PTO Meeting Minutes

Tilton School

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

4th Grade Scholastic Magazine: $161.00 was collected from some of the families. Magazines will be cheaper because we are half way through the year. Approx.. 110 kids in 4th grade. Need approx.. $375.00 from PTO. Can’t use scholastic dollars because it’s too late in the year. PTO agreed that we should just order them so we can get them in January. 4th grade teachers looking forward to using them. Can the teachers send out a reminder to collect any last minute money (any little bit helps).

Chocolate Roses: Heather in the process of ordering them. Group order form will go out with the PTO filling orders a couple of days per week. We also sold them in the library. Can’t sell them during class time this year, new policy and new focus on learning. Bonnie to send Heather an e-mail with the policy. The only way we can fulfill orders is through the order forms. PTO to continue the discussion at the next meeting in January.

Smencils (smelly pencils): Always a big hit with the kids. Will be sold during parent/teacher conferences next week Tilton Staff members who are not involved with conferences those days will be helping to sell them on behalf of PTO. Update as of Dec. 9th: Smencils will also be sold next week during the students library time. Mrs. Mackay will speak to Mrs. Aleman about helping with this project. Kim Potvin will work with Heather Ray to get a flyer out on Friday.

Field Trips: Have any teachers thought about field trips yet? In house field trip versus going somewhere. 4th grade considering the Lowell Mills but they have a program where they would come to the school. It would cut down the cost considering the buses are so expensive. What about Mad Science? $350.00 maybe Ms. Alves will look into it. Teachers should start thinking about fiend trips. PTO would like to have an ideas by the January meeting. In house field trips would be cheaper considering how much the buses cost these days and the time factor of having to get back so quickly because the buses have to get out on their afternoon routes.

Tiger Mania: Are we still interested in doing it? May 14/15 or 21/22 look open according to what Nicole found out on the district and surrounding area calendars. We had raffle baskets, sold pizza, baked goods, had face painting, police dept., fire dept. came, etc. The group agreed on Saturday, May 14th. Can’t really do a rain date because it is difficult to get organizations to schedule to come but we will look into it.

Yankee Candle: Fundraiser that’s done in the spring before Easter and delivered around Mother’s Day. It’s usually the PTO’s biggest fundraiser so the consensus was to continue it again for 2016.

Box Tops: $545.00 collected. Money is being held in our account until the spring distribution time. The goal is $1,000.00 which we should be able to reach. Mrs. Potvin has a bunch that were submitted after the deadline and probably still some in the robot. Mrs. Canzano indicated she still has them in her room. Another collection sheet will be going out by Friday and then another sheet in February. Mrs. Assad talked about a “snowball” box top program her kids do at their school. She will look into it and give the details to PTO.

Movie License: PTO cancelled the license because it was too expensive. It was for any non educational movies shown outside school time. It was $400.00 so this is a huge savings.

Mrs. McNamara’s idea: Duct tape Mrs. Antkowiak would be taped to the wall as a fundraiser. You sell a strip of duct tape with the name of the book you read and that money would go to the library to buy books. How about March/April time frame? Maybe order the books from scholastic because then you also get points to order more books. Mrs. Assad said to use the free book coupons that scholastic sends out to get even more free books. Assign a few teachers to order books depending on what Mrs. Ackerman says the library needs the most for books. More discussion to follow in the coming months.

Level Books: There is a computer program that has A-Z level books that you can print off with accompanying work sheets. This helps immensely because the kids can keep the printed out books and the school doesn’t have to worry about the level books being lost/not returned to school. Mrs. Antkowiak indicated the cost is $99.00 per grade level and that one per grade level would be needed for the teachers to share, so approx.. $400.00 would be needed from the PTO as Mrs. Antkowiak is over budget. Mrs. Antkowiak to give the PTO the information in writing and PTO will vote and give her the decision by the first of the year. Brain Pop is another option to look into as well.

PARCC: Results will be out by the end of the week to families. Accountability report should be out tomorrow. Tilton was the 3rd percentile (1 is the lowest percentile, 99 is the highest). Mrs. Antkowiak will be looking at the data closely. She’s looking to have a parent night after the first of the year to explain the testing results. 3rd and 4th grade students have a letter grade on their report cards. There is a new process when it comes to students letter grade on their report card and as a result a letter will be accompanying the report card to explain the new process. Everyone needs to have an honest discussion about being transparent with grades and whether the students are on grade level or below grade level.

Can food drive: Is it being done? The consensus was last year it was a 100 day project. No further discussion.

Penny Drive fundraiser: Nicole researched it. Nicole will give it to Bonnie to look into as a possible fundraiser for the future.

Elmos: The question was asked if the school needs any more? The shift is for smart boards and mimio’s. Projectors are on 1st and 2nd floor that work with them. You can do virtual field trips like Mrs. Perry’s class has done.

Apps/computer programs: Heather Ray asked if there are any apps that parents can use at home to help their children. Mrs. Ackerman can get a list together.

Mr. Mech is still looking for a keyboard. Ms. Alder might have one in the trunk of her car that Mr. Mech might be able to use.

Reminder: The PTO has a form if any teachers have a request for PTO to fund projects. Mrs. Ward had given these out at the beginning of the year.

Literacy Closet: There is a need to get the literacy closet organized. Are there any parent volunteers available to organize the room? The system isn’t working right now. A tally needs to be taken of the book in the closet. Bags vs. bins to keep it organized. Is there someone who would like to keep the room neat? The closet needs to stay organized so the staff can find the books easily and quickly when they go into the closet. Nicole Luhrs and Heather Ray offered to work on this project. Some organization might be able to take place during the school year but the major work will have to be done over the summer when all the books will be returned and then everything can be catalogued and organized.

Dining to donate at Casa Blanca: All Tilton would have to do is pick at date. 10 % would go to Tilton and it would be a tally of all the sales for the day. No forms needed. Casa Blanca said they like to keep it simple. You don’t need to be affiliated with Tilton to get a percentage donated to the school. It would be on all sales for whatever day is chosen, just not a Friday or Saturday.

Bingo night: Play bingo, order pizza. It could be some sort of Family night. Kids could get prizes. Maybe Bingo for books. You could do two separate hours given the size of the school. Do a reservation in case of a crowd. PTO to think about it for something to do in the future.

School Dance: No elementary school dance – too many problems.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 14th 4:15-5:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Potvin