

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2011

President, Jennifer Hennessy, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Vice President, Ann Marie Daker, started the meeting with an inspirational quote from Mother Theresa.

People are often unreasonable, illogical selfish. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies. Be successful anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building someone may destroy overnight. Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it just may never be enough. Give the world the best you have anyway.

You see in the final analysis, it's all between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Correspondence – Thank you notes were received from **Erin Oskroba, Courtney Camer, and The Sixth Grade Team** expressing their appreciation for this year's Welcome Back Luncheon. **The Middle School Exploratory Team and The Second Grade Team** expressed their appreciation for the Welcome Back Luncheon and the apple treats from the Staff Appreciation Committee. **Berny Lucas** expressed her thanks for the healthy apple treats.

Treasurer's Report – **Secretary, Dania Mahoney**, provided the following report: As of August 31, 2011 the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$13,625**. There was income of \$19.00 from Escripts rebate. There were expenses of \$3,095 mostly from the Welcome Back Luncheon.

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

Administration Reports –

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf, stated that there has been a smooth start to the year. He thanked the PTA Executive Board for their efforts. He mentioned the new Skyward Software that has been implemented. Parents received their passwords and information about training sessions. The Internet Safety – Cyber Bullying Parent Presentation was held tonight at the Middle School. On October 3, 2011, Jim Jordan will be here for Bullying Prevention Information Night. Dr. Fredisdorf is optimistic about this upcoming school year.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny began by thanking the PTA for the Welcome Back Luncheon and the apple treats provided by the Staff Appreciation Committee. On Friday, September 9 2011, Kids in Band will join the LT band. You can see the bands march at half time at LTHS. The Middle School will hold its Curriculum Night on September 14, 2011. Parents should be in their first class at 7:00pm. MS Readers sign up is on September 14, 2011. September 29, 2011 is picture day at the Middle School. There will be a "Bullying Prevention Information Night" with Jim Jordan on Monday, October 3, 2011, at the Middle School.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar, thanked the PTA for the Welcome Back Luncheon and apples treat. He thanked the PTA for their help in kicking off the new school year with President, Jennifer Hennessy, speaking on behalf of the PTA to the new families. Tomorrow night is Curriculum Night at the Elementary School. September 13, 2011 is Orton-Gillingham Phonics Parent Night at the Elementary School. September 28, 2011 is Picture Day. PTA volunteers that can lend a hand will be appreciated. Jim Jordan will be at the Elementary School on October 3, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. for a parent presentation.

Teacher Representative Reports

Elementary – Brent Eldridge reported for Elementary. His report was as follows:

Thanks for Welcome Back Luncheon

Kindergarten

We are off to a great start. There is quite a bit of assessing and getting to know our students going on for the first few weeks of school – but we make it fun.

1st grade

1st grade has begun the first topic in Math, numbers to 12, and are in full swing of nightly homework. In addition, they have started shared writing interviews. This activity gives students an opportunity to get to know each other and it models good writing behaviors that the children can use during independent writing.

2nd grade

Our new 2nd graders are a fine bunch. They came in eager to learn and loving school. We will try to keep that going all year.

3rd grade

In LA, 3rd grade is busy learning how to write a good paragraph. They will begin learning about the 7 continents and 5 oceans

4th grade

The oldest students in the building are being great role models already. They show the younger ones how to walk the halls, behave in the bathrooms, and play nicely at recess. We are proud of our 4th graders.

Music

- Kindergarten & 1st grade are learning folk songs
- 2nd & 3rd graders are learning how to count and play rhythms
- 4th graders are trying out instruments for band and orchestra
- All classes are learning “Oh What a Beautiful Morning” which will take the place of America (after saying the pledge in the morning) on select Fridays.

Art

- First Project of the year is always a self portrait. Every grade does a different version.
- KDG – Working on drawing self/family portraits with basic shapes and realistic colors.
- 1st – Template Self Portrait – We are using templates to make a proportional picture of ourselves in action.
- 2nd – Collage Self Portrait – lots and lots of glue. We are using all types of materials to build a portrait of ourselves.
- 3rd – Picasso Portrait – We are working in a cubist style.
- 4th – Modern Detailed Self Portrait- we are paying attention to the lines and shadows on our faces.

Connections

- Fourth grade LA Connections class has started with writing workshop.
- Third Grade LA Connections will start in October, after students have taken the ITBS tests.
- Second Grade enrichment math has begun with a review of addition and subtraction facts and a review of graphing.
- First grade students will be given a reading assessment this week to help identify the strong readers for a flexible group first quarter.

Spanish

- 1st graders are learning their Spanish names this week.
- 2nd graders are learning how to say the alphabet.
- 3rd graders are getting ready for a Spanish spelling bee.
- 4th graders are learning pronunciation rules for Spanish words.

Physical education

- Softball/kickball and fitness concepts have begun
 - Softball/kickball will be combination of throwing, catching and batting/kicking. Older classes will have a chance to combine these skills in to the game.
 - Fitness concepts will be combination of stations and cardio games designed to move students.
- Ms. Blogg's first graders in P.E. have been learning the 7 basic locomotor movements. Also they have been having so much fun with parachute activities. It has been a great start to the new year.

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

Grade 5 Spanish- we are addressing common commands that will be used throughout the year. Students will hear these phrases constantly in class. We will then be discussing countries and their location. Students will be learning the verb ser.

Grade 5 Language Arts – we are working on reading strategies to become more active readers. In Composition, we completed our “All About Me” introductory writing and are beginning to chart out others areas we would like to write about. We are learning about archaeologists and historians in Social Studies. We also reviewed map reading and continents.

5th grade wants to thank the PTA for their help on assembling a beautiful breakfast display “fit for a queen and king”. We also appreciate the help on organizing field trip parents & copy parents.

5th graders did a great job at the start of the year with their lockers and locks. We attribute a lot of this organization to our 5th grade orientation held in the summer. The students were able to organize their supplies and get to know their locker combo.

In science, students will be starting a rock project. They should begin collecting specimens and be ready to bring them to class by next week.

Grade 6

The year has started out smoothly and the students seem to be taking their classes seriously and trying their best. We are also seeing good citizenship taking place in the hallways as well as in the classroom. Finally, we are excited to meet all of the parents on curriculum night Wednesday, September 14th.

Grade 7

We have had a great start to the year. The students are “Stepping up to the challenge” of seventh grade. They are working hard and getting set in their routines. We can't wait to meet all of the parents on Curriculum night to share what we will be doing all year.

Grade 8 Spanish- Students are reviewing the material from last year for the beginning of the school year. There will be mini quizzes most days at the beginning of the year.

Accel LA: We are working on drawing inferences and recognizing theme in reading/in Accel Comp. we are working on using relevant descriptive details/sequences in narrative writing.

In on-level reading we are working on applying reading strategies to construct meaning in fiction and non-fiction texts. In on-level composition we are writing narratives to master voice and conventions.

Exploratory Classes

Art In Art Mrs. Washburn is excited to be meeting the new 5th grade artists. They are creating T-Shirts symbolizing their name and interests using a wide variety of materials.

7th and 8th graders have been warming up with some drawing and now are moving into painting and color blending.

Music

PE From Mrs. DiFebo and Mr. Dreher: We welcome Mr. Jesevitz as our new part-time PE teacher at the Middle School. Mr. J. has been a long time favorite sub in our district. We are so happy that he's part of our PE team. We're starting right off with getting into shape and learning about the concepts of fitness. We are working on our running technique and a variety of other fitness strategies kids can do at home. Softball is our first sports skill unit. We alternate between softball and fitness activities for the first half of the trimester. Students will be given written as well as skill assessments for each unit.

Mod Tech

Health

6th grade: The 6th grade is off to a great start and just finished their health triangles identifying the 3 parts of health – physical, mental and social. They are working hard and excited to move into the body systems unit soon.

7th grade: The 7th grade just finished their character collages, a project creating a poster representing who they are and where they come from. Their work ethic continues to impress me.

8th grade: The 8th grade is working hard and currently creating stress manuals – a booklet describing ways to manage stress. In addition, they are all looking forward to their CPR certification later this trimester.

Library

Off to a great start. I would like to encourage parents to look under beds and sofas for summer library books. We are kicking off the Middle School Readers Book Club this week. All student book groups and titles are to be submitted by Wednesday, Sept. 14th. The actual club dates are Oct. 7th for 6, 7, and 8th graders and October 14th for 5th graders. The club has been very successful in the past with over 50% participation of the student body. We are looking for that same enrollment this year!

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

New Business –

President, Jennifer Hennessy, stated that we have new business. **Dr. Mark Fredisdorf** will swear in **Dawn Parente** as our new Treasurer. This was completed and **Dawn Parente** was sworn in as Treasurer.

Budget – Treasurer, Dawn Parente, provided the following report: At the general meeting tomorrow, our 2011/2012 PTA budget will be presented and subject to approval by the general membership. Our budget as it stands indicates a deficit of about \$10,000. In order to offset this number, we encourage everyone to join the PTA and attend our fundraising events. Our most important fundraiser is the Adult Social which is going to be on Friday, March 2, 2012. We strongly encourage all to attend and support our PTA.

Membership – Julia Doyle provided the following report on Membership: Currently, 256 families have paid for membership and classroom fees. All staff of the district has paid for membership fees with the exception of 13. Some are on maternity leave and some may not have attended the lunch on the first day of school. The list has been sent to Erika who can provide a tickler in their mailboxes. I will continue to collect in the coming weeks and will be at a table tomorrow evening at the Elementary School Curriculum night with registration sheets for those families who have not paid yet. There will also be registration at the free roller skating event this Friday, Sept. 9th. I will submit later in September to the Illinois PTA the families who have joined to date and continue to do so in October and probably November. I would expect to be writing out registration cards for all families who have registered thus far before the end of the month and working with whomever to attach to the Directories. Julia also stated that we received order forms for Spirit Wear. We are still collecting forms. The forms are due on September 9, 2011.

Committee Reports –

Eighth Grade – Joanne Mennemeier reported that they are off to a good start. All committees are set. They will have a Bake Sale on Curriculum Night. Eighth Graders will work at the booth. Their fundraising efforts go towards the class gift and back to the PTA. Joanne thanked the PTA for their support.

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff - Allison Striegel and Mary Rockrohr were unable to attend the meeting, but they provided the following report: The first prompt of the year will go out this Friday and will be due 2 weeks later. This prompt will be a traditional one and we will confer with Mr. Brade, our teacher liaison, as to our overall approach for the year in respect to theme and incentives. We will continue with a simplified incentive approach as we did last year, but will obviously need to revise our "all-school" snack incentives.

ES Readers – Jenny Corcoran was unable to attend the meeting, but she provided the following report: The ES Reading Committee is going to begin meeting in mid-September. The date of the first ES Readers' Night is Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. There will be more to report on the night's theme, etc. at the October PTA Board Meeting.

Room Representatives –

Elementary – Beth Schwartz stated that room rep selections will be made soon. Letters will be sent out. She will meet with the room reps in the next 2 weeks

Middle – no one to report.

School Spirit Wear – no one to report

School Supplies – no one to report

Special PTA Lunch – Mary Mahler was unable to attend, but provided the following report: Information about the first special lunch is posted on the school website. Information about the lunch will also be in the Friday packet. The first special lunch is Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

Staff Appreciation – Kim Gilman provided the following report: This year the Staff Appreciation committee has chosen their theme as "children's stories." The staff went back in time on August 30th with the following proclamation: "Once upon a time there was a school named Pleasantdale. This school was very special to the village. So special the kingdom declared the year to come as: 'Fairy Tales & Nursery Rhymes' to honor their educators. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was the fairy tale chosen to welcome the teachers and staff back to school. They were treated with fresh apples and caramel dip. Thank you to **Vicki Castro, Dania Mahoney and Laura Schetter** for decorating and setting up for this event. The next event will be during school conferences on November 21 and 22.

Welcome Back Event – President, Jennifer Hennessy, provided the following report: We are looking forward to our Welcome Back Event on Friday, September 9, 2011 at the Fleetwood Roller Rink from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Back Luncheon – Lisa Uckerman provided the following report: Welcome back lunch went off with a boom. I decorated in a pirate theme. I wanted to personally thank **Kathy Thalji** for her beautiful cake. I also wanted to thank Mr. **Ralph & Karen DeRose** for all their help cleaning up.

Wrapping Paper – Vice President, Ann Marie Daker, provided the following report: The sale begins this Friday Sept 9th and runs thru Oct. 6, 2011. The GOAL is \$15,000.00. Catalogues go out this Friday to coincide with Friday packet. The elementary school will host Barb Eggert, our Innisbrook rep, at our Innisbrook display in the school entrance during Curriculum Night. She will also speak at the PTA general meeting. I think her 5 minutes really helped boost sales last year. There is a fun luau themed display in Elementary school entrance featuring prizes children can win, in addition to the incentives Innisbrook already offers. If a child sells 5 items they get a smencil, if child sells 15 items they get a hippo backpack keychain – if they sell just ONE item, they are entered in drawing to win HANK THE HIPPO, an adorable large stuffed animal. At the Welcome Back event on Friday Sept 9th, children will have a chance to test their guessing skills. I will display an entire roll of wrapping paper and the children who guess how many frogs are on it will win a splat toy. Teachers and staff will be offered a buy one get one roll free of wrapping paper again this year. I have contacted Middle school in hopes that I can work with Student council to promote sales at Middle School thru posters, raffle and guessing game. The idea is to get the word out. If anyone has any input on how that can be done I would love to hear your ideas. If we do as well as last year and if we can get EVERY family in school to buy just ONE roll of wrapping paper (600 families) will can raise an extra \$3,000.00 and meet our goal of \$15,000.00.

Open Forum – Julia Doyle stated that has been getting many questions about signing up for Special Lunch. She suggested also having the forms available at the schools. Sherry Kulhanek stated that in previous years we received the order forms in May or June. Julie Doyle suggested possibly sending the forms out through the teachers. They could go in students' take home folders. Lisa Uckerman stated that she felt it is better to send out the forms separately so there is no confusion.

Announcements – The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.