

General John Nixon Elementary School
PTO Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2004

Welcome and Coffee at 9:15 a.m. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Operating loss of \$12,500 is projected. We have increased net income by \$5000 over last year's forecast. The operating loss is much less than the FYE 04 operating loss forecasted at \$17,100. Changes to budget include: Break-out of Library expense, increased spending in Educational Enrichment, increased savings from having most communication done through the Nixon website, and increase in Teacher's Fund. Expenditures for Educational Enrichment, School Gifts, Science, and Teacher's Fund continue to be the primary focus of 2005 budget. Highlights: \$7900 collected from direct solicitation, \$16,990 in Innisbrook sales, Shaw's rewards program and Target Take charge for Education will continue this year. We are giving the Library \$1000 this year as we gave \$1500 in 2003 and nothing in 2004. The teacher's fund has increased to \$350 from \$250. We currently have \$45,000 in the bank. There was a motion to accept the budget and it was seconded. The budget was approved.

Aesthetics

The Bulletin Boards are divided as the first board for major events, the second board for staff board and pictures "Who's Who" at Nixon". That board is permanent. The third board is for Fundraisers like Nixon Gear, wrapping paper, and the book fair. A Nixon volunteer board is coming. We are trying to replace the door curtains in the café. We replaced the clock with a Nixon plaque.

Community Service

The food drive is coming for the food pantry. It will be at Monster Mash and the third graders are having one on Friday. "Coats for Kids" is being hosted by Anton's cleaners. Bring in used coats, winter adult and kids. They will clean them and distribute them to needy. (November) There is a reward program for the school that brings the most coats. Prizes are a Brigham party, cash and gift certificates. Each grade level brought a service they want to do so checking with them to coordinate efforts.

Geography Expedition

We will spend less than the \$1000 budgeted. Lisa Fadden and Carolyn D'Isidoro have written an original script based on questions from the National Park Service. The NPS will send patches and certificates. We now have over 490 students in Nixon. The current Expedition dates are November 1-19th. Ms. Carr's fifth grade class will be doing a play at Friday's School meeting. Beth Sorbo is creating our bulletin board. Janet Jennings, our Librarian, is organizing a Lewis and Clark corner and has made a book list for resources.

Fund Raising

We have \$7,900 from direct solicitations. Gift wrap yielded \$16000 from the catalog and \$900 from the internet. We receive 50% of that, \$17,000. Our profit is \$8,5000. Orders can still be taken on the web site. WWW.Innsbrook.com

Monster Mash is Oct. 29th. We need volunteers, 36 for each shift. We currently have 15 for the first, 14 for the second, and 6 for the last. Over 60 tickets have been ordered. 100 cakes are needed, we have 22. 64 dozen cookies needs, we have 24 dozen. Still need juice. Volunteers can call Nicola DiFelice.

Library

“Read White and Blue” Fall book fair is Nov. 10th at 2:00pm. Nov. 12th the classes will come, 8:30am – 4:00pm. Nov. 18th, Thursday night, the sale is 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. 30% profits will go to the PTO. Refreshments will be served. The will raffle books in school meeting on Nov. 12th and wear red, white and blue. Volunteer openings on Friday morning are at 10:00-11:30 a.m. Also, Warner, Crowley and Jones’ classes have openings. Come in your children’s library time if you want to volunteer, make wish list, count money.

New Family Liaisons

Liz Orie reported on the New Families coffee in Sept. A few parents attended. They would like a committee list, activities of school, event calendar, and sports info. in community to give new families. Also a sponsor, someone to be assigned to the new family, in case they have questions. This would provide info such as where to go to get the notices, the yellow notepads for Nixon, how to buy lunch, Sudbury Extended Day, and Kindergarten info. Each new family should have available to them a Directory and Nixon release pad the first day they come to school. Room parents could be sponsors or they could identify new parents to the committee.

Parent Education

Groups from each elementary and middle school are working on speaker opportunities. Oct. 28th the middle school is have3ing “Sign Me Up” at 7:30pm. It’s about over scheduling the kids. On Nov. 17th, there is a panel discussion on older kids called “Stressed out Student”. In the spring, Dr. Brackett will have a “Bullying” program.

Room Parent Coordinators

Cori forms: How to coordinate them and how do we know if they have Cori forms. There is a printout with expiration dates. They expire every 3 years. Every volunteer needs a Cori form. A list needs to be checked to contact parents of expiring Cori forms.

School Gifts

Enrichment Fund for two proposals from Kathy Zito: The first is a reader’s theatre set. The first half was purchased with school money. Kathy is looking for the K-3 set. Each actor has a different reading level for the same script. \$214 for 12 fiction scripts, 6 copies each. The second request is for small passages for fluency reading. Teachers sit with small groups and ask comprehensive questions. Half of it has been purchased with

school funds and they would like the other half. \$192 for 6 levels, 4 passages per level, and 6 copies each. Motion to Accept, motion seconded, and vote approved.
Last spring we approved classic books on tape for comprehension levels for different readers for Janet Jennings, in the Library.

Schedule of Events

Monster Mash – October 29th
Geography Expedition – November 1-19
Fall Book Fair – November 12-18
Learning Express Day – November 12
Math Night – January or February
Science Fair – March 23
Bingo Night – April 8
Spring Book Fair – May
General John's March – June, may be with All School Picnic
Teacher Appreciation Lunch – last day of school

Our Principal

Principal's Coffee is Nov. 4th to discuss the MCAS results. We are very pleased with our results this year but this is only one form of assessment. We look at kids in a broader way.

Nutrition Committee formed to look at how we can have safety and modeling healthy behaviors. Birthday celebrations have no treats. Allergies are a concern. Oct. 8th there was a play about food from Educational Enrichment. It concerns moderation, wellness, nutrition and fitness. Celebrations in the classroom will not include candy. We need consistency. Snacks in the café are being discussed and need to be dealt with on a district wide level. Candy will not come from teachers or bus drivers.

Adjourn 11:00am

Next meeting is Nov. 18th at 7:15 p.m.

