

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 15, 2011

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

Secretary Kathy Shah read correspondence received in the form of a thank you note from **Erin Oskroba** and **John Reid** thanking **Sandra Hannan and the Hospitality Committee** for their work on Family Science Night. A thank you for the sweets table was also received and signed by the **Elementary School Staff**.

Treasurer Alli Gulliver provided the following Treasurer's report: As of January 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$36,627. This includes income of **\$10,670** mostly from 8th grade and Book Fair. There were expenses of **\$6,170** mostly for Book Fair and Santa's Workshop.

The minutes of the last PTA Board Meeting were approved as written.

Administration Reports

Dr. Mark Fredisdorf mentioned he had several pieces of good news. The first being that District 107 has received the Academic Excellence Award in Illinois for the 6th consecutive year, as 96% of our students meet or exceed standards. Also, the School Board has eliminated base and registration fees until further notice. The School Board has also chosen to abate bonds early using fund balances as they are sensitive to not making poor short term choices. On March 15th, two experts on the Standards Based Grading System will speak on the pros and cons of the system. A Parent Advisory Committee is also still working through the same. On April 11th, an internet safety night will be held with a focus on cyber-bullying. He is hoping this event will be well attended. The Software Committee has also selected a new student management system (Skyward) that will be recommended to the school board and he hopes it will be in place next year.

Mr. Matt Vandercar, Elementary School Principal, wished to thank **Beth Schwartz** and the room moms for their hard work on the Valentine's parties. He also wished to thank **Kelly Hahn** and her helpers for their work on the recent Anderson Book Fair. Lastly, he wished to thank **Jenny Corcoran, Rhonda Floros, Millie Vidakovich, Maggie Smith** and all who were involved in the ES Reader's Night which was quite fun. He mentioned that this week, the 4th grade band and orchestra will be performing and all are invited to attend. ISAT testing will be on February 28th and run for two weeks. More details will follow.

Ms. Meg Pokorny, Middle School Principal, wished to thank **Lisa Uckerman** and **Paula Ogurkewicz** for their "colorful" decorations to celebrate Valentine's Day as well as the treats they provided. She also wished to thank **Lisa Martusciello** and **Kim Gilman** for the treats they provided as well. She also mentioned that Middle School will be performing *Willy Wonka* and has recently held try outs. **Sharon Collins** will function as director and eighty students tried out for forty parts. Meg mentioned there will be opportunities for students to get involved with stage crew work and set design. The trimester ends on February 25th and ISAT testing will begin on March 28th.

Almir Emso had originally planned to report for Elementary during the February meeting originally scheduled on February 1 that was cancelled due to the snow storm. As he was unable to attend this evening's meeting, **Matt Vandercar** reported for **Elementary Staff**. His report was as follows:

Preschool is having fun starting our unit "Are you 'red-y'?" We are excited about learning about things that are red and Valentine's Day activities.

Kindergarten is looking forward to the 100th day of school. We are grateful for all of the many parent volunteers that will be helping us out that day.

First Grade is learning about Special Americans, especially George Washington and Abe Lincoln. We met with our 4th grade buddies and created Valentine's Day cards for Vets! We look forward to celebrating 100 days of school on Friday.

Second Grade - Starting our America unit in Social Studies and reading *The Long Way to a New Land* in Language Arts – it is about an immigrant family from Sweden and fits in well with Social Studies. We are also working on money in math.

Third grade - In Language Arts we are reading the book *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. We have written a cinquain poem and paragraph about our families to tie in with the novel. In science, we are studying animals and will be beginning our animal reports. The students are very excited!

Library - The Book Fair was great! Thank you to all the families who helped to make it a huge success.

Spanish - the 4th graders are getting ready to put together a fashion show and third graders are making Spanish calendars for 2011.

P.E. - Ms. Blogg's First Graders will be starting to learning basketball skills. They are excited to learn different ways to dribble. The first graders are also anxious to practice the chest pass, the bounce pass, and the one-handed set shot. **Mr. Emso's** class will start volleyball unit and continue fitness games.

Art

KDG – Has been working on torn paper faces and torn paper bodies to go along with their 5 senses and body units.

1st – Creating giant Chinese New Year Dragons out of collage materials

2nd – Learning about complimentary colors and will be designing “Complimentary Characters” this week.

3rd – Finishing up their Alexander Calder Mobiles. In years past, Circus was the theme for this project. This year they were able to pick their own theme and objects for their mobile.

4th – Learning about radial symmetry. We are creating a radial symmetry design on a cd.

Andrea Di Febo had also planned to report for **Middle School** at the meeting cancelled due to the storm. As she was unable to attend, **Meg Pokorny** provided the following report for Middle:

Grade 5 - 5th grade is getting geared up for Outdoor Ed: March 16-18th. In science, we are studying animals and have been observing a bearded dragon for the week. Students will be creating their own animal after they have learned about invertebrates/vertebrates

Grade 6 - The students and teachers are looking forward to Diversity Day on February 18th. Leading into Diversity Day, the students participated with their buddies in a tolerance lesson and activity during advisory. We are still looking for parents to share their heritage and culture through a short presentation and or bring in a food to share.

Grade 7 - Can you roll your tongue? Do you have a widow's peak? Do you have a hitchhiker's thumb? How about hair on your knuckles? Don't be surprised if 7th graders come home asking these questions because they are studying all about heredity in science class. We are also looking forward to our team building day on February 18th. We are excited to practice working together with our advisories.

Grade 8 - Our on-level literature classes are just beginning *The Diary of Anne Frank* play. This week they will explore the history and have an introduction and then begin reading the play next week. During their reading of the play, the students will also be reading a novel of choice that coincides with the Holocaust and/or Anne Frank. Our accelerated literature classes are just beginning *The Diary of Anne Frank* novel. This week, they are also exploring the history and a brief introduction into the annex. The students will deal with theme and use deeper reading to explore the conflicts, stereotypes, power, and prejudice. Our accelerated composition class is currently finishing their unit on expository writing. Next week, they will dive into the exploration of Anne Frank as a writer. Within this unit, they will begin writing their research article. In 8th Grade Social Studies, we're currently learning about the Holocaust. We're also planning a trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in mid-February.

Exploratories:

Middle School Library - Last Friday, January 28th, 59- 6th graders, 26- 7th graders, and 31- 8th graders participated in the book club. Thanks to **Mrs. Petrovic** and her volunteers for helping with the ice cream sundaes. This Friday, Feb. 4th, we will hold the 5th grade book club where 70 students will be joining us for discussions. 30 titles will have been discussed when it is all said and done. I'd like to recognize the dedication of the staff who help facilitate the groups or make it possible for others to facilitate by substituting for them while they run a group. **Mrs. Pokorny, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Rende, Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Rydberg, Mrs. Rozum, Ms. Mars, Mr. Busch, Mrs. Kostal, Mr. Munchoff, Mr. Kusnik, Mr. Jesewitz, Mrs. Riordan, Mrs. Specht, Mrs. Lasko, Mrs. DiFebo, Mrs. McGreal, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Lasko, Mr. Fredisdorf, Mrs. Vonnahme, my husband, Bill, two retired teachers who faithfully volunteer, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Cummins and a student, Anika Ranginani.** Some of these people facilitate more than one book each time. I am truly blessed. I actually had people fighting over titles and

even ran out of titles available. As you can see Book Club is a production, and it is our "Pleasantdale Family" that makes it possible.

Mod Tech 5th Grade Computer Skills - The 5th graders applied their word processing skills when they each created a newsletter about a topic of choice. They are now working on their spreadsheet skills which include making tables and a variety of graphs while bedazzling them with graphics and the use of other display options. They have even learned how to use and apply formulas, making it easy to display accurate data.

6th and 8th Grade Mod Tech - The 6th grade students have just finished a module that introduced them to concepts related to technology. Students have now chosen specific modules to work on with a partner such as video making, plastics, and computer graphic design. They usually work on a module for about 2 ½ weeks before switching to a new one. They are happy to be working with the various technologies and doing the related activities. The 8th graders are now nearing completion of their 3rd rotation and have learned many new ideas, while examining the related technologies in our "real" world.

Health Education

6th - The sixth grade is currently finishing the nutrition unit. Throughout the unit, students analyzed a food label and determined whether the product was healthy or unhealthy. Over the last few weeks of the trimester, the 6th grade will be beginning the alcohol, tobacco, and drugs unit along with creating a poster on a specific communicable or non-communicable disease and presenting it to the class.

7th - The 7th grade is currently working on a drug information poster. The students were assigned a specific illegal drug and have been researching the drug and its effects. The final part of the project is for the students to present their poster to the class. In addition, with the 2nd trimester winding down, the 7th grade will be writing a research poster on a specific non-communicable disease.

8th - The 8th grade is currently completing a nutrition analysis. The students wrote down everything they ate for 3 days, and entered the food into my-pyramid.gov. The program analyzed their food intake based upon the essential nutrients and food groups. In addition, throughout the nutrition unit, students found ways to escape the fast food trap by understanding ways not to take in any extra calories. Over the next few weeks the 8th grade will begin the substance abuse unit and finally end with CPR certification.

Physical Education - We've just started our second trimester Fitness Unit involving muscular strength and endurance training. One of the most important goals of our middle school PE program is to help students learn how to take care of their health and fitness for a lifetime. Students will learn safe practices for each exercise and which major muscles groups are involved with each. Volleyball is also a focus for February.

Advisory:

- During our half day in February the 7th and 8th grade students will be working together with their advisory groups on a variety of teambuilding challenges. The purpose, besides having fun, is to use their social skills, communication and problem-solving abilities in order to succeed in a challenge as a group.
- The 5th and 6th grade students will be studying the diversity of our Middle School. There will be speakers presenting slides and information about countries and their cultures. There will also be a performance of Japanese drums (Thank you to the PTA Cultural Arts Committee for making this possible.) It will culminate in a "Taste of the World" where students will bring a sample of foods from their personal heritage.

Extra Curricular:

From Mr. Tatina /Mrs.Collins: Auditions for *Willy Wonka*, this year's middle school musical, will be held on Monday and Tuesday, February 7th and 8th after school from 3:30-5:00pm Sign-ups and audition materials are in the music room.

Kathy Shah, Nominating Committee Chair, announced that the committee has a full slate of candidates and the nominees are as follows: **President, Jennifer Hennessy, Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker, Vice President, Ann Marie Daker, Treasurer and Dania Mahoney, Secretary.**

Audit Committee – Dianne Norris mentioned that her committee partner was not in attendance and the audit committee report should be listed as unfinished business at this time.

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

Book Fair – the following report was received following the meeting (not read). **Kelly Hahn** wished to provide the following details: We had a successful book fair due largely in part to the efforts of **Maggie Smith**. Even though this is a PTA event, Ms. Smith spends plenty of her own personal time helping out. We had gross sales of \$7900 which will result in cash to the PTA of approximately \$1800. We are awaiting the final accounting from Andersons. Last year our cash intake was \$1600. Thank you to all the volunteers from set up, to student previews, to actual book fair and take down. The next book fair is scheduled for April. We have replaced Scholastic with Anderson and have found that Anderson carries a better product and our overall revenue has increased.

Cultural Arts – **Paula Ogurkiewicz** reported. On February 18th, Middle School 5th and 6th graders will participate in Diversity Day at which a Japanese Dance Team will perform. **Mrs. Carnes** wished to thank the Cultural Arts Committee and is excited for the event. On February 22nd, the Eighth Grade will be attending a performance of *MacBeth* at the Shakespearean Theater. The PTA will be covering ½ the cost of the tickets. *I Love This School* will also be rescheduled as it needed to be postponed due to the storm. A harpist will be visiting in the spring.

Eighth Grade – **Patricia Klopp** could not be in attendance, but provided the minutes of the last meeting of the Eighth Grade Committee which were read at the meeting.

Hospitality Committee – no one to report

Rajer Shah reported for **Legislation**. His report was as follows: School Board Elections will be held on April 6th. There are six candidates and three positions. We have seven board members total. On March 22nd, the PTA will host a Candidate Forum at 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantdale Park District. The meeting will consist of a meet-and-greet followed by a townhall/debate style question/answer session. Babysitting will be available. He also wished to thank the committee in advance: **Caryl Molinaro, Mary Soudan, Beth Schwartz, Kelly Hansen, Kathy Shah and the Pleasantdale Park District** for use of their facilities. In addition, the Doings and Suburban Times will be contacting the candidates for interviews. Each candidate was also asked to provide responses to a questionnaire describing their backgrounds and addressing some key issues. Their responses will appear in the Friday Packet as well as be available during the Forum. Their responses will also be available to the local papers mentioned. **Kim Gilman** asked if the event could be taped. **Rajer Shah** mentioned that it will not be taped in keeping with the traditional rules of the forum and also due to the fact that taping has been viewed as distractive. In addition, if the event is taped, it might not be as well attended. He also mentioned that since taping had not been permitted in the past, consideration of this subject should have been done in advance of the planning for this forum which is in mid-stream or perhaps can be addressed following the forum in anticipation of future forums. **President Kelly Hansen** mentioned she was in agreement as well.

Reading and Literature

ES Readers – **Jenny Corcoran** could not attend but did provide the following report read at the meeting: On February 10, 2011, sixty-five students enjoyed a fun night of book discussions and activities about animal-themed books. The ES Reader's committee would like to thank the following teachers and parents for assisting us in making the evening a great success: **Maureen Olsen, Chris Markovitz, Jill Jensen, Janet Kucek, Kristi Vervack, Matt Vandercar, Stephanie Macek, Beth Schwartz, Jennifer Hawbaker, Margaret Hojjat and Stacy Satala**. The final ES Reader's Night of the school year will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2011. More information about this evening will be coming home soon.

Write Stuff – **Linda Thorell** reported and her report was as follows: Our fourth prompt was all about persuasion. We asked our students to write about something they really love and convince someone else to try it. The topics ranged from blueberry picking to learning to play hockey. Participation was calculated at 67%. The fifth prompt was distributed on February 11th. Our students will be making cards for long-term patients at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Since some of the children don't get well, the theme of the cards will be Spring. We are hoping for very strong participation. The kids (and families) on the receiving end of these cards would richly benefit from our work.

MS Readers – no one to report

Paw Prints – no one to report

Read to Succeed – Gina Scaletta-Nelson could not attend, but provided the following report read at the meeting: The Sixth Flags Read to Succeed Program is in full swing. Reading logs are due back on Thursday, February 17th. You should be able to find them on the PTA website at d107.org. Additional copies can be found in the office or by contacting me at geena@aol.com or 708-839-4335. Students must complete 360 minutes of reading to qualify for the free ticket. Please return forms to the classroom teachers in an envelope marked PTA-Six Flags Reading. Tickets will be distributed in May.

Beth Schwartz also could not attend, but provided the following report for **Room Reps**:

Elem. Room Reps - We had our last party yesterday and everything went well. I would like to thank all of the Room Reps for another wonderful year of parties for the students and appreciate all of their hard work. The last thing we have going on is Field Day at the end of the school year. I will remind them to turn their folders in and that they are asked to participate in Field Day.

Holiday Treats at Middle - As always the students will be happy to receive their holiday treat. I would like to thank **Lisa Martusciello and Kristen Mologousis** for organizing the treats, their time is appreciated. I will be talking to the people who are going to be organizing the end of year picnic and will be looking forward to new ideas. Thank you to everyone who helped so far this year with organizing and distributing treats, it is much appreciated.

Shamrock Shake – no one to report

PTA Special Lunch – Lisa Uckerman reported. The next special lunch will be tomorrow and they will be serving Chicken Strips from Kombs. 443 students signed up at Elementary and the same amount signed up at Middle. Teachers read the names of students who were not signed up and should bring a lunch. Hopefully, this effort will result in the lunch running smoothly.

Kim Gilman reported for **Staff Appreciation**. She mentioned that Valentine's Day treats will be distributed to staff at the schools throughout the week. Many volunteers have assisted her in making and packaging pretzel/kisses treats. The committee is working on ideas for Staff Appreciation Week in May and she is hoping to top last year! I wish to thank the following individuals for their help: **Jennifer Hawbaker, Jennifer Hennessy, Vicki Castro, Laura Schetter**. I also wish to thank the following businesses for their support: **Milano Day Spa of Countryside, Starbucks of Burr Ridge and Moondance Diner of Burr Ridge**.

Open Forum – no items were brought for discussion

President Kelly Hansen announced the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on Tuesday, March 1st followed by a General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Important update!

The following was inadvertently left off of the minutes as originally published. We apologize for the error.

Please note that the Nominating Committee Report should have included Shannon Kurinsky, as she has graciously accepted the nomination for Treasurer for the 2011-2012 PTA Executive Board. This was reported at the meeting.