

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2011

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

Secretary, Kathy Shah read correspondence received from **the Second Grade Team, Denise Spetter and Peg Riordan** thanking the PTA for the Valentine's Day treats. (A thank you letter from **Berny Lucas** for the same was also received at the end of the meeting.)

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following report: As of February 28, 2011, the Pleasantdale PTA cash balance was \$31,380. This includes income of \$1,015 mostly from 8th grade. There were expenses of \$6,300 mostly for Special Lunch and Cultural Arts.

Minutes Approved - **Lisa Uckerman** reported by e mail/read at the meeting. She wished to clarify that **Lisa Martusciello and Kristin Mologousis** were to be acknowledged for the Valentine's Day treats at Middle School.

Administration Reports:

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf reported that Explore scores from Lyons have been received. The composite score was 19.1. This is the highest score received by Pleasantdale. He also mentioned that statistical analysis of a group of students from sixth grade on has allowed us to predict their scores on the Explore test with 80% accuracy. He went on to explain that we will up the communication with fifth and sixth grade parents and work together to show exactly what types of errors their student is making on practice exams. This will assist in identifying areas of opportunity for the student. The Explore scores are used to determine student participation in above- level classes at Lyons. More information will become available in the coming months and he reiterated that Pleasantdale has received the best statistics it has received in nine years.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny wished to thank all the parent volunteers who have assisted in making copies for the Middle School and also thank the volunteers who participated in serving the last Special Lunch. She mentioned the Paw Prints deadline is March 11th. This year's winner of the Scoty Award (one of our eighth graders) will also soon be announced. Fifth graders will enjoy Outdoor Education on March 16-18.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar wished to thank **Beth Schwartz** and the **rooms moms** for the successful Valentine's Day parties. He also wished to thank **Kim Gilman and the Staff Appreciation Committee** for the Valentine's Day treats for the staff. The assembly originally scheduled for February (*I Love This School*) has been rescheduled for April 4th. In addition, **Paula Ogurkiewicz**, Chair of the Cultural Arts Committee has arranged for the return of a professional harpist for the students to enjoy. On March 23rd, the Elementary student awarded the Scoty Award will participate in a ceremony with his parents. There were eleven nominees for the award in the fourth grade. This year's Elementary Scoty Award winner was **J.T. Dillon**. Matt also mentioned that, tentatively, as snow days were added to the school year's end, it is possible that the Field Day will be moved from May 27th to June 3rd.

Teacher Representative Reports

Janet Kucek reported on behalf of **Elementary School Staff**:

Preschool is working on activities from our favorite authors.

Kindergarten is looking forward to SPRING!!!!!! We have found a couple sprouts in the butterfly garden. We are beginning our Bug Theme and cannot wait for our first Bug Hunt!

First grade is working on money in Math. We have identified the value of a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. We are also counting mixed coins which can be challenging for some first graders. We finished our Health unit and are excited about starting Science. We will learn about The Sky and wrap up this unit with a field trip to Cernan Space Center in April.

2nd grade:

- Starting or will soon start The Chalk Box Kid.
- Doing our America unit in social studies

Third grade:

Thank you for the fun Valentine activities and chocolate pretzels. We are getting ready for ISATS this week and next.

- L.A. – We are reading the book Ramona Quimby, Age 8 and working on answering different kinds of questions.
- Science- We are studying animals and working on our animal projects.

Grade 4:

- Everyone is excited about ISAT testing.
- In science we are in the midst of completing units on electricity and light.
- In math we are learning how to use rulers and how measuring relates to fractions.
- Some of our recent vocabulary words are shimmer, billow, luminous, and synthetic.
- We can now name the location of all 50 states.
- Fourth grade band and orchestra had a tremendous first concert recently.

Connections:

3rd and 4th grade are taking ISAT's next 2 weeks

2nd grade almost done with President Reports

1st graders writing stories about losing a tooth

Kindergarten exploring materials to see which materials are absorbent

Spanish:

Fourth graders just completed a fashion show. They have been learning about clothes and they loved getting to strut their stuff on the red carpet and emcee for their friends.

P.E. with Mr.Emso:

Is starting gymnastics and pickleball units.

Ms. Blogg's first graders will soon be learning stunts, tumbling and gymnastics skills. The children are excited to learn forward, backward, and dive rolls. Progression for back walkovers and cartwheels will begin. They will enjoy practicing movements and scales on the balance beam.

Music:

For General Music –

Grades 1-2 are singing folk songs, playing mallet instruments and learning about the music staff.

3rd grade have been playing recorders and I'm excited to say the best group of recorder students in a long time.

4th – reviewing rhythms while playing water jugs, singing folk songs and listening and analyzing various classical and popular songs.

4th grade band: learning and practicing their first REAL band song – REGAL MARCH.

Art:

KDG – Starting our bugs unit. We will be drawing and building bugs with various collage materials.

1st – This week we are beginning our designer cars unit. The students will be tracing car templates and designing them with their own themes.

2nd – Continuing our Picasso study. We are making cubist still life drawings with templates and colored pencil.

3rd – Drawing and painting their willow plates. We read the story of the Willow Pattern and are recreating the scenes on our own plates.

4th – Beginning our first foil tooling project!

Library:

Grades 1-3 voted on their favorite book -

The 2011 Pleasantdale Monarch Award winners are:

1. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas
2. *Mudball* by Matt Tavares
3. *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* by Nick Bruel

This week is *Read Across America*. Along with singing, playing games and hearing stories, the students are taking The Reader's Oath. They are also going home with a book donated by the PTA.

Reader's Oath

I promise to read
Each day and each night.
I know it's the key
To growing up right.

I'll read to myself,
I'll read to a crowd.
It makes no difference
If silent or loud.

I'll read at my desk,
At home and at school,
On my bean bag or bed,
By the fire or pool.

Each book that I read
Puts smarts in my head,
'Cause brains grow more thoughts
The more they are fed.

So I take this oath
To make reading my way
Of feeding my brain
What it needs every day.

Kevin Kusnik reported for **Middle School as Staff Representative**. His report was as follows:

5th grade: Outdoor Ed. is approaching – students are gearing up for 3 days of hands on learning!
Science: students are starting chemistry. They are learning the periodic table and will soon be adopting an element of their choice to research

6th grade: The students really took pleasure in their participation during Diversity Day. Excitement was in the air for everyone involved. From the assembly showcasing the Japanese Drummers to experiencing the culture of different countries to tasting the foods from the around the world, we all couldn't get enough! We encourage students and their parents to experience the diversity around them. Some places the students and their families can enjoy are: The Historical Museum, Field Museum, Cultural Center of Chicago, Chinatown and The Mexican Fine Arts Museum as well as many other places. We can't thank the parents enough who helped set up and serve the food as well as all of the families who donated food from around the world.

7th grade enjoyed a wonderful ½ day of advisory team building last Friday! We started the day off with a few games of advisory vs. advisory tarp volleyball followed by a stand on the box activity. It was pretty amusing to watch the students try to get their entire advisory to stand on a small wooden box! We witnessed some great teamwork! We concluded the day by going on a photo scavenger hunt where the students had to work together to create the most clever photo ops. They were on the hunt: to find the smallest place they could all fit into, to find the funniest thing, to get a picture with no one touching the ground and so on. Overall, it was a great use of time as the advisories really had a chance to work together.

8th Grade:

Spanish : The 8th grade is working on their bargaining skills. Students will be dealing in higher numbers, clothing, colors and the present progressive. We will culminate the unit with a bargaining skit in the marketplace.

Lit and Comp: In the on-level Lit classes, the students are reading the Diary of Anne Frank Play (Act II). Last week, they acted out the Hanukkah scene in class and really seemed to enjoy showing off their acting skills. The Accelerated Lit classes are working on power generalizations based on the *Diary of Anne Frank* novel. The students have been tracking different sources and examples in the reading. Through this, they have been able to identify different types of power and the impact it has on those who hold it. Over the past few weeks, the Accelerated Comp classes completed memoirs and sonnets. They are currently continuing using poems by creating an art piece based on music and images from the Holocaust and turning it into a free verse poem based on their emotions.

Exploratories:

Middle School Library—The Middle School Readers' Book Club is starting up again. Students will be signing up for book groups this week and next week. The last day to sign up will be March 11th. The Club will meet on March 8th for 6th, 7th and 8th graders and March 15th for 5th graders. So talk it up with your children. Let's keep the students reading throughout the year.

Mod Tech: Students started a new trimester in computers and mod tech yesterday.

5th - Computer Skills

5th graders will begin by learning more about word processing skills. They will also be working on using the best fingering techniques to improve their typing speeds.

6th - Mod Tech

6th graders are also working on more advanced word processing skills while honing their typing skills.

8th - Mod Tech

8th graders chose their first module to learn about. They will have an opportunity to learn about 5 different areas of technology over the trimester. They will look at current uses and trends and explore how each technology impacts the environment.

Health Education:

The 6th graders are off to a great start in the 3rd trimester. We have just begun Mental and Emotional Health and will be moving into Social/Family Health next week. They are currently designing a "Health Triangle" describing the three parts of health (physical, mental, and social). The 6th grade is doing a great job so far!

The 7th graders are working very hard to start off the 3rd trimester. They are just beginning their character collage, which is a collage of pictures representing what makes them who they are and why. We are moving into social and family health very soon where the students will start to study many different resistance skills in negative peer pressure situations.

The 8th grade students are beginning to create a stress manual. Stress is everywhere, and since it is nearly impossible to avoid stress completely, the best option we have is to learn how to deal with and manage stress so we can live productive lives and avoid illness. The 8th grade students are identifying different stressors in their life and discussing possible ways to deal with stress when it arises. They are doing a great job this year and are all working extremely hard. The students are also excited to become CPR certified later this year.

Physical Education - We are getting excited for the start of our special 5 day In-Line Skating program in PE class. It begins March 21 and goes through Friday March 25. Skates and safety equipment are rented from SkateTime and students learn basic skills and safety associated with skating. Many of our students are quite good and are excellent "assistant coaches" for the beginners. It's a fun-filled atmosphere where everyone can progress at their own pace and learn an enjoyable lifetime activity.

Art - In the art room we were just wrapping up the second trimester. In the 7th and 8th grades most of the chalk drawings were finished and matted. (Thank you so much **Mrs. Thalji, Mrs. Craggs and Mrs. Dilcher!**) Their linoleum block prints of art work from popular culture are also ready to go home. In 5th grade both the students and **Mrs. Washburn** are sad that art's over because we had a great time! There are action figure collages of Bulls basketball games, horseback riding, cheerleading, singing and much more in the upper hallway. Mrs. Washburn was amazed at the creativity of each and every student. We had a wrap up critique of what we did well this year and goals and things we'd like to learn in the future.

Extra Curricular:

Diversity Day Thank-you!

Dear PTA,

The 5th and 6th grade teachers and students want to extend a big thanks for the support you provided for our very first Diversity Day. The day was full of learning, questioning, dancing, and eating. There were several community members who helped out, in addition to parents and students. The students watched a fabulous Japanese drum performance and then traveled among several different "countries". The feedback was so positive that day and the kids are already asking when are we going to do this again.

Your contribution for the drum troupe and snacks and for the volunteers helped make the day a success. The event was published in the Doings newspaper and the Pioneer Press.

Thanks for allowing the students to have a "taste" of a different country and a better understanding of tolerance.

The Diversity Day committee: **Angela McGreal, Jennifer Carnes and Jillian Vonnahme**

Willie Wonka Musical

A very heartfelt thank you to the PTA for all of your support for the upcoming musical, Willy Wonka! We would especially like to thank our liaison, **Mrs. Franco!** Rehearsals have started and set design intramurals begin on Thursday, March 3. Mark your calendars for April 15 and 16! We hope you all will be able to join us for a wonderful night out at the theater.

P.S. If anyone has a slide (4-5 steps) that we could use for one set piece (of course, it would not be altered at all), please contact **Mr. Tatina or Mrs. Collins.**

Unfinished Business:

Nominating Committee Chair, Kathy Shah, reiterated that there is a full slate of candidates and at the General Meeting this evening, the Nominating Committee will submit the following nominations for the Executive Board of the Pleasantdale PTA, 2011-2012: For President, **Jennifer Hennessy**, For Vice President, **Jennifer Hawbaker**, for Vice President, **Ann Marie Daker**, for Secretary, **Dania Mahoney**, and for Treasurer, **Shannon Kurinsky**.

Audit Committee – Karen O’Halloran, on behalf of herself and **Dianne Norris**, wished to thank **Alli Gulliver** and expressed appreciation for her assistance in the audit process. The report they provided and read at the meeting has been attached at the end of this month’s minutes.

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

Committee Reports –

Eighth Grade – no one to report

Hospitality – no one to report

Legislation – Chair, **Rajer Shah**, reported. He reiterated that District 107 School Board elections will occur on April 5th. There are three contested seats and a total of six candidates. The Pleasantdale PTA will host a Candidate Forum on March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantdale Park District. There will be a candidate meet-and-greet from 6:30-7:00 that evening and the official forum will begin at 7:00 p.m. Babysitting will be available. Two announcements have been included in the last two Friday Packets and a third will follow in the next. He mentioned the election will be covered by the Doings as well as the Suburban Times. A flyer announcing the forum will be posted at both schools as well as at the Park District. All candidates were asked to complete a questionnaire to get to better know them and their positions. This was included in the last Friday Packet and will be available to attendees of the forum. The newspapers have also agreed to either publish or provide a link. The forum will be attended by the mayors of Willow Springs, Countryside and possibly of Burr Ridge.

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – Chair, **Linda Thorell** reported: Our fifth prompt, cards for inpatients at Children’s Memorial Hospital, is complete. We had over 300 cards to give to the hospital and there are 250 inpatient beds. Thank you for everyone’s contribution to this effort. I believe the children and their families will be positively impacted by our project.

ES Readers – Chair, **Jenny Corcoran** could not be in attendance, but provided the following report read at the meeting: The final ES Reader’s Night for this school year will be held on Thursday, April 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The theme of the evening will be books by Doreen Cronin. Ms. Cronin will be speaking to the Pleasantdale students in March. We will base our book discussions and activities around her stories and relate them to Earth Day, which is on April 22.

Room Reps – Chair, **Beth Schwartz** reported. She mentioned the Valentine’s Day parties at Elementary went very well. She is encouraging the room moms to hand in their PTA folders at this time. The Valentine’s Day treats at Middle were also a hit and wished to thank **Lisa Martusciello and Kristin Mologousis** for their efforts. Plans are in the works for the Middle School Picnic as well as that for Field Day.

Shamrock Shake – no one to report

Special PTA Lunch – **Linda Thorell** reported. Her report was as follows: The chicken strip lunch went well at Elementary. We did not have ONE child approach us to purchase a lunch. We could, perhaps, look at decreasing the buffer from 15 for future lunches. A special thank you to **Jennifer Hawbaker, Dawn Parente, Michael Rak, Jenny Corcoran, Julie Bailey, Sharon Wienold and Linda Mikuta** for their help in getting the lunch served.

Lisa Uckerman reported by e mail (not read at the meeting) that she wished to add a thank you to the following individuals for their help with the Middle School Special Lunch: **Paula Ogurkiewicz, Kim Welch, Kelly Hansen, Kim Gilman and Jill Fuller**. The next Special Lunch will be McDonald's.

Open Forum –

Vice President, Christine Franco wished to mention that she and **Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker** are planning the Annual PTA President's Dinner. The event will occur on April 29th and be held at Salerno's. This event will welcome the new board and say goodbye to the current board, as well as recognize the PTA Committee Chairs.

President, Kelly Hansen announced that the next General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will occur immediately following this meeting. The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be on April 5th and be held at the Middle School Library due to elections. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA General Meeting, Tuesday, March 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by **President, Kelly Hansen**.

All in attendance stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following Treasurer's report: As of February 28, 2011, the Pleasantdale PTA cash balance was \$31,380. This includes income of \$1,015 mostly from 8th grade. There were expenses of \$6,300 mostly for Special Lunch and Cultural Arts.

Secretary, Kathy Shah read the minutes of the last General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA that was held on January 4, 2011. The minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business – the Chair was unaware of any unfinished business

New Business –

Election of Executive Committee

Secretary, Kathy Shah read the portion of the bylaws pertaining to the election of officers.

Kathy Shah, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following nominating report: The Pleasantdale PTA Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for officers of the Pleasantdale PTA for the 2011/2012 year: For President, **Jennifer Hennessy**, For Vice President, **Jennifer Hawbaker**, for Vice President, **Ann Marie Daker**, for Secretary, **Dania Mahoney**, and for Treasurer, **Shannon Kurinsky**.

President Kelly Hansen announced that **Jennifer Hennessy** has been nominated for President by the Nominating Committee. She asked if there were further nominations for President. There were none, and without objection, the nominations were closed.

President Kelly Hansen announced that **Jennifer Hawbaker** has been nominated for Vice President by the Nominating Committee. She asked if there were further nominations for Vice President. There were none, and without objection, the nominations were closed.

President Kelly Hansen announced that **Ann Marie Daker** has been nominated for Vice President by the Nominating Committee. She asked if there were further nominations for Vice President. There were none, and without objection, the nominations were closed.

President Kelly Hansen announced that **Shannon Kurinsky** has been nominated for Treasurer by the Nominating Committee. She asked if there were further nominations for Treasurer. There were none, and without objection, the nominations were closed.

President Kelly Hansen announced that **Dania Mahoney** has been nominated for Secretary by the Nominating Committee. She asked if there were further nominations for Secretary. There were none, and without objection, the nominations were closed.

Voting by Voice –

President, Kelly Hansen reiterated that if there is only one candidate for any office, upon adoption of a motion, voting may be done by voice. The chair asked for a motion from the floor that voting be done by voice. **Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf** made a motion. The motion was seconded by **Karen O'Halloran**. It was moved and seconded that a motion be adopted to conduct voting by voice. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Voting for President –

President Kelly Hansen stated that **Jennifer Hennessy** has been nominated for President. She asked that as many are in favor of **Jennifer Hennessy** for President to say aye. All were in favor and **Jennifer Hennessy** was elected President.

President Kelly Hansen stated that **Jennifer Hawbaker** has been nominated for Vice President. She asked that as many are in favor of **Jennifer Hawbaker** for Vice President to say aye. All were in favor and **Jennifer Hawbaker** was elected Vice President.

President Kelly Hansen stated that **Ann Marie Daker** has been nominated for Vice President. She asked that as many are in favor of **Ann Marie Daker** for Vice President to say aye. All were in favor and **Ann Marie Daker** was elected Vice President.

President Kelly Hansen stated that **Shannon Kurinsky** has been nominated for Treasurer. She asked that as many are in favor of **Shannon Kurinsky** for Treasurer to say aye. All were in favor and **Shannon Kurinsky** was elected Treasurer.

President Kelly Hansen stated that **Dania Mahoney** has been nominated for Secretary. She asked that as many are in favor of **Dania Mahoney** for Secretary to say aye. All were in favor and **Dania Mahoney** was elected Secretary.

Announcements – President, Kelly Hansen, announced that the installation of new officers will take place at the President's Dinner that will be held on April 29th at Salerno's in Hodgkins and that attendance is open to all members of the Pleasantdale PTA. The next scheduled meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on Tuesday, April 5th at 7 p.m. and due to elections, it will be held at the Middle School Library.

Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Mid Year 2010-2011 - Audit Report Findings

The mid-year audit review was conducted on February 9, 2010. We verified all revenue and disbursement transactions against the supporting documentation. In addition, we traced all of the transactions to the bank statements. We noted no discrepancies or irregularities. However, the PTA Audit Committee would like to note the following recommendations with respect to operational improvements:

1. Encourage timely filing of all receipts. A reasonable time limit could be 30 days after the corresponding event has been concluded.
2. There is an open item with the Illinois Attorney General's office of which we were unaware. The state is charging that we are operating as a charitable organization as opposed to a not for profit entity. The distinction is significant as it requires completely different reporting requirements.

This problem was instigated by the fact that the reports generated by the Quicken software package we use are labeled **Charitable Expenses** as opposed to **Operating Expenses**. We would recommend that the titles of our reports be changed to reflect the operating status of our organization to avoid further confusion.

Before signing off on the tax filings prepared by our accountant, verify that the appropriated operating designation is used.

3. We would like to strongly discourage writing one check at the beginning of the year for Elementary School class party fees without documentation of expenses. It is our recommendation that the class party expenses be equal for each student/class and that the expenses are paid/reimbursed upon expense receipts (as they do at the Middle School).
4. Verify that the Illinois PTA General Liability Insurance coverage is in fact needed and document due diligence that the insurance fees are fair and equitable.
5. Document when expenses are paid through the contingency fund (when expenses exceed budget, i.e. the President's Dinner).

Respectfully submitted,

Karen O'Halloran Karen O'Halloran

Dianne Norris Dianne Norris