

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2011

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

Correspondence – no correspondence had been received

Treasurer's Report – **Treasurer, Alli Gulliver** could not attend the meeting but provided the following report that was read at the meeting: As of April 30, **2011**, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$27,100**. This includes income of **\$1,400** mostly from Promotions. There were expenses of **\$6,900**, mostly for 8th grade, Spirit Wear and Special Lunch. Please be prompt in submitting final expense and income claims prior to the year end on June 30. As of July 1, any financial dealings will be with **Shannon Kurinsky** whose contact information will appear in the next PTA newsletter.

Minutes – The minutes of the previous PTA Board meeting were approved as written

Administration Reports

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf wished to thank the PTA for the President's Dinner held last week and mentioned that it was the most well-attended President's Dinner in several years. He also wished to mention that Staff Appreciation Week is in full swing and has already received many accolades from staff. The **Staff Appreciation Committee** has already shown unprecedented efforts! On a different note, assessments in every subject have been revamped and our curriculum is in the best shape it has been. A new software system for report cards will be in place by next year.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar also wished to thank the PTA for the President's Dinner. He also wished to acknowledge the **Staff Appreciation Committee** for their efforts as the staff will certainly enjoy this week. He wished to thank **Paula Ogurkiewicz** for coordinating the harpist performance for the students, mentioning that Paula's own daughter was part of the performance and that she became interested in the harp after attending a similar school assembly several years ago. On May 17th, all are invited to the 1st and 2nd grade Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m. On May 19th, the 4th grade band and orchestra will give an evening performance and all PTA volunteers are invited to attend the Volunteer Breakfast that Elementary will host on May 26th at 9:15 a.m. Lastly, Field Day has been moved to June 3rd.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny wished to thank the PTA for a well-executed Special Lunch. She also wished to thank the PTA for the President's Dinner. The decorations for Staff Appreciation Week were wonderful and over the top! Music concerts will be held on May 10th, 11th and 12th. The 7th Grade will attend two field trips and complete a service project this month. 8th Grade will take the LT algebra test. Both the 8th and 6th Grades have trips planned in May and on June 1st, the school picnic will take place. The last day of school will be June 6th.

Kristi Vervack represented the **Elementary School** and provided the following Staff Representative report:

Preschool is preparing for our Mother's Day Tea. They have been very excited about growing plants and grass in our classrooms.

Kindergarten would like to thank the PTA in advance for all of the special goodies and surprises that were left in the Teachers lounge this week. Amazing! Kindergarten is learning about the Farm. We are looking forward to our Field Trip to the Morton Arboretum at the end of the month to culminate many of the kindergarten themes.

First Grade: At the end of the month, the first graders will be having their big tie-dye celebration. They are asking parents of first graders to send in white shirts. They will also be looking for parent volunteers in the next couple of weeks to help with the tie-dye process.

Second Grade: Second grade is doing GATES and ITBS this week and next. We are also working on poems for our Poetry Parties next week and are learning about plants.

Third Grade:

- Thank you for bringing the harpists to the elementary school. The students enjoyed the presentation and learned a lot too!
- Language Arts – The students just finished up reading Sarah, Plain and Tall and are beginning the book The Flunking of Joshua T. Bates.
- Social Studies – We are just beginning our Chicago unit which will start with Chicago's history. The students are already excited for the field trip to Chicago at the end of the month.

Fourth Grade:

- The state project is underway. Students are researching two attractions from their state, writing about why the attraction is important, and creating a map for a road trip describing how to get to the attractions.
- We are growing plants. We are studying how plants make their own food and the reproduction cycle of plants.

Thursday, May 12, is teacher switch-day. Grade four teachers teach fifth grade classes at the middle school, and fifth grade teachers teach fourth grade at the elementary school.

Spanish: First grade is finishing getting ready for their simulated Mexican Market next week. Second and third grade are learning about South American jungles and animals, respectively. Fourth grade is getting ready to show their "how to construct a sandwich" presentations.

Art: First grade is beginning their study of Jacob Lawrence and will be constructing a Jacob Lawrence "Marchers" collage to end the year. Second grade is working very hard on a weaving project. Third and fourth grade have both started "clay week." This year they will be making "Whimsical Owls." Many thanks to **Deb Spencer** for arranging parent help in the art room.

Music: Working hard on preparing for the spring concert!

Student council, with great success, raised \$1300 for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. Everyone enjoyed the event! Art work will be fired and returned to the families. A date will be set for pick-up. Thanks to all who supported the event by buying raffles tickets or decorating plates. We also want to thank the student council members for helping with the preparation for the event and helping with set-up and the raffle table. In addition, 4 students who attend Extra Innings also helped with the set-up: **Alyssa Brillisour, Daniel Abdoue, Sara Herman and Juliza Robles**. They helped move tables, cover them, distribute paints and set up the plates.

Jason Munchoff represented the **Middle School** and provided the following Staff Representative report:

Grade 5 - We are working on research projects in 5th grade!

Grade 6 - The sixth grade can't wait to see the new exhibits at the Shedd Aquarium during their field trip later this month. This trip ties into the Spanish and science curriculum to real life applications for the students.

Grade 7 - We are excited to be going on a two-day field trip to The Art Institute of Chicago and the National Museum of Mexican Art. Students will start with an architecture walking tour before they start their time at The Art Institute. At the National Museum of Mexican Art students will learn about Mexican and Mexican American history and culture.

Grade 8

Spanish Students are learning regular past tense of verbs. They will have a final project of standing in front of the class and speaking for a minute and a half non-stop in Spanish with no notes.

Lit and Comp

Accel Lit: (Johnson): We are studying Dandelion Wine and in Connections the students are reading Fahrenheit 451. We will be also studying Ray Bradbury as a writer in Composition. Also, we are beginning to work on the 8th grade speeches. In on-level Lit. we are in our Science Fiction unit study. In my class the students have chosen a science fiction novel to analyze for the three methods the author uses to convey a science fiction story: distancing, scientific theory and implied message. The students will be presenting a power point from their annotations.

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 will be working on their presentation skills next and will create and present a power point lesson to the class. The 6th graders are finishing up their second module. 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 completed 7 or 8 total modules between those they did in 6th grade and those they completed 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 Education

6th grade

The 6th grade is beginning their disease unit. The students will be creating a specific disease poster that they may choose and present their information to the class.

7th grade

The 7th grade students are completing a drug information poster and will present their poster to the class. The last two units of the year in 7th grade health are violence/injury prevention and communicable and non-communicable diseases - Where the students will write a disease research paper. They are doing a great job this year and working very hard!

8th grade

The 8th grade is finishing up the year with the last 2 units – substance abuse and diseases. The students will study different categories of drugs and discuss preventions of the #1 and #2 killers in the U.S. – Heart Disease and cancer. They have all done a great job this year!

Art - The 7th grade will once again tour Michigan Avenue's architecture with architect Michael Gordon, a former Pleasantdale grad and then go to the Art Institute for small group tours with Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Washburn. 5th grade is using a variety of materials to create their action figure collages.

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

New Business – There was no new business.

Committee Reports:

ES Readers – Jenny Corcoran could not attend the meeting, but provided the following report: Our final Readers' Night of the school year was held on April 14. Sixty-two students enjoyed listening to the books, *Diary of a Worm* and *Diary of a Fly* by Doreen Cronin. Book discussions and activities, such as writing comic strips and making pasta necklaces followed the story reading. A delicious and fun snack of "dirt pudding" was a big hit with the participants! The ES Readers' Committee would like to thank the following people who served as group facilitators for the evening: **Dania Mahoney, Jennifer Hawbaker, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf, Andrea Sarno, Maureen Olsen, Mark Mirabile, Rhonda Floros, Matt Vandercar, and Stacy Satala.** Our snack moms were **Margaret Hojjat and Judy Mirabile.** The committee is looking forward to next year and is already discussing theme ideas, some changes and ways to make the ES Readers' Nights even better for the 2011-2012 school year.

Write Stuff – Linda Thorell could not be in attendance, but provided the following report read at the meeting: The final prompt of the year was distributed on April 29th. The children will be writing a fiction story, poem, cartoon, etc. All of the final prompts will be displayed for almost one week and then given

to the children to take home. Allison and I want to thank the school district for funding the Write Stuff pencils at the beginning of the year and the stickers throughout the school year. The second all school incentive to celebrate Write Stuff will take place on Friday. The kids will have popcorn at a time that is convenient for the teachers.

MS Readers – no one to report

Paw Prints – no one to report

Birthday Book Club – no one to report

Book Fair – **Kelly Keeling** provided the following report: The book fair was a success thanks to **BETH SCHWARTZ!** She took over since I was out of town. We had the fair over 2 days and it was in line with our April 2010 fair with a gross profit of about \$3000. Anderson was great to work with again and our net profit should be about \$700. The other great helpers were: **Vicki Castro, Lisa Cassioppi, Mary Sheehan, Bea Mologousis, Jenny Corcoran, Sharon Weinold, Stacy Satala, Kim Gilman, and Missy Melendez.** Sorry if I missed someone. For future, I have spoken briefly with **Nicole Burr** about coordinating the elementary and middle school fairs. I would suggest that at elementary we drop the April fair and concentrate our efforts at the October and January fairs.

Eighth Grade - **Tammy White** reported that they are waiting for the Dinner Dance and will be working with 7th grade parents to form next year's committee. All committees are wrapping up as well.

Hospitality – no one to report

Music Committee – **Christine Franco** reported. The musical has wrapped up and she mentioned that a sewing machine was purchased and will be put to good use in the future for costumes, etc.

Performing Arts - **Paula Ogurkiewicz** reported: Again, we had two harpists perform last week for each grade, one being my daughter, Natalia, who was inspired by this same performance when she was in third grade and will start playing professionally this summer. This is why the cultural arts program is special to me. I see first had how we can inspire with our various programs. We have one more program which will be on June 2nd. A magician will present a magic show with an emphasis on reading which will help kick off the summer reading program.

President's Dinner – **Christine Franco and Jennifer Hawbaker** reported. Christine mentioned that there were fifty seven attendees at the event and the event actually resulted in a profit to the PTA. All in attendance seemed to have a very good time.

PTA Special Lunch – **Linda Thorell** provided the following report read at the meeting: The final special lunch took place on Wednesday, April 27th. Everything went smoothly. Alison and I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have helped "get the lunch out" all year. We could not have been successful without them.

Room Representatives – Beth Schwartz provided the following report read at the meeting: I am officially informing the new PTA Board that I will continue as Elementary Room Rep Chairperson. The parties are complete and I am in the process of collecting folders from Room Reps to get them ready for next year. I have exchanged some e mails with Mr. Vandercar about the upcoming Field Day. I would like to once again get a room rep sign up flyer in the PTA Summer mailing. I am in complete appreciation for all the Room Reps have done this year and am looking forward to working with next year's reps. Thank you to the PTA for all you have done! In terms of Middle School Treats, I will be handing this committee over to **Paula Ogurkiewicz**. Every holiday treat this year was wonderful and I look forward to the picnic on May 31st. Thank you to all who helped out this year and best of luck to Paula!

School Supplies – Mary Rockrohr could not be in attendance, but provided the following report read at the meeting: We will plan on accepting orders through the end of June and pick up will be in early August to allow parents time to buy paper supplies, etc.

Staff Appreciation – Kim Gilman reported. Staff Appreciation Week is off to a great start with a movies theme. Breakfast was served to staff this morning and all seemed to enjoy it. The Staff Appreciation Committee will continue with treats and fun events throughout the week. Kim wished to thank the hard work of the committee members and all the families who donated food. She also mentioned she will continue to chair this event next year.

Open Forum –

Karen O'Halloron for **Meals on Wheels** wished to pass along a thank you from Ken Zolnierczyk for the committees recent care and efforts.

Announcements – the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on Tuesday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m. at the Admin. Building.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.