. The team will look at trends that may be taking place or behaviors that may be present that need to be watched. The team will meet again in January and a school climate survey will be conducted in February.

Food is being collected for social services for the upcoming holidays. Mrs. Esposito and her committee are organizing the drive. Boxes were decorated by Mrs. Wall and art students.

Report cards for the first semester will be on Genesis November 23rd.



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IEP's will be going from a paper based to a web-based system. This will be a valuable tool. Changes and updates in IEP's will be made in real time and there will also be a tracking system to see which staff utilizes the IEPs. 504's are not part of the system at this time.

Reading Comprehension skill sheets were distributed by Mrs. Lynch. This tool is handy to use when your child is reading or you read with your child. It has different levels of questions that can be used to check the level of student's comprehension.

Committee Reports

BOE - December 8th there will be an educational seminar for staff to help raise money for our district. The seminar will be on assessment. Also, February 21st and 22nd will be now be school days to make up for snow days already used in October. Our new community relations director will be putting weekly articles in the Roxbury Register. There are 3 new special education aides in school based on student need.

Teacher's Grant - Approved so far were feet and chains for Physical Education. Speakers were purchased for the Smart boards. An ELMO scanner was approved but some revisions are being discussed for a new technology, a document camera that costs considerably less and is 90% accurate.

Book Fair- a credit of about \$2,000.00 was earned. We won't take the cash since the credit will go twice as far if we use it for items in their catalog. So far, we will be using the credit for Magic Tree House collections, a library cart for the school store, bound books for library, carpet, easy readers for second grade, book case, clip boards for book fair and aprons also for school store. Using this credit will alleviate some of the budget for teacher's grant and provide teachers with the things they are looking for.

Fall Festival- after many cancellations, "Spring Festival" will be tentatively scheduled for May 18th. Field day is scheduled for May 23rd.

Holiday Fund Drive- Thanksgiving goods are being collected and will be delivered this Friday. The next drive, The Giving Tree, will be up and running by Holiday Gift Making.

Holiday Gift Making- will take place on December 3rd. There will be 6 crafts for the kids to make. Some gifts will also be raffled. There will be a \$2 book fair during Holiday Gift Making. This is a great idea for Holiday Gifts and our school will get a percentage of sales back.



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Reflections- there were 18 entries. The Celebration of the Arts will be on March 13th from 5-8PM. The Recognition Ceremony will be on April 3rd at EMS. Next year's theme will be The Magic of the Moment.

Tricky Tray- has been rescheduled for May 4th. The first Tricky Committee Meeting was this afternoon. There is still a need for 6 solicitation members. There is also a need for department heads for class baskets and advertising. The committee is now collecting picture frames, baskets, and tissue paper.

Family Fun Night- The Halloween Dance was a fun night. Thank you to all volunteers. Thank you to Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Wall for coming. The next Family Fun Night is the New Years Dance on January 6th with a snow date of January 13th. Bingo Night is scheduled for February 3rd. If you have any prizes to donate, there is a need. Past prizes included; inflatable guitars and gift certificates to Cliffs and Land of Make Believe.

Scripts- Nixon PTA's new fundraiser is now up and running. You can create an account on-line and purchase gift certificates from many different stores. You pay face value for the gift certificate and Scripts pays our PTA a percentage of the sale. Cards can be mailed or you can print out a certificate. Cards can be reloaded on-line.

Box Tops- \$957 was made during the initial collection. Keep sending the box tops in a new collection will be sent in sometime in spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16PM.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00PM.