

Captain Nathan Hale Middle School
Parent Teacher Organization

Minutes
March 2, 2010

Secretary's Report:

Minutes were reviewed and submitted for approval. Michele Mullaly asked that the other minutes be sent by e-mail so that they could be put on the web site.

Treasurer's report

Beginning balance	\$2,911.85
Expense	00.00
Income	<u>2,780.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$5,691.93
Total Uncommitted Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Committed Funds	\$ 100.00

We discussed the dance and the grade level gifts. A motion was made and approved to allocate \$1,500 to the 8th grade dance. Sue read the letter that was received from the 8th grade dance committee. The gifts for grade levels will be discussed at the next meeting or after the fundraiser.

We discussed spring fundraiser ideas. A walk-a-thon seems to be the best idea. This will be planned for the end of April. They will use 2 class periods. A DJ might be brought in as well. Sue Dolan and Marjorie Stickles agreed to chair this.

Jennifer Moulton oversees label collections. Box Tops were collected and we have earned \$381. A contest was run with 27 students participating. 23 students got over 100 including labels. We do get a lot that expire – Jen may have thrown away \$20 worth of these. We also collected 970 points from collecting Campbell Soup labels and now we have over 6,000 points. While these points seem to be geared towards little kids, we are hoping to find something useful to purchase. Jen will bring the catalogue in so Michele can look at it. We also discussed having Baggies made up for the incoming 5th graders to put in their folders.

Principal's Report

Michele spoke about all of the interesting things taking place such as:

- The 8th grade band was recently selected to be in the CT Music Educators Conference. Our school was chosen to participate in this at the Convention center.
- ***Parent Workshops*** run by Mrs. Plen have been going well. Michele went to one of the game nights and it was fun to see parents interacting with their kids.
- During ***Staff Development*** they have been working on analyzing data. Pre and post assessments assist teachers in making instructional decisions and help students to reflect on their own learning. The students' achievement is improving as a result of

this work. Teachers are looking at strategies that work - a lot of implications, which we can learn from.

- Mr. Perrotti is working on another dance for April 23rd. They had a lot of fun last time and they donated the money to Food Share.
- *CMT's* began today; the kids are focused; working very hard, engaged. The kids reported that they gave it their best effort and that's all we can ask. Doreen Pelletier had t-shirts made for Michele and Scott and a teacher gave them pom poms so they could be cheerleaders as they met with students by grade level in their math and reading classes!
- Student Appreciation will be held during Fridays in March – no tests on Monday or Friday. This Friday the theme is “dress down” meaning PJ's or something similar. On Friday March 19th there will be a CMT Blast from 2:30-4:00. There will be a movie in the LGI, sports activities in the gym, snacks in the cafeteria and Wii, guitar hero and other games as well. There will be a Pep Rally on March 25th, which will be coordinated by Mr. Landry and some other staff.
- The budget plans have been coming along. She was not at the last board meeting but an increase of 3.74% was agreed upon. Originally it was a lot less than that. The district has offered early retirements – trying to avoid cuts. A parent added that we need to do a better job at educating the public. Parents brainstormed about upcoming meetings and how to get parents to vote. It was decided that the school secretary would send out e-mails to highlight the upcoming meetings.
- Michele also reassured us that the shift in administration would not disrupt all the good things that are happening. She is very conflicted – sad to move but excited about new challenges. She has been meeting with Dave Petrone and Scott Sadinsky has been involved as well. Iris suggested having Dave Petrone come to our May PTO meeting. She also thanked Michele, as did all the parents, for her positive attitude.
- Elaine Thornton and Debby Paige might come to the next meeting.
- Michele also mentioned that she looked into Nature's Classroom and her personal feeling was that this program is not aligned with their science curriculum. She also added that the incoming principal should review this. The big push here at CNH is the Washington DC trip. Parents reported that at Robertson, there was supposed to be a “team building” event in place of Nature's Classroom, but this never happened.

Reminders

- There are board opening for next year. Sue Dolan is staying on but Betsy Grupe, Beth Ennis and Iris Satar are not.
- Next meeting will be April 6th. Elaine Thornton and Debby Paige might come to the next meeting.