

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

President, Jennifer Hennessy, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Correspondence – No correspondence to report.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Dawn Parente, provided the following report: As of October 31, 2011 the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$23,143. There was income of \$5,000.00 mostly from the Halloween Hop. There were expenses of \$3,121. mostly from Special Lunch & 8th grade taffy apples. The PTA is now accepting credit cards as a form of payment at all upcoming PTA events. For more information, contact Jennifer Hennessy (708)467-0837.

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

Administration Reports –

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf, commended the PTA for a wonderful Halloween Hop. The kids were well-behaved. All of the events at the Halloween Hop were fabulous. The event was very well organized. Well done! The book fair was also great! Thank you to all the volunteers and a big thank you to **Lisa Uckerman and Jennifer Hawbaker**. The ITBS skills test results will be available tomorrow. These test scores are important for predicting future performance. On November 15, there will be a presentation on Understanding Your Test Scores.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar, also wanted to say thank you for a great Halloween Hop. It was very well organized. There was so much to do. Keep up the good work. The Halloween class parties went well. Thank you to **Beth Schwartz**. The kids had fun at their parties. Report cards went home today. Please fill out the survey regarding the report card. This Friday will be the kick off for Eagle tickets. These tickets will reward positive behavior. It is a great program. Individuals and classes can earn tickets. A big thank you to Kelly Keeling for a great Book Fair. On November 11, 2011, there will be a Veterans Day Assembly at school. All are invited. Speakers will come to the assembly.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny, stated that Special Lunch went well. A big thank you for this. November 7-14 – Canyon Creek software is available to reserve parent/teacher conference times on-line. On November 11, there will be a Veterans Day presentation for the 8th graders. The 5th graders, 6th graders, and 7th graders will see the video. On November 15 and 16, report cards will be mailed. On November 16, 17, and 18, the Middle School Anderson Book Fair will be held. November 21 and 22 are parent/teacher conferences. On November 29, the Future Freshman Night will be held.

Teacher Representative Reports

Elementary – Stephanie Macek reported for Elementary. Her report was as follows:

PRESCHOOL

Preschool has just begun a new unit based on the book "A Rainbow of Friends". An important skill that we will be focusing on for the next couple of weeks is working and playing together cooperatively.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten will be finishing up their science unit, "Fall, Pumpkins, and Harvest" by making scarecrows to put out into the butterfly garden.

1ST GRADE

First grade began their first unit in Science on Animals. They are very excited about the upcoming buddy day in November too. In Writing Workshop we are writing more and more independently now that we have learned all of our sounds in phonics. To celebrate learning all of our sounds, we are having a wedding celebration for /q/ and /u/ who will now never be apart!!

2ND GRADE

Second grade is finishing our dinosaur and fossil unit. We will soon begin our Native American unit.

3RD GRADE

Third grade is wrapping up both their Language Arts book on Spiders and our Science unit on Simple Machines. We are excited to move into our new Social Studies unit on Illinois where we will study the geography, history, and important people in Illinois history.

4TH GRADE

It's getting hot in here? That is what the fourth grade students will be saying during class for the next few months. We will be working on heat and light during our science times. In LA we are continuing our work with cause and effect as well as text-to-self connections with our current novel. Social studies will bring us around the United States learning the state names, location and abbreviations for all of the states. We are also gearing up for parent-teacher conferences and looking forward to having all of the students there to participate.

LIBRARY

The PTA Book Fair was our most profitable yet! It coincided with ES Readers' Night and the Halloween Hop and that really helped to contribute to our success. Thanks to all that volunteered especially Kelly Keeling.

P.E.

Ms. Blogg's first grade P.E. classes are starting floor hockey. Your children are learning sticking handling, passing, shooting and face off skills. We have also begun short jump roping. They have a lot of fun trying to break their record with consecutive jumps.

ART

First grade is studying Matisse. Second grade is finishing the dinosaurs unit. Third grade is finishing their still life, and fourth grade is starting printmaking.

PE

In regards of our units we will focus on football and fitness related games. Since we are getting colder weather and fitness is harder on the body in these conditions, I encourage you to communicate to me concerns about your child's health. Participation is an important aspect of the grade, but more importantly health and well being of the student is and always will be my priority. If your child is experiencing cold symptoms or lack of energy, participating in my class will do more harm than good.

SPANISH

1st graders are working on learning their colors and animal names in their Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see? unit.

2nd graders are learning about Mexican Independence day and Cinco de mayo.

3rd graders just started their classroom unit.

4th graders are finishing up their Day of the Dead unit and we're decorating Mexican sugar skulls this week in class.

Middle – Megan Cannon reported for Middle. Her report was as follows:

Grade 6 - In Lit class the 6th graders are starting a reader's theater unit. In this unit the students will be working with published plays and mini dramas. The students will be presenting these to the class using correct presentation skills such as fluency, vocabulary choice, self-correction, and many others. We are really looking forward to hearing these presentations.

Grade 7 - The seventh grade above level literature and composition students presented their ghost stories on Halloween using multimedia. Congratulations to all the students for all of their hard work.

The seventh grade on level has been working on using figurative language to add details to their writing as we continue to work on narrative pieces.

Grade 8 - 8th grade: ALA: We are finishing up The Call of the Wild, where we focused on London's exploration of the "primitive vs. the civilized" We also took Mastery Assessment 8.3.2: Main idea and supporting details. Grade level LA: We have been focusing on making inferences, finding main idea and supporting details in short stories and took a mastery assessment on inferring main idea. In vocabulary we have been working on narratives, passive vs active voice, irregular and regular verbs, and writing with SOAPSTONE in mind.

Spanish- We have completed the restaurant vocabulary and verbs and are currently presenting our conversations in a restaurant. The test will be this Wednesday and Thursday. We will then begin the cooking show unit dealing in food words again but incorporating commands.

Exploratory Classes

Mod Tech- The 5th graders are becoming experts at creating tables and graphs from data stored in a spreadsheet format. They will finish the trimester working creating a PowerPoint presentation and learning about being safe when using the Internet. The 6th graders have finished their Introduction to Technology module and are now are excited about working in pairs or trios on a new module. The 8th graders are currently beginning another module to finish up the trimester. They have each completed five modules with varying topics. The focus has been on learning how to effectively complete module goals, writing concise and accurate notes, and thoroughly expressing what they learned through journal responses.

Health

6th - The 6th grade students are doing outstanding in Health. We are winding down to the end of the trimester and are currently finishing up the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Unit. The students will begin their communicable and non-communicable diseases on Friday. They will be researching information on different diseases assigned to them and share their findings to the class.

7th - The 7th grade students are working very hard. The students are currently presenting their Drug Information PowerPoint's. The students worked in the IMC and computer lab to generate information on their PowerPoint. Students will begin Violence and Injury prevention next week.

8th - The 8th grade students have been outstanding this year. Currently the 8th grade students are working Communicable Diseases and ways to prevent the spread of such diseases. In addition, next week the students will begin their CPR Certification. The students understand the privilege that is given to them in getting this certification. Their work ethic has been outstanding this year and they seem truly excited to learn these new life skills.

Library

We have just concluded a very successful book club including 38 titles and 177 students. I would like to thank the PTA for providing money to use as a raffle for students who read and attended the book club. Students were unaware that there would be such an incentive but still 177 students enrolled. Thank you again.

Also, the Anderson's book fair will be held at the middle school the week before Thanksgiving conferences. It will also be open during conferences so parents can stop down and purchase books.

Unfinished Business – The Chair is unaware of any unfinished business.

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

Committee Reports –

Book Fair –

Elementary – Kelly Keeling provided the following report: **THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!!** We had our most successful fall book fair ever!!! Big thanks go to Maggie Smith for not only letting us take over her library, but helping out with every part of the book fair from beginning to end! We had gross sales of \$5,100! A big chunk of the sales happened on ES Readers night, which was Maggie's great idea. I look forward to working with my volunteers again in January - mark your calendars now: Thurs Jan 19 and Fri Jan 20. Thanks again to my awesome helpers: **Maggie Smith, Beth Schwartz, Renata Stankus - stayed to the bitter end on Friday night - thanks!, Lisa Cassioppi, Mary Sheehan, Juiliana Malik, Alexis (Steven) Egert - so nice that you sent your hubby, Mona Mekhail, Nicole Burr, Aparana Pai, Jenny Corcoran, Kim Gilman, and Julie Ryan.**

Chatting with the Chief - Jennifer Rohrbacher provided the following report: Congratulations go out to the 33 children from the Elementary & Middle school, who have shown the Eagle and Tiger way. These children have been nominated by their teachers to participate in the PTA's new program, Chatting with the Chief. On October 21st we had our first Chatting with the Chief at the Elementary school. It was a huge success. Willow Springs sent over Commander Peterson and he did a wonderful job with all 17 children. Burr Ridge sent over Officer Zuccherio and Cadet Micheal on October 28th. They both did a wonderful job with all 16 children. The children were able to ask any question they had about being a police officer. We had questions such as, "How many years have you been an officer?" "When did you know you wanted to be a police officer?" and of course the most famous one, "Have you ever shot someone or been shot before?" Each child received a gift certificate to Wendy's for a Jr Frosty and a small gift. The next Chatting with the Chief will be in November at the Elementary and in December for the Middle school.

Cultural Arts –

Elementary – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: Mr. Vandercar has met with teachers for their input on some ideas. We hope to have a program before winter break.

Middle – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: The 7th graders will attend a presentation of the Christmas Carol at the Metropolis in Aurora. We will cover half the cost of the ticket as we have in the past years.

Eighth Grade – Renata Stankus provided the following report:

Dinner Dance – Cheryl reported that we need student responses by November 4 for theme. Responses are slow coming in. Looking at venues (Village Club of Western Springs, LTHS Corral, and Maggiano's).

Fortnightly – Paula reported that there are conflicts with instructor and available dates. Paula is looking into other companies who not only do the dancing aspect, but etiquette as well. Contact McClure, St. John of the Cross to see who they use. Get quotes from other companies.

Class Shirts – Jill reported that 36 orders still out. Some have also ordered sweatshirts. Slogan "Can you hear it .. it's the class of 2012 spirit" (won by a few votes). Will try contacting those who still need to order. If I don't hear back, will order shirt and estimate size. All will get a shirt.

DVD – Class gift = free

Bulletin Board – Cheryl reported that the Halloween board is up. Eighth grade was given another board upstairs for sports, will be working on that. Collecting pictures is going well (have a good variety). Baby pictures are coming in.

Fundraising – Sandra unable to attend. Joanne reported that \$600 for Taffy Apples & Bake Sale has been collected. Majority didn't think we would get enough volunteers (including dads) to help with the 3 on 3. Voted to not do 3 on 3 as fundraiser. Joanne stated that no more fundraising was needed.

Student Services – Jill and Joanne will discuss with each other (Jill needs folder). 8th grade volunteers for Halloween Hop secured by Lisa. Will need volunteers for Winterfest, Sports Night, Shamrock Shuffle, and PTA meeting babysitters.

Class Gift – Beth reported that she will compose letter to get Mr. Busch to forward to students explaining what the class gift is, ideas of what gift can be, and request ideas from students. Once received she will do research on cost. Will also contact Meg Pokorny to get class gift ideas from her. Would like to meet students during lunch hour to explain how much money we have vs. how much money we need for the gift they would like to give. Will discuss then if we have enough or need to continue to fundraise. Would like students to take ownership of fundraising. Will create fundraising thermometer to measure/track money, progress, etc.

Class Outing – Carolyn unable to attend. Joanne reported that committee was moving forward with bowling as this year's outing.

Graduation – Joanne reported that the school has agreed to pay for the graduation reception (cake, etc.). Graduation committee will still be doing/sending the graduation invitations. Joanne will redistribute graduation reception money into the budget.

Photography – Cheryl and Lisa reported that it is going well. Have events covered.

Misc. – Joanne stated that the PTA made an error and put \$1,000 over in the 8th Grade Committee budget. Money will be held in reserve to give back to the PTA at the end of the year. 8th grade will not need to fundraise to give “gift” back to PTA but will rather hold that \$1,000 in reserve and return.

Dawn Parente, Treasurer, stated that there was not an error. \$1,000 was allocated to the 8th Grade Committee per the budget. Further discussion/clarification about this will occur after the meeting.

Joanne will add executive board member emails to pleasantdale2012@yahoo.com email address (currently only goes to Joanne)

Executive Board to cover PTA meetings: Nov 1 – Renata, Dec 6 – Renata, Jan 10 – Joanne, Feb 7 – Beth, March 6 – Lisa, April 3 – Beth, May 1 – Lisa, May 20 – Joanne.

Halloween Hop – Lisa Uckerman provided the following report: This was the best Halloween Hop ever. There were so many events: Color Me Mine, fortune tellers (Gina Nelson and Jolene Carlson), games, cake walk, pumpkin decorating, face painting, tattoos, popcorn, jumpy house (thanks to the Pleasantdale Park District), and Impact Dance Studio. We spent about \$850.00 **Also, a big thank you to Kelly Keeling for wonderful book fair. A big thank you to everyone who helped: Jennifer Hawbaker, Mr. Vandercar, Jackie Mesec, Deanne Sykora, Mary Sheehan, the Hawbaker kids, Kim Barker, Mr. & Mrs. Herman, Mona Mekhail, Karen Soto, Lynne Sorrentino, Gina Nelson, Jolene Carlson, Mr. & Mrs. Payne, Dania Mahoney, Kim Joseph, Mrs. Correa, Mrs. Vlahkais, Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Mikuta, 7th & 8th Graders, Mr. Ralph, PTA members, Jill Fuller – for getting the pumpkins, Mrs. Burke, Jackie Dunbar, the Bakers, and everyone else that helped with the Halloween Hop.**

Hospitality – no one to report

Labels/Box Tops/Print Cartridges/Dominicks – no one to report

Membership – Julia Doyle provided the following report: As of the end of October, total membership is 410 members. We have collected dues from 103 staff and 307 families. Registration is continuing to trickle in, and 307 represents approximately 66% of families. PTA registration cards for all families who have paid membership are in the process of being attached to the directories and will be distributed very soon. I am working on that with Erika.

Music Committee – no one to report

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – no one to report

ES Readers – Jenny Corcoran provided the following report: Approximately eighty children enjoyed attending the first ES Readers' Night held on October 20. Each group heard a Halloween story, followed by discussion questions and an activity based on the story. Then everyone had a great time decorating pumpkins with silly faces! The committee would like to thank the group facilitators for the evening: **Maureen Olsen, Dania Mahoney, Rosaria Becker, Jennifer Hawbaker, Jen Kotor, Rhonda Floros, Mark Mirabile, Matt Vandercar and Jenny Corcoran.** The next ES Readers' Night will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

MS Readers – no one to report

Room Representatives

Elementary – The Halloween parties went great.

Middle – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: On Halloween, we treated the students to glow headband/necklaces. We handed these out during lunch.

Special PTA Lunch - Mary Mahler provided the following report – The Special Lunch went well. The new method of turning in order forms a few weeks before the special lunch worked well.

Spirit Wear – no one to report

Staff Appreciation – no one to report

Technology – no one to report

Winter Festival and Craft Show – Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker provided the following report: The festival will take place on Sunday, December 4. This is our first craft fair/winter festival. This is open to the community. There are 50 vendors for the craft fair. There will be lots to do for the kids: cake walk, Santa (bring your camera), etc. We need volunteers to work the craft fair.

Wrapping Paper – Vice President , Ann Marie Daker, provided the following report: Sale began Friday Sept 9th and had extended run thru Oct. 21, 2011. IDEAL GOAL was \$15,000.00 we sold \$12,208.00. Last year we sold \$12,079.00. Committee feels very good about how sale went. Thanks to all who made a purchase. Nearly all the checks are in. Only 6 families left to pay. Email reminders went out 10/31/11. No concern that they will not arrive shortly. Treasurer, Dawn Parente, was given all checks and monies that have come in up to date. Invoice from Innisbrook should arrive in next month. Delivery is expected week of Nov. 14th. As soon as they give us date, I will schedule APR at Middle School for delivery/pick up day. PTA Board has offered to be on hand that afternoon to help with pick-ups! Thanks to **Jody Breen** for her help. Do we want to do Innisbrook next year or do something different? Comments were made about the pros and cons of Innisbrook. More discussion about this will occur.

Open Forum – Lisa Uckerman asked if the times of events could be put into the school calendar. Can we do that? **President, Jennifer Hennessy**, stated that we will look into that. Some events happen at the same time each year so some times can be added to events in the school calendar. **President, Jennifer Hennessy**, stated that during the distribution of Innisbrook the PTA closet will be cleaned out. We are in need of volunteers to help with this.

Announcements – The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Meeting Room.

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