G.A.P.S.

Grimshaw Association of Parents and Staff

Minutes March 6, 2012

Fourth meeting of the 2011 – 2012 School year.

Welcome:

Kerry Evans

Administrative report:

Odyssey of the mind in Binghamton happening March 10th and March 17th.

Sign-ups for trip passed around.

SIT Team in interest of Time management/Student achievement has recommended going back to previous practice of having celebrated events on the last scheduled day of the week. Previous practice has been to hold events on day before the end of the week, in case of snow day.

Picnic is being moved to a later date in order to help keep students focused in the school longer.

Meet and greet event for families of preschoolers (DOB 12/1/08 – 11/30/09) new to the area or unfamiliar with LaFayette school system being planned with Patty Sofranko.

Event is planned for Wednesday 3/21 6:00 – 7:30 and will involve strategies for preparing children for school.

Suggested commissioning wooden replicas of Grimshaw from “Cat’s Meow” for sale in school office and perhaps Grandparents Day.

Cost is $7.50 to make, msrp $15.

Our district has a new business manager, Pete Mahonik.

He is currently reviewing Student activity accounts.

We will no longer be able to maintain separate accounts for each grade after this year.

Soda machine funds are currently being split between “Needy Kid Program: and to purchase PE equiptment.

It is strongly recommended that we move forward on persuing tax exempt status by either incorporating or forming a board.

For a $30 fee, we can purchase a guide from national PTO.

(Funds were approved by majority vote at end of meeting.)

Kindergarten preparation workshop:

Mary-Ellen Long, representing the Grimshaw and Nation Kindergarten teams, is asking for $500 in order to plan and execute a 1 night event called “Ready, Set, Kindergarten!”

The May 16th event will introduce children and parents to their future teachers as well as give them tips and tools so they will be more prepared to meet the State’s ever growing expectations for Kindergarten students.

There will be 15 minute workshops,

Raffles,

Free, age appropriate books,

And snacks and beverages.

Invitations to the event will be handed out at the kindergarten screening.

(Funds were approved by majority vote at end of meeting.)

Gertrude hawk:

Coordinator: Melissa Abend

Sale dates ran February 6th - 27th sale dates.

95 students turned in orders totaling $12,530.00

G.A.P.S. gets 60% for a profit of $7,665.00

Delivery will be March 22rd.

Fresh Fruit Friday:

Chaired by Nancy Redmore

So far $1,177.55 has been spent on a variety of fruits including;

Grapes, several varieties of apples and pears, kiwi, blood oranges, strawberries and starfruit.

Price Chopper was contacted for a donation, but only offered brochures about healthy eating.

The question of fruit and/or snacks to be supplied during testing week was brought up.

It was determined that we would continue this year as last and would ask room parents to provide items for the week of testing.

(No vote as no monies would come from G.A.P.S.)

Treasurers Report:

Presented by Christine Foti-Cromley

$14,796.40 is in our account.

This balance reflects our status before receiving the monies from the Gertrude Hawk sale.

Box tops and Labels for Education:

Coordinator: Erin Vernoche

Erin just sent in the 8,000 Box Tops that have been collected so far this year.

This is a large improvement from last year’s total of 2,000

We will continue to collect and contest is still ongoing.

Any Box Tops collected at this point on, will be submitted next year. (There are only 2 times a year in which we can submit.)

Future events:

Family Fun Night(s):

Coordinator: Erin Vernoche

First night is March 23rd for Pre-K – 3rd grade. Event is a “Game night.”

Second night is April 27th for 4th 5th and 6th Event is a “Movie night.” (Popcorn previously won from Box Tops will be served along with other snacks.)

Small damage to “Ned’s head” game will require a couple of dollars to fix.

Game where kids try to eat hanging donuts to be introduced.

(Last year, total budget was $400. We are expecting to come in way under this amount.)

Teacher appreciation week:

Monday, May 7th – Kureg beverages to be provided in Teachers’ lounge.

Wednesday, May 9th – Snack bags with gum, snack bars and fruit will be passed out to each room.

Traditionally, the third day, volunteers “cheer” for teachers as they arrive.

As Friday will be Grandparents’ day, it was decided to discontinue the practice.

Book Fair:

Chaired by Christine Foti-Cromley

May 7-11 in room 136

This year, due to the fact that we are not a tax exempt organization, we will need to charge sales tax on every sale.

New this year, we will be able to utilize the “Online Book Fair” website. There are plans to have online access to this site during the fair, with a computer in the room for Grandparents’ Day.

We will be taking profits as a mix of Scholastic dollars and cash. This will allow us to give monies to the library to purchase the supplies and books needed.

Grandparents’ day:

Friday, May 10th

Invitations to be sent out the week of 3/19

In order to have less baked goods and more options for people, but allowing those who look to Grandparents’ Day as their day to contribute to G.A.P.S and Grimshaw; it was suggested that we allow people the option of sending in a monetary donation in lieu of baked goods.

It was also suggested that we have options for those with special diets by providing fruit and cheese sticks.

We will be moving the photographer to the gym and will not be using the grey background as last year.

A decision was not made regarding favors, but it was suggested that; if we give out frames this year, that they are the correct size to fit the photos.

Requests for funding:

Library: Request for $20 for library, so they may purchase special tape and labels needed to make books ready for circulation.

(Amount was, increased to $50, voted on and funds were approved by majority vote at end of meeting.)

Water bottles for Grimshaw Olympics @ $500: Some members expressed a desire to either discontinue this practice or to change to a different favor (due to all the other organizations who also give out water bottles.) It was decided that we would continue with the water bottles.

(No vote was called on this on the grounds that this is a traditional expense and part of our expected yearly expenses.)

Parade of Baskets: Request to again donate a Kindle for this event, amount not to exceed $110

(Funds were approved by majority vote at end of meeting.)

Jump-rope for heart: Request for donation of $175

(Funds were approved by majority vote at end of meeting.)

Funds to attend educational seminar: A group of teachers, represented by Lori Mucha are requesting, up to $700 to allow them to attend a seminar. This seminar would count towards credits that some of them need to have to maintain certification.

(This was discussed at length. Several questions came up and were not able to be resolved. No vote was held at this time.

Next meeting will be April 17th at 6PM (Note: This is an earlier time than most meetings.)