

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 7th, 2010

President, Kelly Hansen, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary, Kathy Shah, read correspondence received from the **Second Grade Team, The Seventh Grade Team, the Sixth Grade Team and the Exploratory Team** thanking the **Staff Appreciation Committee** for the delicious treats they provided during conferences this year.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver, provided the following report: As of November 30, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$32,800. This includes income of \$1,367 mostly from School Supplies and 8th Grade Affy Tapple sales. There were expenses of \$7,289, mostly from Wrapping Paper, administrative expenses and Special Lunch.

Administration Reports

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf, began by addressing the issue of the 2011-2012 school calendar. The calendar committee meets once each year and makes recommendations to the board. This year, Lyons Township High School has made significant changes to their 2011-2012 calendar. Efforts have been made where possible to match our dates with theirs. He wanted to give a "heads up" now to the Pleasantdale families as they might be in the process of planning vacations, etc. for the upcoming year. He asked that any individuals with specific questions call. He also mentioned that analysis of the Standards-Based Pilot program is providing helpful data and he will issue an update letter shortly. Lastly, he will also be issuing a letter soon to serve as a reminder of the state ethics laws in terms of gifts for staff members as the holiday season is upon us.

Elementary Principal, Matt Vandercar, wished to thank **Kim Gilman and the Staff Appreciation Committee** for the treats provided during the conferences. He also wished to remind families that a student performance of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* will be next Tuesday afternoon and evening. There will also be a full dress rehearsal on Monday evening, to which all are invited. The hope is that the dress rehearsal performance and two performances offered on Tuesday will result in less crowding at any one performance.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny, also wished to thank **Kim Gilman and the Staff Appreciation Committee** for their efforts during conferences. She also mentioned that the Eighth Grade will be seeing a performance on Friday by the LT Madrigals followed by a visit to LT to see a theatrical performance. The Sixth and Seventh Grades will also be busy as the Sixth Graders will be visiting the Museum of Science and Industry and the Seventh Graders will be seeing *The Christmas Carol*. On December 17th, the Seventh Graders have their service day and on January 3rd, Girl's Volleyball Clinic begins.

Teacher Representative Reports –

Jill Jensen reported for **Elementary** and her report was as follows:

Thank you to the PTA for the treats they had for us the days of Parent-Teacher Conferences. They brought in popcorn and candy and it was a wonderful surprise.

Music: 3rd and 4th Graders are performing a winter concert titled *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Performance dates are Monday, December 13 @ 7p.m. and Tuesday, December 14 @ 2p.m. (matinee) and 7pm.

Art: First Grade: Studying Henri Matisse and learning to draw with scissors. Second Grade: Learning how to make artwork decorative while creating Mexican Bark Paintings. Third Grade: We just started origami! Fourth grade: Printmaking...we just finished building printing plates to ink and stamp in our next project.

Gym: Ms. Blogg's first graders have been having fun learning floor hockey skills such as passing, shooting, and stick handling. They are excited to play floor hockey scrimmage games as well as "Clean Your Back Yard" and "Target Hockey".

Library: 3rd and 4th grade: The Bluestem Award: Illinois' Grades 3-5 Readers' Choice Award. The award is designed for students in grades 3-5 who are ready for longer titles than found on the Monarch list, but not quite ready for the sophistication of some of the Rebecca Caudill titles. Named in honor of Big Bluestem, which is the state prairie grass, the award may include both timeless classics and current titles as well as books that have appeared on Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists. There are 20 titles and students must read at least four to be eligible to vote in March. The titles are listed on the website on the library page.

Preschool is working hard preparing for Holiday Workshop.

Kindergarten is talking about how the holidays are celebrated around the world. Our room moms are organizing a huge FEAST to culminate this wonderful activity. Many thanks to all of our parents for supporting this celebration.

Second grade just finished Native Americans and is working on a germ unit. They have their traditional Polar Express Day planned for Dec. 16.

Third grade: We are studying Illinois in Social Studies. We are making our annual gingerbread houses at the end of next week. Parents will be helping on Friday with the decorating.

Fourth Grade: Language Arts: current class novel is *Riding Freedom*, studying similes, metaphors, and idioms and doing a lot of dialog writing.

Science: Current units are about energy: heat, light, and sound.

Math: studying division

Jillian Vonnahme reported for **Middle School** and her report was as follows:

Grade 5: The 5th Graders will join Connections right away when we get back from break. They are starting a new novel, *Tuck Everlasting*. All of the fifth grade students are working on fractions in math. This is the unit we hit the hardest so they are putting forth a lot of extra effort.

Grade 6 : The Sixth Grade did a wonderful job this year raising several hundred food items through their advisories for the food drive. The students were all excited to help those who were in need this year. We are also getting excited to go on our December 16th field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry. The students and teachers will use this experience to enhance our science unit on flight. This field trip is a great opportunity for the students to apply current knowledge as well as obtain background knowledge that will be used in further discussions.

Grade 7: All 7th grade literature and composition classes are studying *A Christmas Carol*. Not only are they reading and listening to the play, but completing a creative writing project as well. Thank you for allowing us to see the live performance next week at a discounted rate! It is a great production. In 7th grade, we are also excited about our community service next week. We have placements at Denada Equestrian Center, Ronald McDonalds house and Feed my Starving Children. What a great way to end 2010!

Grade 8: The 8th Graders are in Connections. We are studying both *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Students will be analyzing these texts for themes of power, manhood, poverty and race. Students will also create a one-act play to show their understanding of dramatic writing. Plays written about disability will be entered in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts VSA Playwright Discovery Call For Scripts.

8th Grade Accel Lit: reading and exploring themes/symbolism in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, tying up persuasive writing in composition. 8th Grade on-level reading: focusing on non-fiction; exploring biographies and news on the web.

Exploratory

Mod Tech: The 2nd Trimester means a new group of wonderful students to work with...

5th Graders are working hard at advancing their word processing skills. They are working with margins, tab, overall layouts and editing to create the perfect document. Their next project will be to create a newsletter to practice their skills.

6th Graders have each just presented a *PowerPoint* presentation where they show cased their presentation skills in order to sell a creative product of their design. They used animations, hyperlinks and other tools to create a presentation to wow their classmates.

8th Graders are finishing their first module this week. Partnerships have worked hard to learn new ideas and to apply these ideas in experiments and when creating related projects. They summarized their learning in journal form and will begin their next module at the end of the week.

Health

6th Health

The 6th Graders are off to a great start in the 2nd trimester. We are currently finishing Mental and Emotional Health and will be moving into Social/Family Health next week. The upcoming project for 6th grade will be their body system posters. Each student will have their body traced out and will then label the corresponding body parts. The 6th grade is doing a great job so far!

7th Health

The 7th Graders are working very hard to start off the 2nd trimester. They recently created a character collage representing pictures of what makes them who they are. We are moving into social and family health very soon where the students will start to study many different refusal skills.

8th Health

The 8th grade students recently created a stress manual discussing many different stress management techniques and identifying different stressors in their life. They are doing a great job this year and are all working extremely hard. The 8th grade is moving along into family/social health. The students are beginning to prepare for a skit using different refusal techniques in negative peer pressure situations.

Art: The kiln is firing night and day as the 5th, 7th and 8th graders are creating personal, unique ceramic projects for their friends and families. We have everything from clay bears to mugs, plates, lace bowls and ornaments. The art room is rarely empty as we try to get everything home for the holidays.

Library: Lots of great things happening. We just concluded our Anderson's book fair. Right now we are gearing up for Middle School Readers sign-up (Dec. 17th deadline). I have visited almost all of the literature classes to talk about due dates and club dates. I'll be getting to the rest of the classes by tomorrow. We have decided to do something a little different this time. We are moving the 5th grade book club date to Feb. 4th. It makes it more manageable with so many students participating in the group in 5th and 6th grade. We needed to spread out the students. So Grades 6, 7 & 8 will have book club on January 28th. The 5th grade will do their book club on Feb. 4th. Please talk the book club up with your son or daughter. . . . The more the merrier.

Also, **Mrs. Petrovic** is in need of volunteers on the day of the MS Readers Book Club to help serve ice cream sundaes to the students. The dates are January 28th and Feb. 4th. The times are 11:00 to 1:16. Please contact her at anne.petrovic@tmo.blackberry.net

Unfinished Business – President, Kelly Hansen announced that the Pleasantdale PTA will be formulating a nominating committee and wishes to get the word out as we begin the search for Executive Board Officers for the 2011-2012 school year. The nominating committee will be elected in January and a chair will be selected. This committee will report on their progress in February and provide a slate of candidates during the March PTA Board meeting.

New Business – the Chair was unaware of any new business

Book Fair – no one to report

Cultural Arts – Paula Ogurkewicz reported. The Seventh Graders will be seeing *The Christmas Carol* before the December break. The Pleasantdale PTA will be covering ½ of the cost of all tickets.

Eighth Grade – Tammy White reported. A full copy of the minutes of the last Eighth Grade Committee meeting have been added as an attachment to the board meeting minutes. Tammy indicated all is progressing well. She indicated **Barb Lamb** will be sending a letter and permission slip shortly concerning the class outing in February. Class sweatshirts have been distributed and the dinner dance will be held at Ashton Place.

Karen O'Halloran also wished to add that this Sunday, December 12th, the newly opened restaurant in Willowbrook, *Meatheads*, will donate 10% of proceeds to the Eighth Grade. A flyer with details will appear in this week's Friday Packet.

Recycling – Dianne Norris was in attendance and indicated she did not have new information to report.

Music Committee- no one to report

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – Linda Thorell reported. The third Write Stuff prompt is complete. For those who completed the prompt, they wrote about someone they really appreciate. They have been asked to give their papers to their chosen person. Participation trended a little lower, with a total of 292 participants (versus 327 for the placemat prompt). In addition to the Write Stuff stickers the participants have been receiving, we are planning an all-school Write Stuff incentive. We are hoping to provide popsicles to each student at the elementary school sometime before the end of this week.

Room Reps – no one to report; however, please note that **Paula Ogurkewicz** mentioned after the meeting that the date on which treats will be distributed to the Middle School students has been changed to December 17th as the Seventh Graders will be out on December 18th.

Santa’s Luncheon – Lisa Uckerman reported. She is preparing for the Luncheon this Saturday. She did point out that next year, she would suggest that the time for the event be put on the school calendar. She also asked if a mass e mail or phone message can be placed to remind families of the event. The event will be held on Saturday, December 11th from 10 – 1pm at the Elementary School.

Santa’s Workshop – Rhonda Floros reported. Her report included the following details: Merchandise ordered and has arrived. It is being stored at the Elementary building. Penguin Patch (the company we are working with) provides the bags to wrap gifts. We save money on wrapping materials otherwise purchased in previous years. Pleasantdale receives a 20% profit of all merchandise sold. There is no inventory necessary before or after the sale. Additional volunteers are still needed for the Saturday sale; either the 10:30 shift or the 12:00 shift. A group of 8th graders is being recruited to help as well. Numbers are still coming in. Santa will be visiting. Candy canes have been purchased. Parents are encouraged to bring their own camera. Instamatic photos will not be available this year. PA/lunchtime reminder announcements have been submitted to the Elementary school for Thursday and Friday. An additional flyer will go home on Friday in the Friday packet.

Karen O'Halleron also thought a phone call out to Pleasantdale families to remind them of both the Workshop/Luncheon as well as the Elementary play next week would be a good idea. **Dr. Mark Fredisdorf** indicated he was in agreement and **President, Kelly Hansen** mentioned she had already written some sample language.

Staff Appreciation – Kim Gilman reported. She felt the treat table at conferences went well as they had chosen a “Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” theme, complete with several flavors of popcorn, pretzels, jellybeans and mints (just like Charlie Brown and Snoopy served their friends!) She wished to thank **Laura Schetter and Jennifer Hennessy** who lead the event and made sure all the snacks were displayed and cleaned up. She also wished to thank those who contributed treats: **Vicki Castro, Jennifer Hawbaker, Kim Gilman, Jennifer Hennessy, Jen Kator, Arlene Cabana, Dania Mahoney and Tammy White**. She indicated that the committee is busy planning for the annual Staff Holiday Treat Table which will be on December 15th. This year’s theme is “Gingerbread Men”. She encouraged families to show their appreciation for staff by contributing baked goods. Any family wishing to make a contribution can drop off their sweets at either school on Tuesday, December 14th between 3 and 3:45 pm or Wednesday, December 15th between 8 and 10 am. Please send food in disposable trays. Those items, which need to be refrigerated, need to be dropped off on Wednesday. A flyer with details and gift tag for family names will go out in the next Friday Packet. Families can make their own tags and/or add photos if they would prefer. Any questions can be directed to **Andrea Sarno or Jennifer Hawbaker**.

Open Forum

Jenny Corcoran could not attend, but provided the following report for **ES Readers** read during the meeting: The next ES Reader's Night will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2011. The theme of the evening will be animals. We will offer fiction and non-fiction selections for the students to read. The book selection form should be out by Friday and parents wishing to order books will need to send in the form and payment by Dec.17 to insure January delivery of the books. The committee will have book questions and activities prepared in advance for the group facilitators. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this event should contact **Jenny Corcoran or Maggie Smith**.

Gina Nelson reported for **Read to Succeed/Great America**, as she is co-chairing the committee with **Sharon Rak**. This program starts in January. Reading logs are due back in February. Students will have an opportunity to once again earn a ticket to Great America. All reading must be logged in via computer. The program will be offered to students in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

Special Lunch – Lisa Ukerman and Linda Thorell reported. Lisa indicated that she felt this Special Lunch went much more smoothly than the last and wished to thank all who had assisted. **Linda Thorell** added the following: We are happy to report that the second special lunch of hot dogs is complete. A total of 322 hot dogs were ordered for the elementary school. We reduced our buffer of hot dogs to 10, and this was sufficient. Everyone had a lunch to eat! We are still receiving some orders for the last two lunches of the school year. We will continue to publish a list of those students NOT signed up for special lunch just prior to the final two special lunch dates to make sure that those who have not ordered a lunch bring one from home. Again, we could not provide special lunch without great volunteers – a special thank you to **Bea Mologousis, Sonia Dombkowski, Sue Camba, Ingrid Dillon, Mona Mekhail, Grace Klimes, Jill Fuller, and Sharon Wienold**. **Lisa Ukerman** also added that in terms of Special Lunch running smoothly this past month, she was especially appreciative of the staff who reminded students the day before the Special Lunch who among them was not signed up and would need to bring a lunch the following day. **Linda Thorell** also felt that as the “bumps” continued to be ironed out, going forward there will be less need for reminder lists posted in Friday Packets, etc. She felt that going forward, it will be especially important to have the Special Lunch sign up within the first few days of the new school year rather than in May, as done in years past.

Tammy White mentioned the following in terms of the recent **Eye4Style** fundraising event: 46 paid attendees enjoyed the event and the PTA's profit from the event was \$262.00, which she felt was good given the current economy.

President, Kelly Hansen announced that the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on Tuesday, **January 4th at 7 p.m.** at the Admin. Building. A General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will immediately follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

8th Grade Committee, General Sub-Committee Meeting, Nov. 10th , 7:05 pm

Present: Barb Lamb, Pat Klopp, Sue Orsic, Kathy Thalji, Maida Ng, Sherry Kulhanek, Sandra Hannan, Chris White, Lisa Kristy, Dianne Norris, Karen Cook

Barb Lamb brought copies of the proposed letter to be sent to all 8th grade parents for communicating information regarding what is happening with the 8th grade committee and the 8th grade events this year. A discussion regarding the timing of this letter along with the additional information to be sent at the same time followed. The Fortnightly committee wanted to send their letter out by 11/29. A discussion regarding overall communications with 8th grade parents covered other methods to reach out to parents. Suggestions included adding a link on the PTA website for the 8th grade committee as well as asking the PTA to include an "8th Grade Corner" in their newsletter. The decision reached was to send all materials at 1 time so parents aren't overburdened with multiple mailing, in addition to the extra cost involved in multiple mailings.

Committee Reports:

Photography: no report

Bulletin Board: Thanksgiving board looks great. Things are progressing.

DVD: Chris White had a sample of what he was starting to put together for the DVD to be viewed by committee members. He discussed his ideas for categorizing the photos on the DVD. He also suggested that we have the DVD run prior to the graduation ceremony so family members could all see what happened over the past school year. A discussion also covered the topic of when to distribute the DVD and what would be included. Previous 8th grade parents were contacted and many hadn't wanted to have the ceremonies on DVD. Further discussion revolved around who took pictures of the students receiving their diplomas and who arranged those services. Lisa Kristy has a copy of the flier from last year will contact that vendor for further information. Barb will check with Charlotte Reschke to see if the school did anything about that. No final decisions have been made.

Class Shirts: The shirts are in and being sorted so they can hopefully go home this coming Friday. Lisa Kristy brought up the fact that many parents never received the info from their children about the ability to purchase t-shirts. Barb will ask Julie Kelly to talk to Brian Klimes about an additional opportunity for parents to purchase t-shirts.

Fortnightly: The dates are complete. However, Pat Klopp brought up the fact that the last date was the first night of Spring Break. The resolution is Nancy Cook will talk with Fred Astaire Dance studio to move the entire session up and revise the date schedule quickly so the letter can be out by the 29th. Nancy brought up the issue of chaperones for the event nights. Last year there were several situations where children were reportedly seen at other functions when they were signed up for Fortnightly and chaperones varied from night to night and needed to be trained each time. Her suggestion is to not solicit

additional chaperones other than the ones who signed up at the first meeting. The number of volunteers will allow her to make sure they all know what to expect at the event and there will be continuity between the weeks. This proposition was agreed upon as the best way to proceed.

Dinner Dance: Sherry Kulhanek reported the event will be held at Ashton Place. The deposit is in and all the forms are signed off on. They are looking at a tropical theme.

Class Gift: no report.

Class Outing: The committee is leaning toward holding the event at Rolling Lanes. The school does pay to transport the kids to the bowling alley, with parents picking up at the end.

Graduation Reception: Kathy Thalji has volunteered to make the invitations and the cake.

Service: Pat Klopp reported we are having problems with sign-ups. Mr. Busch has worked at getting volunteers but was unable to get some for the recent PTA meeting. In addition, several students signed up to help with the taffy apple distribution and never showed up. Barb has addressed the service issue in the upcoming communication letter to parents to help with the situation. Pat is awaiting word from the Santa Workshop people on how many volunteers they will need.

Fundraising: Sue Orsic reports that proceeds to this point are \$421 from the bake sales and \$834.50 from the taffy apple sales for a total of \$1,255.50. The decision to ask 8th grade families to donate for another bake sale was made. The final bake sale will be held at the Santa's Workshop on Dec. 10th. They will be specifically asking for cookies to be baked to put a different twist on the sale. Customers can then pick the cookies they want and pay by weight. They will be having a meeting right after this to discuss the basketball tournament.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.