

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011

President, Kelly Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Secretary, Kathy Shah read correspondence received. **Courtney Camer** thanked the PTA for the Sweet Table. A thank you card for the Sweet Table was also received from the **Middle School Staff**.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following Treasurer's report: As of December 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$32,290**. This includes income of **\$2,900**, mostly from Book Fair and Wrapping Paper. There were expenses of **\$3,200**, mostly for 8th grade and administrative expenses.

Administration Reports

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf began by mentioning that he is currently seeking volunteers to review new software packages. He stated it is not certain changes to existing software will be made, but four vendors will be coming shortly to present to teachers, parents and non-teaching staff members. They will use a rating system to evaluate and narrow down selections. Ten volunteers have committed to the project and he is in need of additional volunteers. Vendors are scheduled to present on January 14th at 11:15-12:15 and 3:30-4:30. They are also scheduled for January 18th 11:15-12:15 and 3:30 to 4:30.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny mentioned that "countdown" to graduation has started. A letter will go out shortly to eighth grade parents outlining upcoming events leading to graduation. On January 12th, Lyons Township High School will do an orientation at the Middle School during which the registration process will be explained and registration materials will be distributed. They will also answer student's questions. That evening, eighth grade parents are invited to attend this event. Staff and the principal will be on hand to answer questions and students will speak of their experiences. Two weeks later, cap and gown pictures are scheduled to be taken. Meg also wished to say thank you for the Sweet Table as well as thank the "reindeers" (**Lisa Uckerman and Paula Ogurkewicz**) for the delicious treats at lunch to celebrate the holidays.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar wished everyone a Happy New Year and also wished to thank the PTA and **Staff Appreciation Committee** for the Sweet Table. He mentioned that the bus drivers and cleaning crew also wished to say thank you. Matt mentioned he would also like to thank **Beth Schwartz** and the **Room Moms** who assisted during the classroom Christmas parties. Preschool registration will be held this month along with assessment testing such as Diebls and some Gates testing. On January 20th, Elementary School will host Family Science Night along with the Anderson Book Fair, to which all are invited.

Erin Oskroba reported for Elementary School. She wished to thank **Sandra Hannan** for the food that will be provided on Science Night and also the **Staff Appreciation Committee** for the Sweet Table. Her report was as follows:

Preschool is learning about farm and zoo animals.

Kindergarten would like to thank all of the room moms for organizing The Holidays Around the World Celebration. Many families sent in a variety of tasty treats for the kindergarteners to try. A wonderful time was had by all. We are beginning our new theme, "Imagination".

First Grade is having a wonderful start to the new year. We are celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King this month. He thought people should be friends because of who they are. In writing workshop, we completed a graphic organizer on a friend and are beginning to write a story about them.

Second grade enjoyed a Polar Express Day the week before break. Students did activities related to the story and rotated to each of the second grade teachers' rooms. We are doing map skills in social studies and will soon start magnets in science.

3rd grade - Thank you very much for the sweets table. It was such a treat to enjoy the home baked goodies! Language Arts We are beginning the book Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary. The students wrote a cinquain poem about their family and will also write a paragraph about their family to tie in with the book's theme. In Social Studies, we are studying Illinois with a focus on history and government.

Fourth Grade

We are looking forward to our field trip to Orchestra Hall to hear the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Over 35 parents will be attending with us. We are studying the US states' names, capitals, postal abbreviations, and locations. Soon, we will have the location of all 50 states memorized. Some of us have started testing the multiplication facts up to times 12. Knowing facts is a must to be successful computing long division.

Physical Education - Mr.Emso's classes are doing basketball and fitness unit. Ms. Blogg's first graders are very excited to learn volleyball skills. They will be practicing the underhand serve, the set and the bump. They will also be building a "spider web", connecting cones with the handles of long jump ropes. Then they move in very creative ways under, over, and along the ropes of the web. For me, it is wonderful to watch what they can do.

Library- We are continuing to read the Monarch Award nominees in 1st-3rd grades. The students will vote in February for their favorite. 2nd grade has been in the computer lab recently, learning how to use the electronic card catalog. 3rd and 4th grade - The Bluestem Award: Illinois' Grades 3-5 Readers' Choice Award.

Jana Stelter reported for Middle School. Her report was as follows:

Grade 6 – The students and teachers are excited to start the month-long, cross-curricular historical fiction unit. Social Studies, Literature and Composition are the subjects that will be joining together for this unit. The unit will include inquiry-based (questions), student-centered, research and written speech presentation as well as a variety of activities that will enhance the students' understanding of the historical period of time they chose through their novels.

Grade 8 -

Accel Lit: We are finishing up *TKM* and *A Raisin in the Sun* (Connections) . All levels will soon be reading *The Diary Of Anne Frank* and the play based on it.

On-Level Lit: We are reading non-fiction (biographies, news) and are learning the technique of summarizing what we read.

Comp: We are doing writing activities that help us "show" rather than "tell" in our writing and will soon be studying Anne Frank, the writer.

Exploratory

Art – the 5th, 7th and 8th grade art classes just finished a whirlwind of clay projects. Each student made two or more so we had over 200 projects firing night and day in the kiln. Now the 7th and 8th grades are working on large chalk drawings and the 5th grade is finishing their T-shirts and moving on to action figure collages.

Library - Book Club is underway. Over 180 students are again enrolled in the program. I have picked up the books, and I'm in the process of cataloging and delivering them to the students. Due to the large number of 5th and 6th graders in the program, we will be moving the 5th grade Readers Ice Cream Social to Feb. 4th. New book shelves are in and the arduous task of moving every book in the library has begun. Anyone who wants to help move books from one shelf to another is welcome!

PE- PE classes just finished up gymnastics before winter break and are working full-time on our basketball unit. After mid-term, we will start volleyball and fitness strength training.

Health

6th - The sixth grade is finishing up the family and social health unit. They did a great job role-playing using refusal skills in negative peer pressure situations. The 6th grade is working very hard and will soon be creating a body system poster where they will have their bodies traced out and will label the corresponding parts of certain body systems.

7th - The 7th grade is also finishing up the social health unit and currently role-playing a scenario using conflict resolution skills. The seventh grade is doing a tremendous job and their quality of work is excellent. After the family social health assessment, the 7th grade will be moving into the growth and development unit and will be discussing many body systems and functions.

8th - The 8th grade is currently working on creating their refusal skills skit. The students are working well together and are using many different scenarios to resist negative peer pressure. The 8th grade will also be moving into the growth and development unit and will be discussing many body systems and functions. In addition, the 8th grade will soon be using the MyPyramid program to track their daily caloric intake.

Unfinished Business –

Nominating Committee – President, Kelly Hansen mentioned that a Nominating Committee must be formed to elect the executive officers for the 2011-2012 PTA Board. This will take place at the General Meeting immediately following this meeting.

New Business – the Chair was unaware of any new business

Eighth Grade – Tammy White was unable to attend, but provided the minutes from the last eighth grade committee meeting which were read at the meeting:

8th Grade Committee, General Sub-Committee Meeting, Dec. 18^h, 7:05 pm

Present: Barb Lamb, Tammy White, Caryn Stancik, Pat Klopp, Sue Orsic, Kathy Thalji, Maida Ng, Sherry Kulhanek, Karen O'Halloran, Lisa Kristy, Dianne Norris,

Committee Reports:

Photography: still going strong, currently has 49 baby pictures and still looking for more, Kathy Thalji just printed archived pictures

Bulletin Board: Nothing new to report

DVD: Lisa Kristy gave Chris White a DVD with all the pictures taken and they are broken into categories within that DVD. She is breaking the picture down into Fall, Winter and Spring and then in major categories on each DVD. She needs a group photo of the girl's basketball team.

Class Shirts: More orders for t-shirts were turned in and will be given to Julie Kelly.

Fortnightly: Karen Cook was able to reschedule the dates for Fortnightly. Many envelopes signing up for the event were in the PTA box, so we have a good start.

Dinner Dance: Sherry Kulhanek reported they are working with the LT theater department and they are going to help make palm tree stands. She is also working with florists in the area. They are waiting for word on a DJ and have a couple of back-ups in the event their first choice isn't available.

Class Gift: They are waiting for word back from Mr. Busch. New ideas were a designed rug for the front entrance to the school, books with a dedication in each book, an art piece for the gathering area on the south side of the school. Mrs. Washburn indicated she had purchased a new kiln last year so this idea won't work.

Class Outing: Everything is all set for the event at Rolling Lanes. Karen O'Halloran negotiated with them and got their pricing down which will allow for additional door prizes.

Graduation Reception: Nothing new to report.

Service: Santa's workshop is going to need a lot of volunteers for the workshop as well as for the bake sale. Sign-ups are going pretty well for this event.

Fundraising: Our last bake sales will be held at Santa's Workshop on the 11th. Please bake cookies if you can. They are still working on refining the details for the basketball tourney in Feb.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Linda Thorell reported for **Reading and Literature/Write Stuff**. The Honor Roll for November's prompt will come out in the January 28th Friday packet. It was delayed due to a reduced Friday packet schedule at the end of the 2010/beginning of 2011. For our fourth prompt, the kids will write about their winter break as well as anything they did to help others during that time off. The fourth prompt is scheduled to be distributed on Thursday, January 13th, due to the teacher's institute on the 14th.

Rhonda Floros reported for **ES Readers**. She mentioned that 33 have signed up for the February 10th event. The theme is animal books. First and second grade are reading fiction and on fiction and third and fourth grade are reading fiction.

Jana Stelter reported for **MS Readers**. She mentioned there are a few less titles than last time, perhaps about thirty. Fewer eighth graders are participating in this cycle. Students chose their titles and she was also able to obtain fourteen copies of *Sports from Hell* from the Lemont Library, which she feels is a very entertaining book. Ice cream sundaes will also be served.

Room Reps – Beth Schwartz could not attend but provided the following report read at the meeting:

The Holiday Parties went well. All of the students, as usual, had a good time and I believe the Room Reps did too! It's always very fun to see all of the different ideas that Room Reps come up with and will encourage them to continue to keep up the good work. Our next party will be Valentine's Day on Monday 2/14 in the afternoon. I will start looking into the plans for Field Day and plan on helping with the organization of the event. Middle Holiday Treats - **Lisa Uckerman and Paula Ogurkiewicz** once again made every student happy at the Middle School with their wonderful treats. I really appreciate their hard work and dedication to these past two events. It is wonderful knowing that I can count on them and what great entertainment they have been! The next event will be Valentine's Day and then at the end of the school year, there will be the Middle School Picnic. I have two mom's organizing Valentine's Day and am putting together a group to organize the picnic. It will be great to get some new ideas and make it a group effort. Thanks again to Lisa and Paula!!!!

Santa's Luncheon – **Lisa Uckerman** was unable to attend but did provide the following report read at the meeting: I would like to thank **Tammy White, Karen O'Halloran, Haley Uckerman, Mr. Ralph & the 8th graders, as well as Chuck Petrsek** for the last minute Santa help & of course let's not forget **Patty Gioia** who lent her expertise stadium voice to sell our merchandise! We sold hot dogs, cheese dogs, popcorn, nachos, candy, coffee, pop & water. We had a bigger crowd than last year. I think I made a profit of 130.62 on Santa's Luncheon.

Santa's Workshop – **Rhonda Floros** reported. She mentioned she was grateful for the help provided by the eighth graders during the event and a profit of \$475 was made, \$125 of which came from donations and items left from the Innisbrook sale. She also felt the event was well attended due in part to the Eighth Grade bake sale also held in tandem with the event.

Special Lunch – **Linda Thorell** also reported for Special Lunch. Her report was as follows: The next special lunch will be chicken strips and will take place on February 16th. At the Elementary School, I will distribute lists to all the teachers with the names of the student who have NOT ordered special lunch. The lists will go out to the teachers by January 28th. If a special lunch is not ordered by February 4th, there will be no other option for getting the chicken strip lunch. As we have discussed, we want to eliminate last minute order changes (with our vendor). I will publish and distribute a final list so those children and their parents are aware that they need to bring a lunch to school on the 16th. We are hopeful that these continued communications will ensure that no child goes without lunch on February 16th.

Staff Appreciation – **Chair, Kim Gilman** reported. Her report was as follows: The annual Sweets Table was held on Wednesday, December 15 at both the Elementary and Middle Schools. The Pleasantdale families showed appreciation of the staff by donating sweets for this very special event. The staff and teachers were overjoyed with the variety of amazing and delicious sweets. They especially enjoyed the family photos attached to the sweets. They had a great time seeing former students and how they had grown. A special thank you to **Andrea Sarno** and **Jennifer Hawbaker** for organizing this annual event. In addition, a thank you to **Ann Marie Daker, Sherry Kulhanek, Stacey Satala Laura Schetter, Mr. Ralph and Mr. Jim** for assisting with set-up and clean-up. Thank you also to Kirshbaums Bakery in Western Springs for once again donating the bakery boxes. Our next Staff Appreciation event will be for Valentine's Day. Thank you also to **Mrs. Vervack and Mrs. Washburn** for allowing a few of their students to make the decorations. This is by far the largest sweet table over my past four years of involvement. There was an amazing display of bars, cookies, candies and pastries.

Open Forum – **Karen O'Halloran, Chair of Meals that Heal**, wished to thank all the volunteers in her committee that was recently called into action and wished to say she could not have done it without them.

Paula Ogurkewicz, Chair for Cultural Arts, mentioned that the Seventh graders' trip to see *A Christmas Carol* went well. She also mentioned that the Eighth grade will soon experience a Shakespearean Theater trip. She is currently working on ideas for Elementary. She add that the Middle School treat day went well, during which two live "reindeer" (Lisa Uckerman and herself) distributed candy cane sticks to the students, accompanied by some caroling from the staff!

Sandra Hannan, Chair of Hospitality, mentioned that the committee will be doing the refreshments at this year's Family Science Night at Elementary.

Jill Kuehn, Chair Paw Prints Committee, reported that the selection committee for Paw Prints will be chosen on January 31st. Although March is the deadline for entries, many students have already submitted works.

Dianne Norris, Chair for Promotions Committee, reported that Dominicks will be doing the school bus/10% promotion again this year in January for five weeks. Last year, this program earned the PTA \$1,100 of funds and her committee will be doing this program again this year.

President, Kelly Hansen, announced the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on Tuesday, February 1 at 7 p.m. at the Admin. Building. The next General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held immediately following this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA General Meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011

President, Kelly Hansen, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

All members present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver, provided the following Treasurer's report: As of July 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$21,693. This includes income of \$330 from 8th Grade DVD sales. There were no expenses. Minutes of the General Meeting of September 1, 2010 were approved as written.

Unfinished Business – the Chair was unaware of any unfinished business

New Business –

Budget Review – Treasurer, Alli Gulliver, explained the purpose of the budget review is to list expenses and projected income in an effort to keep all committees on track. The Chair asked the members present if there were any questions. There were none.

Bylaws – President, Kelly Hansen indicated that bylaw changes are in the approval stage at this time. Since there were no major changes, only grammatical, the bylaws do not have to be approved by the General Committee.

Nominating Committee - Secretary, Kathy Shah, read the portion of the PTA bylaws pertaining to the election of the nominating committee.

President, Kelly Hansen, mentioned that at this time, three members from the Executive Board, plus one alternate and two members from the General Membership, plus one alternate must be elected. The members from the Executive Board will be **Christine Franco, Kathy Shah and Mark Fredisdorf**, with **Jennifer Hawbaker** as alternate. Members of the General Membership forming the Nominating Committee will be **Sherry Kulhanek and Kim Gilman**, with **Carrie Golden** as alternate.

President, Kelly Hansen, asked for a motion to select **Kathy Shah** as Chair of the Nominating Committee. **Sandra Hannan** made a motion and the motion was seconded by **Karen O'Halloran**. All present were asked if in favor. All were in favor and the motion carried for **Kathy Shah** to function as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

At the February Board Meeting on February 1, 2011, the progress of the Nominating Committee must be reported. By the middle of February the slate must be complete, a report prepared and a copy posted at both schools.

Announcements:

The next scheduled General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 in the District Meeting Room. The next scheduled Pleasantdale PTA Board meeting will be held on February 1, 2011 in the District Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.