Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm. A total of 12 people were in attendance.

October 22, 2015 meeting minutes approved with two minor corrections.

**Principal Report – Mr. Hansen**

* Veteran’s Day was 11/11. Colonel Manke and a Blaine VFW member performed a flag raising which the whole school attended. The students recited the pledge of allegiance and sang the Star Spangled Banner. A lot of teachers include Veteran’s day in their curriculum.
* Report cards are going out December 15th.
* An ELA curriculum adoption process is happening this year. Two pilots are happening right now with two different curriculums (Journeys and Reading Wonders). There will be a time when parents can review the curriculum, which will be announced at a later date.
* The school is ordering Raz-Kids, which is an online book service. It allows students to access books at various reading levels with subsequent quizzes. Each teacher will be able to manage his or her classroom needs.

**Special Presentation: Social Media & Internet Safety**

Officer Brandon Fettig of the Blaine Police Department provided a safety presentation. The presentation focused on all the various ways and devices used by our children to access the Internet. He reviewed safety and security issues, including inappropriate content, online privacy, sexting, online sexual solicitation and cyber bullying.

Link to the full presentation: netsmartz.org

Presentation Highlights:

* Younger children should be made aware of netiquette, including identifying / not be involved with inappropriate content and what they should do if it happens. Reviewed what children should not post online (threats / hate speech etc.).
* Parents should establish expectations, set consequences, review their social media and talk about what their friends are doing. It’s not a good idea for children to be posting pictures of family on websites. Stress that it’s not ok to share personal information. Help them with privacy settings, create strong passwords and talk about friends’ lists.
* Reviewed consequences of sexting and how to address it.
* Reviewed sexual solicitation, grooming and what to do, including talking to your child about relationships, setting policies about meeting “offline”, teaching your child warning signs and notifying the police.
* Adults can refer suspicious activity to the CyberTipline.org.
* Discussed cyber bulling (examples) and how to identify signs. Save the evidence, block the cyber bullies, setup new accounts, talk to school and report it. Encourage your children to stand up for the victim and report it.
* There are technology tools to help set security, filter, restrict sites etc.
* Parents should look at devices randomly to see what is going on. Even if kids are gaming they are able to access the Internet and connect with others.
* Technology in the elementary school is limited to the devices provided by the school.

**Volunteer Report – Cory Knapp**

Number of Volunteers and Hours

* + Numbers as of 11/11: Number of volunteers is 242. 151 volunteers have been active. Total volunteer hours totals 1,189.5.

Upcoming Opportunities

* + Butter Braid Counting & Pickup (December 1st & December 17th)
  + Movie Night (December 11th)
  + Winter Dance (January 15th)
  + I Love to Read (February)

**Treasurer’s Report – Alex Olson**

The updated budget (income & expense) with current actual figures was reviewed.

Activity since last meeting:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Beginning Balance** | **Cash In** | **Cash Out** | **Ending Balance** |
| October 22, 2015 - November 12, 2015 | $17,021.63 | $629.15 | $4,475.01 | $13,175.77 |

* Cash in was from movie night, but teacher reimbursement/profit has not been paid out.
* Cash out was for the Volunteer Coordinator and postage / copies for PTO magnets.

**Update on Past Events**

Movie Night – Alex Olson / Brady Bargman

* Total participation was 198. Purchased large bags of popcorn instead of boxes, which dramatically cut down on cost. Suggested to cut brown bags down or use smaller bags.
* The amount of popcorn should cover 300 bags.
* Discussed not doing presale.
* ESL is in charge of concession for December. Will discuss movie selection with the group. Inside Out was suggested.

Candy Corn Contest – Jessica Wegener

* PTO sponsored a contest during Halloween week for all students to guess how many candy corn candies were in a container for a chance to win the candy, a $15.00 gift card to Half Price Books and a Halloween themed goody bag.
* All students had the chance to submit a guess. Teachers used this is an opportunity to talk about estimation.
* Winner was a fourth grade student.

**Update on Upcoming Events**

Butter Braids – Missy Persaud

* + - Packets were sent out to all students
    - Orders are due on Monday Nov. 30th. 3 – 4 volunteers are needed to help count money on December 1st from 2-4 pm.
    - We will be requesting Mark to send a phone blast the night/afternoon of Sunday Nov. 29th as a reminder to bring forms back the next day.
    - Orders will be delivered on Thursday 12/17.  Pickup will be from 4-7:30 pm.  3 – 4 volunteers are needed.
    - Profits are $4.80 for each unit, and for the variety packs the profits are $14.00.

Winter Dance – Jessica Wegener

* A planning meeting was held to discuss theme, activities/games and other logistics. 4 – 5 people have responded that they would like to help plan and run the event.
* The theme of the dance will be a “masquerade ball”.
* The Youth Coordinator at Blaine is excited to offer the opportunity to NHS or Youth in Service. Cory will reach out with the basic outline of the dance to solicit volunteers.
* It was decided to not charge admission for the event. The PTO will sell tickets for 25 cents a piece for the various activities and games.
* The dance is not expected to bring in income this year due to profit from concessions going to the 4th grade teachers and providing free admission to families.
* 4th grade teachers will be running the concessions, including face painting.
* A $100 deposit was paid to the DJ to hold the date.

**Old Business**

* Solicited ongoing input and feedback regarding communication from the PTO board.

**New Business**

Special Presentation Opportunity

* Mr. Hansen discussed a seminar he attended that focused on a “growth mindset” and suggested this for a special topic for an upcoming meeting.

Family Meal Update

Alex Olson is working on selection and timeframes for family meal night restaurants.

* Check-in with Chipotle in November to see if there are dates available in the spring.
* Perkins fundraiser is a 20% return to the school. The event can run for a week to a month. It was suggested that a shorter time period is better.
* Explore Chili’s since it is closer to our population.
* Buffalo Wild Wings is also an option to check out.
* Looking to kick off the first event in January or February.

Adjourned at 8:21 pm.