

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 02, 2010

President, Kelly Hansen, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence – none

Treasurer's Report – **Treasurer, Alli Gulliver**, reported the following: As of October 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$38,730**. This includes income of **\$16,551** mostly from Wrapping Paper (\$9,238), Halloween Hop (\$2,216) and 8th Grade Affy Tapple sales (\$2,200). There were expenses of **\$5,343**, mostly for Special Lunch and 8th Grade Affy Tapple.

Minutes – The minutes of the last meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA were approved as written.

Administration Reports –

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf began by mentioning that he felt the Halloween Hop was well executed and wished to thank **Mr. Woltman** for getting everyone up and moving! Tomorrow, two veterans will receive the placemats created by the Write Stuff to present to the Hines Veteran's Hospital. Also, there is a parent meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School APR at which the new Standards Based Grading System will be discussed and he is looking forward to the discussion. Dr. Fredisdorf also wished to comment on the impact the election is likely to have on a state level. He mentioned that he is a member of the Legislative Council for Superintendent's Association and feels that although many districts in Illinois are likely to be affected over the next two years, Pleasantdale will be minimally affected. He plans to issue a letter to parents reassuring them of Pleasantdale's fiscal situation at the appropriate time.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar, wished to thank **Beth Schwartz** for her work with the Room Reps to make the Halloween parties safe and memorable for the students. He mentioned that parent and staff feedback obtained will be helpful for future Halloween class parties. Also, a large screen TV, a gift from the PTA, will be appearing in the lobby shortly. It will be linked to a computer in the art room and will display student work. On November 11th, the Elementary School will host a Veteran's Day Assembly at 2 p.m. All are invited to attend. On November 16th, Elementary will host Standardized Test Night at 6:30 p.m. A 9 a.m. session of that meeting has also been added that day.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny thanked the PTA for the wonderful Halloween treats provided to students. She mentioned that Veteran's Day will be observed as local veterans converse with eighth graders to create a film to be seen by all Middle School students. On-line conference sign up also begins this week. The trimester will end on November 12th and report cards issued on November 16th. Three separate winter concerts are planned for this month as well as the Explore Testing.

Elementary Staff Representative – Christine Markovitz reported for Elementary. Her report was as follows:

Bright Beginnings Preschool - Preschool is starting their unit on Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. They are working hard and having fun.

Kindergarten - All of the Kindergarten students had a wonderful time at their Halloween parties because of our great Room Moms! The students enjoyed socializing with each other while snacking on tasty treats. The low key activities and stories read to them were a big hit!

First grade had a BOOtiful time at the Halloween parade and party. Thank you to the fabulous room moms for making this day so special for us! They've met their 4th grade buddies and are thrilled to be spending time with them this year! First grade is beginning their animal unit in Science. They have a new text book this year and are excited about it!

2nd grade - Second grade just completed their dinosaur and fossil unit. They are beginning to learn about Native Americans this week. On Nov. 17th they will be taking a field trip to the Field Museum to see artifacts from both units. They are working on fairy tales in reading and addition with regrouping in math.

3rd Grade - Just finished a LA unit on Spiders. Most 3rd graders are now arachnid experts. They are also concluding their first Science pilot on Simple Machines. On level Math students are beginning multiplication. Above level math groups are testing multiplication. Connections will start in a few days.

4th Grade -

Social Studies

Map skills

Language Arts

Dialog writing

Studying genres for what we read and write

Math

Multiplication and division – Keep studying those facts up to 12!

We all enjoyed the lesson taught by our social worker Mrs. Barbara Berndt.

Getting ready for the parent-**student**-teacher conferences

Ms. Blogg-1st grade PE - The outstanding October weather has brought all the First Graders outside to play games and learn La Crosse skills. They are thrilled as they practice how to scoop, pass and shoot. They also are learning to be good twirlers in long jump rope. Their friends are happy because that helps them to jump for a long, long time.

Art Class:

1st grade – Starting animal paintings to go along with their habitats and animals unit in classrooms.

2nd grade – Working very hard on paper mache dinosaurs! They look great!

3rd grade – learning how to draw optical illusions by using various forms of line and shape.

4th grade – Finishing up their “Portrait of America” unit in which they have created flags that symbolize important aspects/issues in American culture.

Library - Maggie Smith - The Bluestem Award: Illinois' Grades 3-5 Readers' Choice Award will be introduced to 3rd and 4th grades this week. It's a new book award that fits between the Monarch (K-3rd) and Rebecca Caudill (4th - 8th) Awards. 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 includes both classics and current titles, as well as books that have appeared on Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists.

Joanne Histed has returned to the elementary school. She was out for 6 1/2 weeks recovering from surgery. We are all pleased that she is doing well and back with us.

Middle Staff Representative – Sharon Collins reported for Middle. Her report was as follows:

Grade 5 - 5th grade had a super field trip to the zoo last Friday and thanks all the parent volunteers for their help. They have learned so much about rocks and minerals that many of them even spent all their money on rock art or rock paperweights at the zoo. Funny! Our students are getting very involved at school with all the clubs and sports. We encourage parents to read the Friday packet, check our 5th grade website and read the 5th grade monthly email to see updates on opportunities their child can be involved in.

Grade 6 - The 6th grade team is so proud of the of the efforts of the students in advisory lately. They recently participated in a team builder in which they had to build a pyramid out of cups without using their hands. This took quite a bit of teamwork, communication and cooperation. As advisors, we were looking for students who were able to step up as leaders. We were also looking for positive and encouraging communication, even when the activity got challenging. They did a terrific job. We will be stressing the same qualities as the students work together in their classes. In social studies, the students will be preparing skits to show the experiences of the Spanish Explorers. We are looking forward to seeing their creativity! Don't forget the food drive!

Grade 7 - What better day for 7th graders to show their knowledge of the US Constitution than on Election Day? After almost a full trimester of learning all about the constitution, the 7th graders are finally ready to prove that they are knowledgeable citizens. Good effort by students and parents in preparing for the big test!

7th Grade Connections wowed **Mrs. Thompson** and **Mrs. Collins** with their personal vignettes. Perseverance, tenacity and constant revisions paid off. They now have a book, complete with 24 chapters highlighting their own individuality. We couldn't be more proud of their writing, their editing and their support of one another. Don't forget to bring in donations for the Food Drive! This is our opportunity to help the needy in our community!

Grade 8

On-level Lit : We will begin our mystery/suspense unit with Wolf Rider this week.

Accel Lit: We are starting The Pearl, by John Steinbeck; exploring the themes of good vs. evil and greed

Accel Comp: Beginning our study /practice of persuasive writing

We will also be doing practice tests for the Explore Test coming up in December: English, reading and persuasive writing.

Connections for 8th grade begins Monday, Nov. 15. The students are reading To Kill A Mockingbird prior to the 15th. We will also be reading A Raisin In the Sun together and connecting the two texts through a study of our Power theme.

Exploratories

PE - Physical Education (From Mrs. DiFebo, Mr. Dreher and Mr. Bray) -Great weather for Football; crisp, cool and sunny. The students have been switching off between indoor Badminton and outdoor Flag Football. They have finished their three 10 minute runs for Fitness with some great signs of improvement over the trimester. They should be proud of their efforts. There is one more written test this week on Football. We will be starting up the second trimester in mid-November with Tumbling / Gymnastics and Basketball.

Mod Tech -The 5th graders have just completed many lessons on using spreadsheets. They have made charts, tables, and many types of graphs from a spreadsheet. They feel like pros. They are now working on their presentation skills and will create and present a power point lesson to the class. The 6th graders are finishing up their first modules. It has been interesting to watch them work with a partner to complete the curricular goals of their modules. This involves completions of accompanying activities that they really seem to enjoy. Most 8th graders have now complete 7 or 8 total modules between those they did in 6th grade and those complete this year. It has been fun to see their progress as they completed a variety of activities. Their final project will be a multi-media presentation to their peers based on one of the technologies they most enjoyed exploring.

Health - The 6th grade students are doing outstanding in Health. We are winding down to the end of the trimester and are currently finishing up the infectious diseases unit. The students are creating a poster on different communicable and

non-communicable diseases. They are researching information on different diseases assigned to them and will present them to the class.

The 7th grade students are working very hard. The students are currently working on their Disease Research Paper. The students are working in the IMC and computer lab to generate resources for their research paper. The paper is their last major project for the trimester.

The 8th grade students have been outstanding this year. Currently the 8th grade students are working on getting their CPR certification. The students understand the privilege that is given to them in getting this certification. Their work ethic is outstanding and they seem truly excited to be learning these life skills!

Library – We just completed our first MS Readers Book Club. We had 30 titles read by over 180 students. The ice cream was a big success. Thank you to the PTA for providing it. I would also like to acknowledge the staff and students who facilitated book groups giving up plan times and lunches to donate time to literacy: **Mrs. Sherman, Ms. Lewellyan, Mrs. Riordan, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Specht, Mrs. Rydberg, Mrs. Vonnahme, Mr. Fredisdorf, Ms. Zill, Mrs. Rende, Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Lasko, Mr. Kusnik, Mrs. McGreal, Mr. Slade, Mrs. Gilmartin, Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Kostal, Ms. Mars, Mr. Stelter, Mrs. Rozum, Mrs. Pokorny, Mr. Munchoff, and Mrs. Thompson.** Students who worked with groups were **Anika Ranginani, Tara Oskvarek, and Val Elser.** The middle school will be hosting two authors for our students. First this week for grades 5 and 6 we will be hearing from Jonathan Stroud who wrote the Barimaesus series. Next week, the 7 and 8th grade students will be hearing from a new author, Andrea Cremer who will be talking about her new book, Nightshade. Students have an opportunity to purchase the books prior to the presentations at a discount. The authors will autograph copies for them.

Unfinished Business- The Chair was unaware of any unfinished business.

New Business – The Chair was unaware of any new business.

Book Fair – Chair, **Kelly Hahn**, reported. Her report was as follows: Big thanks once again to **Maggie Smith** who helped with set up, sales and take down of the book fair. The book fair basically takes over the library and in order to put it on, Maggie has to literally go to the kids' classrooms so we can have the books set up. We were more successful this year than last at this fair. 2009=\$1570 gross ; 2010=\$2120 gross. We will take the profits in cash of \$525. This will be our last Scholastic Book Fair as we have found the profit sharing and quality of Anderson Book Fairs to be superior. The next book fair will be Anderson January 19-20th.

Cultural Arts - Chair, **Paula Ogurkiewicz**, reported. She mentioned that she is currently working with **Mr. Vandercar** in terms of events for Elementary and evaluating ideas. For Middle School, seventh-graders will enjoy a production of The Christmas Carol at the Arlington Heights Metropolis. Tickets will be \$11/student and the PTA will cover a portion of that cost. She is still working on a plan for events for the other grades.

Eighth Grade – **Tammy White** provided a report. Please refer to last two pages of the board meeting minutes for the complete minutes of the Eighth Grade Committee's last meeting on October 13th, 2010.

Halloween Hop – Chair, **Jennifer Rohrbacher**, was unable to attend, but provided the following report read at the meeting: The Halloween Hop was Friday, October 22nd. I would like to thank all of the parent and student volunteers that helped us out this year. Without all of you, we would not have been able to have another successful Halloween Hop and we did! This year, Jennifer Hawbaker and I added carnival games to the Hop. That went over very well. Jennifer was able to get the games on loan from the Pleasantdale Park District and from Lisa Uckerman. The kids really enjoyed being able to play games. Mr Woltman dj'd and did a wonderful job. The last few years we have done donut holes from Honey Fluff and popcorn and that has worked very well. This year, I did apple juice and water, which was perfect and I added a smencil door prize if families paid ahead of time. Thank you for allowing me to run the Halloween Hop for the past four years and I am hopeful the PTA will find the next chair.

Recycling – Chair, Dianne Norris reported. She wished to thank all who participated in the Dominick's program for which \$1100 was raised. She is hopeful that the chair position will be filled in 2011-2012 for this committee.

Membership – Chair, Tammy White, mentioned that as of October 27th, there are 427 PTA members including families and staff. Almost 99% of staff has joined.

Music Committee – no one to report

Reading and Literature –

ES Readers- Co-chair, Jenny Corcoran, who was unable to attend provided her report via e mail. The report read at the meeting was as follows: The first ES Reader's Night was held on Oct. 7. Our theme was "royalty" . Seventy-five students enjoyed participating in small- group discussions and doing activities such as decorating a crown and creating a coat of arms with scenes from their chosen books. Ice cream sundaes were served followed by a story read by **Mr. Vandercar**. The following volunteers made the evening a success: **Dania Mahoney, Jennifer Hawbaker, Pat Finnegan, Mark Mirabile, Judy Mirabile, Bea Mologousis, Margaret Hojzat, Maureen Olsen, Rhonda Floros, Maggie Smith, Millie Vidakovich and Jenny Corcoran**. The next ES Reader's Night will be held on Feb. 10, 2011.

MS Readers – no one to report

Write Stuff - Co-Chair, Linda Thorell reported. The second prompt which involved making placemats for veterans at Hines Hospital is complete. A total of 327 placemats will be handed over to local veterans who will then deliver them to the hospital volunteer coordinator. This handoff is occurring tomorrow at noon. Two students from each grade have been selected at random to participate in this. It is really heartening to know that 327 meal trays will have a placemat from our kids to cheer and inspire them! In terms of percentages, 81% of our students completed the second prompt. The third prompt is going to be distributed to the kids on Friday, November 5th. This will be our final Write Stuff prompt before Winter Break. We would also like to note that we missed **Natalie Wienold** in our WriteStuff Honor roll after the first prompt. The WriteStuff Honor Roll for the second prompt will be in November 12th Friday packet. As always, the prompt will be available on the www.d107.org website for those who need a replacement copy of the prompt.

Room Representatives –

Lisa Uckerman reported for Elementary and Middle. All went well at both schools. The students seemed to enjoy the Halloween parties and treats. She enjoyed working with **Paula Ogurkiewicz** at Middle and felt the students were very polite. She also wished to thank **Mr. Jim** for his help as well.

Special Lunch –

Elementary - Linda Thorell reported: The first Special Lunch was held on October 20, 2010. A total of 294 pizzas were ordered. In terms of ordering, everything went incredibly smoothly. Pizza Hut was in the process of getting the last pizzas cut and boxed when I arrived to pick them up. Alison Rich and I asked 8 women to come in to help work on the Special Lunch and they did a fabulous job. Unfortunately, the 15 pizza buffer that has worked so well for the last six years was not enough to feed everyone who wanted a pizza. A total of 25 children wanted pizza, but had not ordered the meal. In discussions after the lunch, it was decided that a possible solution to this would be to send home the Special Lunch order form and letter the second or third day of the school year next year. The order forms and letter will be sent home with each child. This does shorten the window for parents to return the forms, but there is less likelihood of special lunch monies being confused with membership/classroom party fee monies. If the forms are sent home with each student, it will save postage on a separate mailing. Additionally, to ensure that everyone who wants to participate can, Lisa and I will publish another list in November 12th Friday Packet that indicates who has ordered the next special lunch (hot dogs). They will have a hard deadline of November 19th to sign up for this lunch if they have not already done so. Otherwise, they will have to bring a lunch. At this point, the PTA has been paid for 13 of the lunches that were handed out, but not initially paid for. Due to absences, there are 5 other lunches that have not been paid for. Further follow up will be needed to pursue the other families, To end on a positive note, Alison and I would like to thank **Jill**

Fuller, Kim Gilman, Dania Mahoney, Missi Mendez, Judy Mirabile, Karen Soenen, Sharon Weinold and Maria Varchetto for helping during the first Special Lunch. They did a really great job!

Middle – Lisa Ukerman reported. She felt the last special lunch went well, however, she also mentioned that although twenty additional lunches were ordered as a buffer, a snag was created when several students mentioned they had ordered a special lunch, however their names were not on the list. To prevent such from happening the future, she mentioned she will publish a final list of students who have ordered special lunch prior to the event, with a hard deadline for additions, and communicate that NO lunches will be for sale the day of going forward. She was able to negotiate a reduced price for pizzas through Pizza Hut and the next special lunch will be hot dogs. She also wished to thank the following individuals for their assistance with Special Lunch: **Lynne Sorrentino, Michelle Hahns, Paula Ogurkewicz, Joanne Manaves, Sheri Kulhanek, Caroline Marwitz and Kim Welch.**

Spirit Wear – no one to report

Staff Appreciation – Kim Gilman, Chair, reported. She mentioned that to date, the Staff Appreciation Committee provided a Back to School candy treat with a “movies” theme that seemed to go over very well. She plans to provide treats and finger foods again to the staff during conference time this year. Her committee will put on the annual Staff Sweet Table as well as something special for Valentine’s Day and wrap up the year with the Annual Staff Appreciation Week in May.

Technology – no one to report

Wrapping Paper – Chair, Ann Marie Daker, reported. We had thirteen more sellers than we did last year and approximately \$800 more in profits. Product is due to ship on November 5th and arrive on November 11th of 12th at the Middle School. This date is to be confirmed. On the day of delivery, I will be present at the school to receive the shipment and then from 3-6 p.m, with parent helpers, assist with pick up. I am unsure as to how to get the exact date to families. All in all, sales exceeded expectations. There are a very few outstanding checks and a thank you to **Jodi Breen** for her help. Several incentive prizes went out to top five families in sales and “Max the Monkey” and a large gift basket were raffled off as well. Ann Marie posed the question of how to communicate the need for order pick up to Pleasantdale families. **President, Kelly Hansen** suggested an e mail blast as perhaps the most efficient way.

Open Forum – Tammy White wished to mention the **Eye for Style** event on November 11th. This event is open to Pleasantdale families along with their friends and neighbors. She also mentioned that perhaps many were not aware of this upcoming event due to the on-line version of the Friday Packet not getting the word out as perhaps a hard copy would. She felt this may apply to other topics/info as well.

Announcements – The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at 7 p.m. at the Admin. Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

8th Grade Committee, General Sub-Committee Meeting, Oct. 13th, 7:15 pm

Present: Barb Lamb, Tammy White, Caryn Stancik, Pat Klopp, Randy Stancik, Scott Orsic, Kathy Thalji, Maida Ng, Sherry Kulhanek, Sandra Hannan, Karen O'Halleran, Julie Kelly

Committee Reports:

Photography: Maida Ng reported they currently have approximately 600 photos which they have put on a disc for Lisa Kristy to use on the DVD.

Bulletin Board: Baby photos are needed by February. Questions arose regarding communication about the request for Halloween photos as some parents said they didn't know about it. Maida Ng and Kathy Thalji explained they split class into 3 (a group each for Maida, Kathy and Desa Maksimovich) and they each communicated with the parents in their group either via email or phone so everyone was contacted.

DVD: no one from committee to report

Class Shirts: Julie Kelly reported the order forms have been given to the kids. Mr. Busch has size samples for the kids to check. The order forms are due back by Oct. 22nd. Then it will take about 10 days to 2 weeks to get back to the kids.

Fortnightly: no one from committee to report.

Dinner Dance: Sherry Kulhanek reported that Edgewood Valley Country Club won't open for us on the date we need so we will probably be going with Ashton Place. They are currently looking at a tropical theme.

Class Gift: Randy Stancik spoke with Meg Pokorny regarding the class gift ideas. Her primary goal is that the gift should be something that benefits all middle school students, not just those in selected groups like sports teams or music programs. She was not familiar with the idea of a track and field record board for the gym but was favorably disposed because it would celebrate all middle school students – not just those on interscholastic teams. She felt the graphic for the gym floor might pose a problem because of its specialty manufacture. She had concerns about outdoor equipment and, in any event, there isn't much available within the \$1,000 budget. There were no new suggestions from Committee members. There was general agreement that we would like to stay away from technology-based gifts. The suggestion was made and accepted to survey the 8th graders to see if they had additional ideas. Randy will follow up on this with Mr. Busch.

Class Outing: Tammy White reports the event will be on Feb. 18th, a half day. The kids were given a choice of bowling, a multi-sports event at the Chalet, or a DJ Dance party. By a vote of 85 for bowling, 10 for the Chalet and 5 for the dance party – bowling was chosen. They are checking out Rolling Lanes and Willowbrook for pricing. The kids

will be bussed there and it will be parental pick-up. They are hoping that because it is a long weekend we won't lose too many kids to family trips.

Reception: Kathy Thalji has volunteered to make the cake. The school pays for all other expenses of the Graduation Reception. This should result in a budget cushion that we can allocate to other events.

Service: Pat Klopp reported that service sign-ups are going pretty well – 20% of the class has already completed their requirement. We have several opportunities coming up with the Affy Tapple Sale and Halloween Hop and should get several more opportunities after that.

Fundraising: The Committee expressed confidence that they would meet their \$2,000 fundraising goal. Sandra Hannan reported they have already raised about \$500 from the bake sales and early Affy Tapple sales. Over ½ of the kids have turned in orders for the apples. The Committee will need assistance from 8th graders to distribute the apples on Oct. 21 and 22. They will have extras for sale at the pick-up as well as at the Halloween Hop. Barb received permission from the Pleasantdale Park District to sell the apples at their Haunted Hayride on Sat., the 23rd and they will require 8th graders help in that. They may do an additional bake sale – perhaps at Santa's Workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.