

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2010

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

Correspondence - No new correspondence had been received.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Alli Gulliver could not attend this evening's meeting, but had sent the following report which was read at the meeting: As of September 30, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$27,500**. This includes income of **\$9,600** mostly from Membership Dues, Class Party Fees and Special Lunch with expenses of **\$4,500** mostly for Class Party Fees and Membership Dues.

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

Administration Reports

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf, mentioned that the school will be producing the directory this year and a proof will be ready tomorrow. Within about a week, review should be complete and the directory ready to print. He also mentioned that good news was received last week in that Chicago Magazine ranked both the Elementary and Middle Schools among the top 24 of 1700 Chicago area schools. The Middle School, when ranked with DuPage area schools, ranked second. He mentioned we were also notified last week that Pleasantdale schools were among the top 5% of 860 districts ranked, making this the 7th year in a row we obtained this honor. While he is proud of this news, he also mentioned that we will not get complacent and that there is more work that can be done to continue to improve. Dr. Fredisdorf also mentioned the standards-based pilots for grading and that they are learning as they go. He mentioned he feels that this system will better prepare our students for the 8th grade Explore test. Some software snags are currently being ironed out and he feels we are heading in the right direction with this system. Lastly, he mentioned that although many districts are currently struggling financially, our revenues are up 8.4% and we are under budget by 3.7%, making for a good prognosis for ten years plus into the future.

Elementary Principal, Matthew Vandercar, began by thanking **Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker** for organizing parent volunteers to help at Picture Day. He also mentioned there are many PTA events coming up this month, including ES Readers for which 80 students have signed up. Also this month will be Write Stuff, Special Lunch, Book Fair, Halloween Hop and the annual Halloween classroom parties. He mentioned that **Beth Schwartz** has the room reps organized for the event.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny, mentioned that Picture Day was also went well. Fall sports photos will be taken mid-month and progress reports, to include ISAT reports, were sent this week. On October 13th, Middle will host an 8th Grade parents meeting to discuss the high school registration process and other topics. On the 22nd, Middle will also host MS Reader's Book Club for which sign up is at an all-time high.

Teacher Representatives

Courtney Camer reported for **Elementary School**. Her report was as follows:

Preschool

- Is having fun learning a lot of new things
- Working on their Colors and Shapes unit
- The kids are getting very excited about Halloween

Kindergarten

- Kindergarten would like to thank all of the chaperones that went on the Little Red School House field trip. The students could not stop talking about all of the amazing sights and sounds!
- They are looking forward to continuing their discussions on Fall, Harvest and Pumpkins.

First Grade

- Reading, Writing, and Math are just some of the things they have been working hard on
- They had a visit by the women from Flagg Creek Historical Society which tied in with their SS unit of Life Long Ago.

Second Grade

- Just completed their fire safety unit and had a visit from Firefighter Berwick
- Are beginning their fossils/dinosaur unit
- Recently read Imogene's Antlers in each class

Third Grade

- Reading the book Spiders in Language Arts
- Working on using the writing process
- Looking forward to our field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry where we will visit the Idea Factory as an extension on our science unit on simple machines

Fourth Grade

- Beginning standards-based learning in social studies-starting with the 5 Themes of geography
- Reading the novel Stone Fox
- Working on the steps in the writing process and informal letter writing
- Organization: using the assignment notebook and Friday Incentive Keeper is working very well

P.E.

- In First Grade P.E., they have had a great time learning soccer skills.
- They have practiced dribbling, passing, trapping and shooting goals.
- The goalies have made many "saves"
- The kids are now getting fit by jogging in the best ways, such as pacing yourself and cooling down.

Kay Lewellyan reported for **Middle School** Her report was as follows:

Grade 5

Our on level math classes are hard at work learning division while our above level classes are finishing up their geometry unit and will begin working with decimals.

In science, students are rock hounds, actively learning about rocks and minerals around them. They will be displaying their collections and research in 2 weeks. We are planning a field trip to the Brookfield Zoo the end of October. In Social studies, the 5th graders are learning about the first civilizations in the world. The 5th graders are becoming very active at P'dale: joining book clubs, being the majority of the students on cross country, being leaders as representatives for student council and attending sporting events after school...off to a great start.

Grade 6

The sixth graders made Indian Culture Boxes where students partnered up and researched 6 topic questions on early 1st American Cultures. The students presented their cultures to the class.

In collaboration with the Social Studies class, Composition classes prepared an informative brochure on their culture.

We welcomed Mrs. Reed back on October 4th.

Grade 7

All 7th grade students are in the process of writing personal narratives. They are taking the time to focus on using descriptive and figurative writing. We are excited to see what life events they choose to write about!

Also, be sure to ask about our ongoing minute-to-win-it advisory competition.

Grade 8

In Language Arts, the 8th grade students are just beginning to read The Outsiders in grade-level lit, and The Call of the Wild in Accel. Lit. In Accel. Comp. we are continuing our self-paced study of Latin and Greek stems and exploring our writing styles in our Writer's Notebooks. We will be analyzing Jack London, the writer, as we read The CW and will soon begin practice in both English and persuasive writing for the Explore Test.

Exploratories

- **Art** If you walk down the hall you can't help but notice the beautiful chalk drawings. Students are putting their final touches on their projects. Other students have enjoyed making ceramic bears. The 5th graders completed cave art drawings to correlate with their studies in Social Studies on ancient civilizations.
- **PE** The students in PE just completed units in Softball and Fitness. They are continuing to condition for their 10 minute runs with circuit training on Mondays. We are starting Badminton and Football units this week. For fitness today we worked on stability and core strength with the big Fitness Ball and the Bosu Ball as part of our circuit training.
- **Mod Tech** Both 5th and 6th grades have just wrapped up a unit on Word Processing by creating their own newsletters. While the 5th graders worked in pairs, the 6th graders created his or her own and used both *Word* and *Publisher* to create different versions of the newsletters. The 8th graders just completed their 2nd module and began their 3rd rotation this week. They get excited about trying a new module and using new equipment.
- **Health (Kevin Kusnik)**
 - 6th Grade** Students are continuing to work on their body system posters. They are all working extremely hard in making sure all parts are labeled and clearly identified. In addition we will begin to discuss nutrition including the 6 main nutrients, the groups in the food pyramid, and reading a food label.
 - 7th Grade** Students are identifying the relationship between food intake, calories and activity levels. In addition differentiating between the various eating disorders and analyzing food-borne illnesses.

8th Grade Students are currently examining the necessary guidelines to plan healthy meals. In addition we will be discussing the importance of limiting certain foods (fats, sodium, cholesterol, etc.). We will also watch clips of the movie "Super Size Me" to show the effects of eating "fast" foods and recommend ways to eat healthy when eating convenient or "fast" foods. Students are also going to evaluate their self eating habits using *mypyramid.gov*

- **Library – MS Readers Book Club** is in full swing. We have reached another record high with 188 students participating. There are 20 different titles being read by 5th and 6th graders; 7 different titles being read by 7th graders and 6 titles being read by 8th graders. I may need some help with parents facilitating titles for the 5th and 6th graders. We don't have enough staff to cover 20 titles even with calling on retired teachers. Again, I want to thank the PTA for their support by providing ice cream sundaes for the students. I know that this will be a great experience for them, and it shows how popular the program has become. We could not have done this without your help.
- **Spanish** In 8th grade Spanish we are now out of the review from last year and starting into foods. We will be covering restaurant phrases and ordering. Students will perform a skit set in a restaurant. (Ms. Burke)

Unfinished Business

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver, who could not be in attendance, provided the following report read at the meeting: The 2010-2011 budget was approved at the General Meeting on September 1. Copies are available at this meeting for review by interested parties. In a nutshell, we expect to spend considerably more than we bring in which creates a "loss" of some \$14,000. This will leave a (hopeful) cash balance at the end of the year of some \$7,500. We consider this budget to be conservative and these results are not unusual when you consider that this is a non fund raising year. Non-fund raising does not mean that we cease to rely on the participation and generosity of our school families, teachers and administrators. It merely means that we do not hold a major fundraising activity such as the Adult Social. So, the importance of supporting the PTA is particularly underscored in a year which is more lean by its nature and an economy which is less encouraging of donation. Full participation in membership and class party fees is our basic platform but in addition we urge you to attend our Book Fairs, President's Dinner and other gatherings. Please also support other fundraising opportunities such as Wrapping Paper and Spirit Wear.

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

Committee Reports:

Book Fair – no one to report

Cultural Arts – Chair, Paula Ogukiewicz was unable to attend, but did provide the following report: I do not have formal plans in the works yet, but have spoken with Mr. Vandercar at Elementary and Angela McGreal at Middle and should have plans finalized shortly.

Eighth Grade – no one to report

Halloween Hop – no one to report

Hospitality – no one to report

Labels/Box Tops, etc. – Chair, Dianne Norris reported. The Dominick's program will conclude on October 13th. To date, we have raised \$748.54. She wished to thank all who sent in their number. She will also mention this program at the 8th Grade parents meeting as well.

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – Linda Thorell reported as Co-Chair. Her report was as follows: The September prompt went smoothly. In total, 81% of the students in grades 1-4 participated. If you have not heard, we are going to do something different for our October prompt, which will go home with students on Friday. The kids will be writing on and decorating paper that will be used as placemats for inpatients receiving care at Hines VA Hospital. The Honor Roll for our first prompt is prepared and ready for the Friday Packet this week. Prompt information will continue to be placed on the website for anyone who is interested or in need of a reprint.

ES Readers – no one to report

MS Readers – no one to report

Room Representatives – Chair, Beth Schwartz was unable to attend, but the report she provided was read at the meeting: Elementary: All Room Reps have been picked and notified. We had our meeting last Thursday, I would have liked to have been more prepared but did get the important information out to them. Our first party will be Oct. 29,. I am looking forward to seeing all the creative and fun ideas.

Middle: I will be contacting parents that were interested in helping hand out treats and parents that were interested in handling a holiday. **Lisa Uckerman** and **Paula Ogurkiewicz** will be handling the Halloween treat day and I am positive that the students will absolutely enjoy this treat day!

Special Lunch, Middle – Paula Ogurkiewicz, Co-Chair, could not attend the meeting, but provided the following details: The first Special Lunch will be on October 20th. We have 245 orders so far. Several reminders had been sent out. They are getting a few last minute orders in, so by week's end, we will wrap up.

Special Lunch, Elementary - Linda Thorell reported. The deadline for Special Lunch orders is October 8th. At this point, we will be ordering 277 cheese pizzas from Pizza Hut for the Elementary students. The first PTA Special Lunch will be on October 20th. We have volunteers assigned for the first lunch and will rotate through all of the volunteers throughout the year.

Spirit Wear – no one to report

Technology – no one to report

Welcome Back Family Event – President, Kelly Hansen reported that this year's event, an ice skating party held at the Darien Sportsplex, was well attended. 350 families attended with no injuries to report and it seemed that all had a good time!

Wrapping Paper - Chair, Ann Marie Daker, reported. Her report was as follows: As of October 5, we have sold \$6,365 worth of products through 51 families. The sale ends October 7th with a leeway of two weeks to still place orders. Friday's packet will include a "Last Chance" flyer. Ideally, this will get our numbers up. I am told typically, half of the orders come in after the sale end date. The bulletin board is down at Elementary. Our rep, Barb Eggert, funded a special promotion for Pleasantdale students selling 5 items, to receive a smencil, those selling 6-7 items, to receive 3 silly bands and those selling 12 items to receive a monkey backpack buddy. These are in addition to the promotion items children receive directly from Innisbrook. They are being awarded as orders arrive. The large Max the Monkey given to us by Barb will be raffled off. Students who sold 25 items will have a chance to win. The top 5 selling families will each receive a thank you gift made up from the display items Innisbrook provided. A basket of Innisbrook products will also be raffled off to one lucky winner drawn from the entire pool of those who made a purchase. All in all, we will have a better idea of where we stand on October 14th and checks are coming in. Thank you to **Jodi Breen** as well for all of her assistance!

Open Forum

Tammy White, Membership Chair, reported that 406 families have become members as of today, which is more than last year.

Tammy White also wished to mention a fundraiser being held called Eye for Style, featuring jewelry and handbags off of Frontage Road on November 11th from 7-9 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided and it is open to our parents and their guests. She will place a flyer in the Friday Packet with additional details.

President, Kelly Hansen, announced the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on November 2nd at 7 p.m. Please note that due to elections that evening, we will be meeting in the Middle School IMC room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.