President Melissa Persaud called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. 10 people were in attendance.

September meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no edits.

**Principal Report – Mr. Hansen**

* Parent/teacher conferences are complete and went well.
* This week (10/19 – 10/23) is Unity week. Donations have been collected for a local Anoka/Hennepin elementary school food shelf. Students were encouraged to wear orange on Wednesday, which is National Unity Day “Together Against Bullying — United for Kindness, Acceptance, and Inclusion”. Anti-bullying posters have been collected and will be judged at the end of the week. Friendship day is on Friday.
* Adoption of the ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum has begun. There will be times scheduled at the Anoka Hennepin educational center for parents to review the materials. Implementation is planned for fall 2016 after the review is completed. Pilots will occur during the winter/spring at participating elementary locations.
* There will be student bus patrols placed on select bus routes. These students are 5th graders that have demonstrated leadership qualities and are not already part of the patrol program. They will be reminding students of the rules and then report any issues to the bus driver. The bus driver will then handle the issue.

**Special Presentation: Understanding Test Scores – Mrs. Newberger**

* See separate power point for the full presentation as well as links to additional information. Follow this link for Anoka/Hennepin testing information: <http://anoka.k12.mn.us/domain/878>. See below for some specific call-outs:
* The testing information collected is used to pin point needs and supplemental resources.
* Talent Development has programming for advanced students.
* MAP testing happens in the fall at Jefferson. This test can be used to compare against other schools and districts. This testing was completed by last Tuesday. A printout will come home with the student but is also available through AHConnect. The MAP test is a dynamic test. If the student is answering correctly or incorrectly the test questions change (moves up or down grade level depending on how well they are doing). This is available for all MN schools, but it is a subscribed service so not all districts/schools facilitate this testing.
* All students in the state of Minnesota take the MCA. The state uses this to understand how the state is performing; the district and sites look to see if they are meeting benchmarks.
* Reading the MCA results: 300 is a 3rd grade, 400 is 4th grade and 500 is 5th grade. Example for 3rd grade: 350 meets standard. Below does not. 366 – 399 exceeds standard.
* MAP scores can be used as a predictor for MCAs but many inputs are used to assess students.
* Scores are being used for middle school placement. They don’t look at a single year, but scores over time as well as teacher input are considered.

**Volunteer Report – Cory Knapp**

* **Number of Volunteers and Hours**
	+ - * As of October 8th: 213 volunteer applications & criminal background checks completed.
			* 482.5 volunteers hours have been logged (does not include field trip numbers this week).
* **Upcoming Opportunities**
* Movie night is setup to have 6 – 8 high school volunteers coming to help.
* Vision & hearing is coming up next week. There are still a couple slots open.
* Kindergarten Skillbuilder starts next week. There are 5 volunteers.
* Reading Corps full-time position is filled (currently on maternity leave) but still looking for part-time help.
* Contacted by a ninth grader at Blaine High School who is a part of the Youth In Service group. Groups find a focus / passion which was education for this team. “Bengals Buddies” would be run after to school 4 – 6 weeks. They plan to run arts & crafts, games and homework help for elementary students. Ratio would be 2:1, or 24 students to 12 high school buddies. This group will be ready to go by the 1st of the year. This opportunity will be available to all students.
* **Completed Volunteer Events**
* The book fair went really well. High school student volunteers did a great job!
* The potluck for teachers at conferences on 10/8 was very much appreciated!
* Field trips have been busy with background checks.

**Treasurer’s Report – Alex Olson**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Beginning Balance | Cash In | Cash Out | Ending Balance |
| September 17, 2015 - October 22, 2015 | $3,732.33 | $14,906.95 | $1,617.65 | $17,021.63 |

* Activity since last meeting:
	+ Cash in was from the Jefferson Jaunt
	+ Cash out included movie licensing, insurance, supplies and jaunt expenses

**Update on Past Events: Jefferson Jaunt – Molly Thomson**

* $14, 906.95 was raised with this event! This was just shy of our $15,000.00 goal.
* Expenses included money collection (envelopes/printing), Target gift card prizes, staff breakfast, post-jaunt snacks, iPad mini prize and Waterpark of America prize.
* Feedback was shared that the chair may want to consider something different than a frozen treat next year. The frozen treat is a bit messy and harder to distribute. At other schools the snack was handed to students as they were walking in which was logistically easier.
* The donation value for the Jaunt was $347.00! Thank you to all the local businesses who contributed, including Target, Walmart, $5 Pizza, Zero Gravity, Blainebrook Bowl, East Bethel Theatre and Connexus.
* Parent participation was good this year. Parents and students had fun on the walk!
* The PTO Board recognized Molly for her 2 years of volunteerism to organize and run the Jaunt. We have had 2 very successful years under her leadership. Molly was presented with a thank you, flowers and a gift card in appreciation for her efforts.

**Update on Upcoming Events**

* **October Movie Night 10/26** – Alex Olson / Brady Bargman
	+ - * We will be showing The Book of Life. Doors open at 6 pm and the movie starts at 6:30 pm.
			* For future movies, ensure the office is setup with the cash box and the tickets for presale.
			* Food shelf donations will go to a local church or school.
* **Butter Braid Fundraiser** – Missy Persaud
	+ - * Fliers will be going home the beginning of November.
				+ Start Date: Tuesday, November 10
				+ End Date: Monday, November 30
				+ Submit Order By: Wednesday, December 2
				+ Delivery: Thursday, December 17
* **Winter Dance** – Jessica Wegener
* Received the list of volunteers from Cory who expressed interest in the December event (January 15 dance). Will be reaching out to these individuals as we kick-off planning for this event.
* Received a referral for a DJ who comes highly recommended from McKinley Elementary. He has provided a quote but we need to put down $100.00 to secure the date.
* Cory to contact the youth coordinate or Blaine Honor Society for volunteers. The Coon Rapids school volunteers were excellent last year.
* 4th grade teachers will be providing concessions for this event. Face painting was discussed as a possibility.

**Old Business**

* **Budget**. Budget was unanimously approved. Next month we will have actuals for this year.
* **Digital Cameras**. 2 cameras, memory cards and a tri-pod was purchased through the school after the digital camera request was presented at the September meeting. The teachers could use 2 additional cameras and memory cards. It was agreed to order 2 cameras up to $500.00 as part of the book room/electronic media budget.
* **Box Tops.** The October submissions totaled $800.00. A reminder was sent out to parents and a lot of box tops are coming in with the sheets that were sent home! Keep sending in your box tops!

**New Business**

* **Communication Update & Feedback** – Jessica Wegener
	+ - * We have been reviewing our communication vehicles and have added a Facebook page to provide more frequent updates for parents.
			* We want to hear from you to better understand what communication you leverage, how effective our communication is and what you would like to hear about – especially during monthly meetings. We will be administering a survey to collect feedback.
			* It was suggested to send out a voice mail for PTO meetings going forward.
* **Candy Corn Counting Contest.** The week of 10/26 the PTO is sponsoring a “candy corn counting contest” for students to guess the number of candy corn in a jar for a chance to win a $15.00 gift card to Half Price Books and the candy! This is an event was planned for National Literacy Awareness (month of October).

**Parent/Teacher Open Forum**

* **Upcoming Focus Topics / Special Presentations**:
	+ - * Internet safety is planned for the next meeting. Mark will contact the Roosevelt principal to see what presentations and/or facilitators may be available.
			* Based on the success of having the “K” teachers present in September, it was suggested that other grade level teams attend future PTO meetings (what to expect for middle school for 5th graders was a suggestion for a January or February topic).
			* The topic of student discipline was also requested at the September meeting.

**Adjournment: 8:43 pm**