

NETTLE CREEK GRADE SCHOOL

PTO MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 12, 2015

Location: Nettle Creek School Music Room

Called to Order: 3:30pm

Financial Report: Jill Vinachi, treasurer, reported that we have \$8761.54 in our account, with roughly \$540.00 that will need to be deducted for the whole school field trip in Dec, to the Rialto, and \$110.00 to be set aside for the license to watch the movie: Polar Express.

Administrative Report:

Dr. McKinney addressed the group with a summary of what took place at the Town Hall Meeting he coordinated. The purpose of the Town Hall Meeting was for parents to be able to voice their concerns and ideas. It was also for him to relate information to our community, so that everyone would be well informed about what is taking place at Nettle Creek. He suggested if you have a concern, compliment, idea or complaint to please contact him directly so the topic can be addressed in a timely and orderly fashion. He stated he would have liked to have seen a higher attendance rate at the Town Hall Meeting, because he is excited about the changes that are happening at Nettle Creek and he was eager to share this information. Some of the topics discussed are as follows:

- Nettle Creek will soon be equipped with a phone system that will have virtual extensions fed into each teacher's classroom. This will give parents an opportunity to leave a message via phone with the touch of your child's teachers extension. The teacher then can retrieve your message and get back to you. This is another way to communicate with your teachers on important information and concerns in addition to our email system.
- Many changes and updates to our school will be taking place at Nettle Creek between now and the next several years, as Dr. McKinney was eager to express. These upgrades include a new roof that will encompass our school. He stated the roof will go out to bid but that the estimate for this project is \$200,000.00+. This is the first of many projects that will take place over summer break 2016 and thereafter.
- He spoke about the K-2nd grade lunchtime. Dr. McKinney stated a parent came to him with a fantastic idea about adjusting the length of the lunch period. After observation from himself he decided to implement the idea. He explained the lunch period will now lose 5 minutes, but in turn, recess will gain those 5 minutes. The reason for this change is to potentially avoid students getting bored with sitting after eating their lunch with nothing to do. He hopes that the change will be a positive improvement for the students behaviors and help them time manage their lunch period to actually eat their lunch. 😊

New Business:

a.) Teacher Updates:

- Mrs. Darlington has some extra yearbooks from past years for sale. Dr. McKinney was going to find out which year the yearbooks were and then send out a Connect Ed phone message in regards to it.
- Mrs. Olson spoke about the Living Museum that her 3rd grade class hosted on November 6th in the gymnasium. Many parents, friends and relatives attended the museum. The third grade class created their works of art on posters, shoe box models and made individual i-Movies on their laptops of the book the chose for their report and presentation. What a fun and educational experience for our 3rd graders! Nice job Mrs. Olson and students!
- Mrs. Lawrence, our music teacher announced some important information regarding the upcoming Christmas Program that will take place at our school on Tuesday, December 15th in the gym. All students are required to attend this program and to arrive at the school at 6:30 pm. The K-5 students will be singing and following the theme: "The 12 Days of Christmas" The older students that have opted out of performing on stage will be assigned a duty to help with the program overall. Some of the student's jobs may include but not limited to: greeting our guests, helping in wardrobe and back stage, assisting younger students,

creating backdrops and art to service the program, serving refreshments and cleaning up after the program. Jen Chellino asked if we could keep the "Silent Night performance" as the closing to our program, as we have done for many years in the past. Mrs. Lawrence graciously accepted the request to have the student sing and sign Silent Night at the conclusion of the Music Program. What a wonderful tradition this has been for our Fox students through the years. The PTO will be covering the expense of the beverages. We are asking as we have in the past, to have each family bring 1 dozen cookies as your admission into the show. Please remember no peanut or tree nut.

- Ms. Vogen informed us that her class will be presenting a Wax Museum in December. She informed us that the students will be gathering information and writing a biography about the person they chose to research and dressing in character. More details are to follow, and she will keep the parents updated as the date approaches.

b.) Christmas Program Committee:

The Christmas Program committee decorates the gym, sets up before the program, and cleans up after the Christmas Concert. The committee is also responsible for arriving to the school early the night of the concert to assist with the food and beverages and be the hostess/host when serving the guests and assisting in greetings at the door. Our Christmas Committee is quite small as of right now. Thank you in advance to Jen Shell, Lindsey Geiss and Sarah Martin for being part of this committee. These ladies could really use some help from more parents as volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of this rewarding team, please contact the chair of this committee, Jen Shell at jshellphotography@gmail.com.

c.) *A Christmas Carol* -Field Trip:

The PTO board made a decision prior to the meeting to cover the expense of the fieldtrip to the Rialto on December 15th. A motion was made by Jill Vinachi, and seconded by Jenn Gross. The money will be used to cover the ticket price of \$6.00 per each student attending the play. Thank you PTO for help making this wonderful experience a successful trip for all.

d.) Wine and Stein fundraiser:

The PTO Board and your Wine and Stein Committee have decided to change the date of the fundraiser with hopes that we will get more involvement from our parents at Nettle Creek. The new date is set for Saturday, March 13th, 2016. It will be held at our same venue, Morris Country Club. If you wish to be part of this successful and giving crew please contact one of the co-Chairs of this committee: Stephanie dela Hera or Megan Evenson. You can also reach out to our PTO president, Jen Chellino if you have questions about how you can help. Thank you WNS Committee for your dedication and hard work!

e.) Polar Express- Idea

Jill Vinachi had an idea to host a Polar Express night for the families of our school. She explained that the night will be fun for all ages. Kids can come dressed in their pjs and watch Polar Express on a projected wall. There will be various activities for the kids and possibly the concession stand open serving hot chocolate and other items. This is in the beginning stages of planning but the PTO board decided to jump on this fun idea after getting the approval from the school. We will follow up with details and info when the time arrives. As for now please save the date of December 18th, and join us for this fun family night!

f.) Hat and Coat Drive

Jen Chellino had the idea to host a Coat Drive. The thought is to bring to school a "gently used" coat, or "new" gloves, hat and/or scarf. We will gather the items and then donate them to We Care before Christmas. We had a very positive response on this and are starting this drive on Monday, November 23rd. The drop off box will be at the front entrance of the school for you or your child to place your donation inside. It will remain there until December 18th. Thank you in advance for using your warm heart to give warmth to those in need. Tis the season for giving!

Other

- Deanna Miller conveyed to us that we are in need of box tops! Please save those box tops for our school! She noted that the classes are still in competition on a monthly basis and she would like to see more participation. This is a simple way to raise money for our school and your help is greatly appreciated. As for the results from our contest she said Kindergarten won in September and 4th grade won in October. Great job to these classes for taking the lead! Deanna mentioned we have raised ¼ of our goal, for our school with Box Tops, and our estimated goal for this year is \$1000.00. Although it may seem we have a long way to go, we can still do this, with a little help from everyone at home. Another idea is to ask Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles to save for our students! Every Box Top counts, EACH BOX TOP IS .10 CENTS TOWARD OUR SCHOOL!so send them on paper, or in plastic baggies. You also can help by going to www.boxtops4education.com everyday, to enter Nettle Creek School in "win box tops for school". This is another fun way to get involved with little effort but BIG rewards! Thanks to all who currently participate in this! 😊
- Jenn Gross volunteered to put up the main Nettle Creek Christmas Tree after the Thanksgiving Break and spread the cheer by decking the halls. If you have interest in helping her please contact her at 815-252-9586.

Next PTO Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 3:30 pm in the Music Room. Hope to see all of you there! Thank you for taking the time to read this. May you and your family be blessed and stay safe this Thanksgiving holiday.

Minutes prepared by: Your PTO secretary, Jenn Gross

Meeting Adjourned at 3:54 pm

Attendees: Jenn Gross, Kim Phillips, Deanna Miller, Jen Chellino, Jill Vinachi, Michele Carlson, Nisse Hoge, Sara Olson, Marissa Darlington, Jessica Vogen, Mrs. Lawrence, and Don McKinney