

General John Nixon Elementary School
PTO Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2005

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Announcement

Principal Rita Bissonette-Clark made the announcement that Michelle Youngs and Bobbi Benson will now be "Lead Teachers" at Nixon and support the Administration. It will be in the weekly notice next week. Ms. Youngs will handle PTO events, subcommittees, and safety. Ms. Benson will coordinate MCAS, discipline, dismissal in the building, and fire code issues.

Treasurer's Report

Major Fundraising has brought \$21,824. Direct appeal is \$9,262 so far. We do accept checks all year. Gift wrap made \$8,021. Monster Mash raised \$4,068. Learning Express Day made \$103. Logo Wear has raised \$636. The Directory still needs \$266 to bring in a profit. The forecast for FY04 is 67% attained. This time last year we were 88%. We increased the expected budget this year for fundraising by \$5000. We had \$32,500 last year in fundraising at this time. We still have two major events coming: Bingo Night and General John's March. Those two events netted \$10,600 last year. Fall Book Fair raised \$3579. We still have the Spring Book Fair. Family Photo Day brought in \$703. Family Photo Day was down by \$1000. Coffee Pond brought in \$1977. Intel Foundation gave us \$200 for a matching volunteer work by an Intel employee. Direct Appeal is higher. Monster Mash was down this year by \$1500. We raised the goals for this year since last year we raised \$4000 more than we budgeted. Our expenses are on track. Net income is at \$28,563 (69% of goal). Last year at this time we were at 90%. Recurring expensed continue to be monitored and will be incurred on an ongoing basis.

Community Service

There are several Tsunami Benefits. Grade One is selling bracelets with the help of Jamie Dorsey. Grade Three is collecting coins. There is a T-shirt sale designed by Lynn Schwalm. All the money will be pooled from the Nixon Elementary Schools. We hope to have our donation go to a place we can have an on-going relationship through the computer.

Computer/Website

The committee is trying to put the Directory information on the Web site with the hope that each family could up-date their information anytime. Tad Mayer is researching this option. We would also like a volunteer page so that parents could enter their name for a specific time and job. This would eliminate a lot of phone calls. There is a program called "Lots of Helping Hands" by Barry Katz that sends out email reminders.

Literacy Night

We need 80 volunteers for ½ hour shifts. There will be a web site for the event and a bulletin board. Book trees will be displayed in the hallways. We will have a K-1 early Lit room, poetry workshops, performance theater, an illustrator presentation (John Dykes), children's author presentation, feature readers (our Principal and Dr. Brackett), games, a book walk (like a cake walk), spelling bee, and crafts. We will be asking for gently used books for the book walk. The event is Feb. 10th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will also be a raffle to the book store.

Metco

Feb. 2nd is the Annual Metco Dinner of sponsor families with our Metco students. It will be at Noyes. There are more play dates to come and the Red Sox game in the Spring.

New Family Liaisons

There will be a coffee in February. They are making a packet to give to the new families. Suggestions for the project are take out menus, Sudbury Farms ready-made food list, and Town Crier Subscription information. There is Kindergarten orientation in May. Packets could be made for that event. Sudbury Newcomer's Club may provide us with something. We could have a link on the Nixon website.

Nixon Gear

There will be another opportunity to order Gear before the April vacation. What would the students and parents like to see sold?

Slide Show/Publicity

Jane Simons prefers digital pictures for this project. There is already a lot of scanning planned for this year. Pictures may be emailed or sent to Jane on disc. (simons_j@hotmail.com) Last year, we showed the slideshow at school meeting and it was 27 minutes in length. DVD was sold for \$12 and VHS sold for \$10. 80 copies were sold. Do we want it as a fundraiser? It was not one for last year. This year, there will be a Red Sox memories section, and a teacher tribute for Ms. Crowley and other teachers. Rita Bissonette-Clark will speak on the film about the core values of Nixon. A suggestion was made to have one DVD with several events and a scene selection. This way the Grade Five project could be included. An idea was to chronicle Grade Five's career thru Nixon and to add Grade Four Odyssey trip to the Grade Five items. We would like to present the slideshow at a different date other than the school meeting, if possible.

Science

Enrichment programs have been rescheduled because of snow days. We need volunteers for the Fair.

Volunteer Coordinators

We need to fill lunch and recess slots. Please email Judy Hall (jhall@wellesley.edu). The first lunch at 11:30a.m. and first recess at 11:50am need volunteers. Please check the weekly notices.

Schedule of Events

Literacy Night – February 10

Science Fair – March 23

Bingo Night – April 8

Spring Book Fair – May

General John's March – June

All School Picnic – June

Teacher Appreciation Lunch – last day of school

Principal's Coffee

Nutritionist Peg Mikkula will discuss nutrition and healthy snack choices for school.

See Nixon Web site.