**New Kent Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2023 **Location:** NKES Cafeteria

Meeting Called to Order By: Lauren Paone Attendance: (Attendance sheet attached)

Minutes: Minutes of November 3, 2022 meeting accepted.

Motioned by April Sabel and Seconded by Jarmila Poorman

**Principals’ Report: Dr. Amy Stamm**

First and foremost, on behalf of all of us at NKES, THANK YOU for a wonderful 1st half of the year! We couldn’t do what we do without the support of this amazing PTO and parents like you! Since our last time together, I want to say thank you to our PTO for the wonderful parade float and participation, the very efficient and well-done Holiday Gift Shop, and the behind-the-scenes work on Spirit Nights and the months to come of activities and events.

Thank you to Jordan Wingenbach for the beautification and the front bulletin board. Thank you to Laura Richards for being so amazing with our staff appreciation ideas, for maintaining the bulletin board on Rainbow Hall and being my go - to for the counselor door decorations. Thank you to Trudy Vandyke for the decorations for our staff appreciation and Jarmila Poorman for everything from helping to set up to cleaning our staff lounge and fridge.

Looking ahead, safety still remains our highest priority, we are planning to have our vestibule installed by the end of this month. Also, we have asked the division for 23 new radios to replace ones that are not working to our expectations as they are the older model radios.

We have also announced the Bingo for Books is March 23rd. Our One School, One Book month is the month of March. Our Field Day is June 2nd for all grade levels. And as of now, we are working on our plan for our 5th graders' end-of-school celebration.

**Treasurers Report- Brittany Gutierrez**

**Treasures report attached**

Current budget motioned yes by Erin Begonia and Seconded by Lori Hill

The current budget has allowed us to help with some of the cost of purchasing staff jackets during the holidays. We also were able to support Mrs. Jones in her request for a sensory table for her classroom that will be utilized by six to eight children. We provided the first grade team with dividers to be used for testing. With the upcoming science fair we bought the medals that the students will be rewarded with. The fifth grade was given funds to pay for planners for all the fifth grade students. The PTO bought and assembled the snowman soup given out before the holiday break. Some other things the budget provided is the valentine grams being sold, supplies for the library, clipboards for the fall festival as well as ten walkie talkies.

**Committee Reports**

1. **Beautification- Jordan Wingebach**

Jordan stays on top of the bulletin boards. Ulster Nursery in Toano has provided flowers for the garden pots. We need to purchase new glass watering balls.

1. **Yearbook- Laura Richards**

We have sold 153 yearbooks and raised $840 so far. Last year we sold 359 yearbooks. Personal pages have to be done by April 13th.

1. **Staff Appreciation- Laura Richards**

November- The trail mix bar was a huge hit. Everything was purchased from Aldi. We even had leftovers for them to fix for the next day.

December- We did two of Dr. Stamm's 12 days. We made a toasty bar with various breads and spreads. We also gave them winter socks. Candy, Sanitize and repeat I was able to find thanks to Kristel Lamp. We gave them Bath & Body Works hand sanitizer that we were able to find on black friday for $.60 a piece. Then we gave them candy treats. The teachers seemed to enjoy it.

January- We did a popcorn bar on national popcorn day.

February- Today we did a super bowl dips, chips and sodas.

Bus Driver Appreciation- Going to give them cookies with fun stickers.

For staff appreciation week we are looking to do a candy land theme. We have various ideas going around. Starting it off with breakfast and ending with a potato bar, for like hot potato. We will do candy treats one day and I am still talking with Dr. Stamm about some game theme rewards. Want to talk with the grade levels about possible indoor game options. Giving them something they can use for many years as opposed to something that doesn't last.

1. **Spirit Nights- Rachel Hubbard**
* Five Below- July $113.65 and December $327
* Wendy's- $234
* Trojan Grill- $144.83
* Don Miguels- around $400

Upcoming

* Third Base Grill- February 20
* Martha's Kitchen- March 6
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Any suggestions for future spirit nights let Rachel know.

1. **Holiday Shop- Erin Begonia & Maggie Settlemire**

The holiday shop went well. The new location was great. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up, kids shop and packing up. We had $3000 in profit and are holding funds to help supplement next year. We raised $1000 more than last year. We bought some little stuff on Amazon since we always run out of that.

1. **Book Fair- Erin Begonia & Maggie Settlemire**

The book fair is March 20-24 and we will need volunteers on the 16th to help set up. We will also need volunteers to help kids shop. They changed from being tax free this year. Tax will be charged for each purchase. We are really pushing e-wallets this year. It makes it easy for the kids to keep track of their money. If they don't use all their money it stays on their account. When we receive the schedule we will post it on the PTO site. On Thursday, March 23rd, is Bingo for Books and we will need volunteers before to help.

**Old Business**

1. **Winter Snowman Soup**

Every year we like to do a social treat for the kids. Last year we did candy canes. This year we made snowman soup and Dr. Stamm recorded a book. We will have to start brainstorming about the upcoming year.

1. **Fall Festival Rewards Update**

We are still trying to get all those rewards scheduled. We had one student out of five do the SRO. With the Newport News incident he has been busy and we have had to reschedule for the day. Our Principal for the day is coming up next week. We are having a Principal and Vice Principal go on the same day. Then we will be all caught up on rewards for the Fall Festival.

**New Business**

1. **Flying Squirrels Nuts About Reading Program/Mascot Visit/ Game Info**

The program seems simple, turn in your bookmarks and use their links to purchase a general admission ticket. We receive $4 for every ticket purchased. On the 23rd one of the Richmond Squirrel mascots will be coming and doing an assembly.

1. **Valentines Grams**

The valentine grams were a huge hit and we were slammed the last couple of days assembling grams. This year we purchased a fun dip for every student so no student is left behind and not getting a gram.

1. **Pizza Hut Cards- March 6th-24th**

Instead of doing the pizza hut fundraiser with the restaurant we are selling these cards at $10 a card. So when you buy a large pizza you get a free medium pizza. The card is able to be used ten times.

1. **Bingo for Books- March 23rd**

We are selling concessions and the teachers are signing up to volunteer to sell concessions and hand out the pizzas that were pre-purchased. **E. Author Visit- March 22nd**

A former parent, Tammy Milby,was able to get an author to visit the three schools for free. We just got confirmation yesterday. She is doing grades 2nd, 3rd and 4th. She will do an assembly and sell books via a link where you can purchase pre-signed books for your child.

 **F. Coin Wars- April 17th-21st**

Last year we raised $3378.17 and the kids had a fun time trying to get their grade to win and sabotaging other grades. We are still brainstorming ways to use the funds. A book vending machine was talked about. We also thought of raising funds for a rock wall for PE but that has to be approved through the county.

 **G. Science Fair- April 20th**

We purchased extra poster boards to be given to students who want to participate but can't afford a poster. We also purchased medals for the participants.

 **H. Fall Festival Date–**

We are keeping the same date as last year. We are looking at changing the start time so people who do sports can still come.

**Questions**

What are the plans to fix the broken playground equipment?

When the playground was built the parents helped build it. Parents aren't allowed to help assemble it for liability reasons. Dr. Stamm priced out one piece of equipment and that would cost $68k. We are going to assemble a playground committee to help seek donations from businesses to help fund the playground.

**Important Dates:**

February 16th- 100th Day of School

February 20th- Third Base Grill Spirit Night

March 6th- Martha’s Kitchen Spirit Night

March 6th-24th Pizza Hut Cards for sale

March 20th-24th Book Fair

March 23rd- Bingo for Books

March 24th- Go Nuts for Reading Bookmarks DUE

**Next PTO meeting will be held April 14th at 9:15 am in the NKES Cafeteria**

Meeting Adjourned At: 6:45 PM

Minutes Compiled By: April Sabel, Secretary