



Nixon Elementary School

PTA Minutes

October 12, 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 September 21, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance as of September 1, 2011 was \$24,810.29. The ending balance as of September 30, 2011 is \$25,069.29. Report was approved and filed for audit.

Old Business

Rob Geraci, Treasurer, reviewed reimbursement procedures from the last month's meeting. Reimbursement forms can be found on the PTA website.

Audra Sarafin announced that the PTA closet had been cleaned and organized.

4th Grade Presentation

Two students from each fourth grade class shared their writing projects showcasing the work being done in writing at this grade level. Michael Mendelsohn and Bria Nieves from Mrs. Kaufman's class wrote about how to survive fourth grade. Natalie Zolnierczyk and Sarah Olivieri from Miss Leutchau's class wrote about taking on the role of the immigrant. Jayde Talmadge and Alexsya Fabiani from Mr. Start's class wrote about being a role model to younger kids in school.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Lynch announced that Roxbury was chosen by AIG for the honor of being chosen as one of the 100 best communities for young families for 2011. Roxbury is the first town in NJ to receive this award.



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The Friday Quicknotes prepared weekly by Mrs. Lynch, principal are now accessible on the website. Also, almost all teachers now have a website or newsletter available on-line that should be updated monthly.

The Environmental Center deconstruction is scheduled for this coming Saturday. Children are allowed to come help at an adult to child ratio of 1:1. \$1300 worth of paverstones are being donated from Fullerton. RP Smith will be donating stone and sand and an employee from Home Depot gave an alternative idea for cinderblock borders instead of the cedarboard which was originally planned which comes in at \$700 less than the original plan.

Walmart named Nixon their school of the year! The award is \$1,000 worth of giftcards for the school.

Boyscout Pack 188 did mulch and flowerbeds in front of the school to beautify the entrance.

Breakfast program began. As of now, there are 23 students that participate.

Character Education for this month, Trustworthiness is shared in the morning announcements.

Mrs. Lynch reported that we now have 11 classrooms with Smartboards. 9 more classes could benefit from having one.

Science Family Fun Night hands-on experience will take place on November 4th from 7-8:30. There will be 25-30 hands on stations.

The school store will be ran by the 3rd grade. It will be a mobile store, open during the beginning and ending of the school day, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, starting November 15th. Each of the third grade classes will be responsible for either Finance, Purchasing, or Advertising.

There was an in-service day last Monday regarding Professional Learning Communities.

NJ ASK for 3rd and 4th grade are showing growth in writing.

Parent – Teacher conferences are scheduled for October 25-28th. Evening conferences will take place on the 25th.

Fall Festival rescheduled for this Friday.



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Committee Reports

Fall Festival – is rescheduled for this Friday, October 15th. The weather does not look good. If it is not this Friday it will be rescheduled for indoors.

Market Day- \$103 has been raised so far this month.

Book Swap- takes place the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Book Fair- will be the week of conferences, October 24th – October 28th, with a late night of Tuesday night. The alien/space theme is Books & Beyond.

Family Fun – October 28th is the Halloween Dance. There will be prizes, games, and a DJ. Dress in costume. No dropping kids off.

Box Tops - keep sending them in.

BJ's - the PTA is looking for someone to head up this fundraiser. For each family that signs or renews a membership through the PTA for BJ's, the PTA will receive a percentage. If you are interested please contact a board member.

BOE - delayed openings will now be 2 hours versus 1 ½ previously.

Guest Speaker, Interim School Superintendent, Mr. O'Neil

Mr. O'Neil stated that he has 35 years experience in education.

He talked about the importance of modeling in education.

Teacher modeling is important. Classrooms need to have an environment where it is safe to fail.

Modeling at home includes seeing a parent reading regularly. Ask specific questions about your child's day at school, not just "How was your day?". There was a study done on immigrant families. They thought that the students in these families wouldn't fair as well as those who



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spoke English as a first language. The study actually showed that children from those families actually did better in certain areas because homework was done with the family all sitting together and working at the same time.

A question posed by Mr. O'Neil, "What should a classroom look like?" Many people think that a classroom should look like they have always looked but a classroom needs to evolve, stay on top of current technology so that children can learn in ways that the world works now.

New Business

Wi Sci is to kick off the **Science Fair**. Funding from the PTA for a mobile planetarium at a cost of \$225 to be included was requested. Rob Geraci motioned. Linda McCarthy seconded. All were in favor.

Tricky Tray – the date of the tricky tray will be changed to May 4th.

Reflections – packets will be distributed next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM