

Nitrauer PTO Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2017

In Attendance: Dr. Hancock (principal), Sheri Usner (teacher rep), Maggie Foley, Jessica Whitley, Janet Campbell, Amy Hartz, Lauren Westcott, Elizabeth Roda, Kelly Fogleman, Deborah Gunter, Angie Salabsky, Kim Romano, Diana Hanna, Nancy Isaac

President's Report: no report

Principal's Report: Dr. Hancock. – The new school messenger system seems to be working well. It is a very effective way to get information quickly to families. Look for a survey link in an upcoming school messenger email from Dr. Hancock. The survey will be about the Nitrauer school community.

Treasurer's Report: no report

Teacher's Report: Sheri Usner- no report

PTO Bylaws: Amy Hartz The Nitrauer PTO bylaws have not been updated for at least 9 years. Amy took the time to go through the bylaws and make recommendations based on the current needs and operation of the PTO. Amy recommended that the PTO remove all references to 'volunteer committee' and change it to 'volunteer chairperson'. She also recommended to amend the 'members at large' section and remove 'executing the fundraisers' from their duties and for the PTO to consider making our communications chairperson a member at large and thus an official member of the executive team. Amy recommended that the PTO add a paragraph stating that PTO events may be canceled if the PTO is unsuccessful in securing a volunteer to serve as a chairperson for the event. Everyone present at the November PTO meeting will be able to vote on the recommended changes to the bylaws.

Fall Fest: Kim Romano Event will be Thursday, October 26 from 5-7pm. The parade steps off at 6:00 this year. Scoops and Sprout Stream are the two food truck vendors this year. Many many volunteer spots still remain. We are looking for face painters as well (older siblings are great face painters).

Book fair: Kelly Fogleman The book fair will be the week after Thanksgiving. A new option this year is called 'All for Books'. Families are invited to send in loose change, and Nitrauer will get that amount of money in Scholastic dollars to spend on books and other classroom related items. The amount raised by All for Books will then be matched by Scholastic and schools effected by the recent hurricanes will also receive the same donation in Scholastic dollars. An issue every year when students purchase books at the book fair is that sales tax was not included in the money sent from home. Sometimes the volunteers reach into their wallets to help cover the cost of tax so students can take the book home. This year, a friendly tax slip reminder will be sent home to families who didn't send in enough money indicating that the tax was paid by someone else and request that the family send in the amount of tax for the purchase.

Holiday pottery: Deborah Gunter Pottery order forms will go home soon. Orders will be due around the second week of November. Pricing of the items was discussed. Last year most of the items were the same price to make everything easier. Some of the pottery prices from Jen's Pottery Den went up this year and families may see an increase.

Mix it up Lunch: Maggie Foley Is Mix it up Lunch something the PTO wants to continue hosting? The Mix it up Lunch committee is seeking ideas for new activities to help the kids socialize with new classmates during lunch. The parent musicians have been very popular in the past. It was suggested to host 4 mix it up lunches: 2 with the musicians and 2 without a planned activity, but plenty of adults around to facilitate student interaction. The first Mix it up Lunch will likely be in November.

New Business: Kelly Fogleman Kelly asked if there is a way for the PTO to set aside some money for students who may not be signed up for the free and reduced lunch program yet still come to school hungry. Kelly also mentioned students who may not have backpacks or a winter coat. Dr. Hancock will speak directly with the director of food services to brainstorm ideas to make food more accessible to the at-risk students.

New Business: Kelly Fogleman Kelly asked if Nitrauer is able to host a before school breakfast for our students and a parent/guardian similar to the way other elementary schools do. The idea was well received, but due to the size of the Nitrauer student body, and parking needs before school, a strategy will be developed to make sure the event runs smoothly.

New Business: Maggie Foley Lydia's closet is in desperate need of gently used clothing donations for sizes 4T to adult. Donations can be made directly to St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Delp Road. Kelly Fogleman suggested a clothing drive at Nitrauer to benefit Lydia's Closet.

New Business: Manheim Township Educational Foundation Jenny Germann from the Manheim Township Educational Foundation gave a brief presentation. Teachers, the PTO and community members are invited to apply for grants with MTEF. There are two grant periods every year, early fall and early spring. Typically, \$100-\$1000 grants are awarded. Ideas for grants must be cutting edge, innovative practice, peer to peer, real world learning, etc. MTEF is unable to fund grants for necessities such as transportation, textbooks, etc. More information is available at mtef.net.

Meeting Concluded at 7:10 PM.

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00pm in the teacher's lounge.