

University Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes October 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Shannon Starks.

I. Minutes Approval from September 10, 2013.

II. Treasurer's Report

Kerry McGarry reported on income and expenses for September. Income included \$41 from Assignment Notebooks, \$2,579.99 from the Fall Pizza Supper, \$105 from September Skate Night, \$270 in UES T-Shirt Sales, and \$3.50 in dividends (checking and saving). September expenses included the Literacy Program (\$1,561.65), Media Assistant (\$343.65), Academic Contests/Recognitions (\$127.50), Health Office supplies (\$83.91), Miscellaneous, and Fall Pizza Supper expenses (\$727.84).

III. Principal's Report

Mrs. McClaine reported on UES activities for Bullying Prevention Week. Students have made a video about bullying and are also learning about the definition of bullying vs. conflict. Activities to develop tools/strategies for dealing with bullying are also planned. Both Ms. Plumer and Mrs. Koushiefes (school social worker) are involved. Legislation has passed that each school should have a reporting system in place for confirmed incidents of bullying in schools as well as an educational/prevention plan to address bullying incidents. Other updates included: the MCCSC and UES websites have been updated and are user friendly and customizable to each family's needs for schedule access and school news. Ruth also updated the PTO Website and will include a Twitter feed onto the webpage. She also included a thank you to Short Stop for their support. Report cards will be sent out on 10/18/13. NWEA has been completed and results will be included in report cards. ISTEP results show a continuation of our 3 year trend of improvement.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Fall Campaign: Natalie Kubat sent update that she has received 50% of forms returned and the running total is \$5500. The goal is to raise \$12,000. The bulletin board was updated with the lightening bolt to track progress. There was a discussion about making a change on next year's forms to have a way for families to indicate on siblings' forms when they have sent in their donation with one specific child. Perhaps a check box?
- b. International Potluck: Scheduled for November 8th. Nan will send a list of represented countries at UES to the committee so they can represent them in a Power Point scrolling of flags to be played in the background. Forms went out last week with students and the talent show portion will be chosen based on time limits and country represented. If there isn't enough talent, Amy's husband will volunteer to teach a dance to attendees. Last year's emcee has agreed to return this year. Other ideas for acts were: German Club, Spanish Club, Native American (Mrs. Hitchings is a contact). People will be encouraged to wear costumes/colors from their country to this event. Also, the idea to also have the students do the same during that school day was discussed. Cheryl is managing the volunteer list. To address the issue of water during the event, more water pitchers will be on the tables during the event and also a recycling bin provided for water bottles.
- c. Dining for Dollars: Bruster's was this month's participant and appeared to have a good turnout. Numbers will come in for next month's meeting.

V. Upcoming Events

- a. Fall Break – NO SCHOOL- October 11-14th
- b. Staff Appreciation Luncheon – Wednesday, October 16th
- c. Skate Night – Tuesday, October 22nd, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- d. Fall Campaign ends – November 1st
- e. Election Day – NO SCHOOL- Tuesday, November 5th

f. International Potluck – Friday, November 8th, 6:00 – 7:30pm

g. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 12th, 6:30 – 7:30pm

VI. Comments/Questions:

Box Tops Update: Winner for September was Mrs. Darby's class with 674 Box Tops. UES receives two checks from Box Tops per year (December, May). Stacy will post signs on the bulletin board to congratulate the winner. PTO participants are asked to bring scissors to the next meeting to help trim box tops. The website BoxTopsforEducation.com allows parents to earn Box Tops while doing online shopping. Ruth will add a link on the PTO page to encourage parents to remember this when doing their holiday shopping. Remember: UES PTO also collects Campbell's Soup labels, Tyson chicken labels, Pizza X tops. K-Kids also collects pop tabs (in support of Ronald McDonald House).

Kerry McGarry continues researching a Square credit card reader to help with UES events. An I-Pad may be needed for use. The goal is to have the ability to accept credit card payments at the Learning Festival in the spring.

The MCCSC School Corporation decided not to pay teachers for a day to conduct Parent-Teacher Conferences. Therefore, there are no Parent-Teacher Conferences set in the three year school calendar. Mrs. McClain indicated UES teachers will continue communicating with parents as needed at the parents' request without having a designated conference day. PTO members and teachers are concerned about the impact this may have on families and students. Potential areas of impact are families who are not able to seek out or advocate for their student as readily as others, as well as families who students aren't having notable problems but want to get to know their child's teacher (and vice versa). The conferences have provided a continuity of relationships among teachers and families in the past. Mrs. McClaine will alert the MCCSC School Corporation committee that these concerns came up at UES PTO meeting this month.

Another concern discussed is the lack of sidewalks and signage around UES school announcing the school's close proximity to the highway. The issue has been looked into in the past, and because the main area of concern/traffic comes from the highway, the State of Indiana is the entity that has to provide the signage. Parents are concerned that not only are traffic accidents happening, but a child could be easily hit by a passing car driving at a high rate of speed down the highway.

PTO Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm