

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

President, Jennifer Hennessy, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Vice President, Ann Marie Daker, opened the meeting with a cute story about the night before Christmas.

Correspondence – A Thank You note was received from the **6th Grade Team** stating, “Dear PTA – Thank you so much for the delicious pumpkin snacks during conferences. It was a real treat. ”

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer, Dawn Parente, provided the following report: As of November 30, 2011 the Pleasantdale PTA’s cash balance was **\$28,888**. There was income of \$13,471 mostly from the Innisbrook sales. There were expenses of \$9,764. mostly from Innisbrook and Winter Fest. **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, congratulated the PTA on WinterFest. It was great. Everyone had a really good time. It was very well done. We have collected and analyzed the survey data from the report card survey. Overall, the results were favorable. We did learn some things and get good feedback. Thank you to all the parents and staff who worked on the survey. All are encouraged to attend the programs going on for band and chorus.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar, thanked everyone for the treats provided during conferences. The teachers enjoyed them. Next Tuesday, the first and second graders have their Winter Concert. All are invited to attend. The Eagle Tickets are going well. This is an incentive to reward good behavior. This year there is a tree in the hallway. Children earn tickets and get an eaglet that they post on the tree. There are different colors for different months. Classes can also earn tickets.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny, thanked everyone for the treats during conferences. LT came to school to get students involved in band/orchestra. Students could see the LT band and drum line. We want to encourage kids to stay in band/orchestra at LT. The Middle School Winter orchestra and band concerts are December 7th and 8th. On Dec. 19th, the 7th grade will attend a production of “A Christmas Carol” at the Metropolis. On the 22nd, the 7th and 8th graders will have their all day Service Projects.

Teacher Representative Reports

Elementary – Connor Durkin reported for Elementary. His report was as follows:

Preschool:

Preschool is reading the book The Gingerbread Man and the students are participating in a variety of learning centers and activities that revolve around the story.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten is learning about various winter holidays and traditions from around the world. We will end the month with selections of literature written by Jan Brett.

1st:

First Grade is just wrapping up their big Science Unit on Animals, their habitats and animal groups. The students all participated in their first research project about an animal of their choice and they all typed their reports when finished. To end this exciting unit, the Shedd Aquarium will be visiting with the first grade on December 8th and together we will be building a thriving ocean habitat with many animals.

2nd:

2nd grade- Going to the Field Museum to see the Native American and dinosaur exhibit, studying germs and staying healthy, reading a book about grandparents, and have our Polar Express day at the end of the month.

3rd:

The third grade is learning about the great state of Illinois. The classes will be taking a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry on December 16 to check out the farming that takes place in Illinois and visit the Idea Factory (simple machines 1st quarter).

4th:

Fourth grade would like to thank everyone for the wonderful turnout for conferences. The collaboration between parents, teacher and students lead to wonderful and insightful discussions. Is that light I see? Yes, we are working on understanding light and how it is reflected, absorbed and how we see the colors that we see. Why is that leaf green? Why is that apple red? Ask the kids...they now know! We are sure that the parents of fourth grade are loving all of the songs that their kids are singing to remember the states of each region. We only have one region left! Keep practicing the songs for the 50 state test that will be coming. The fourth grade team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season as well

Middle – Kathi Rozum reported for Middle. Her report was as follows:

Grade 5: Math- We have just completed the first unit test of the 2nd trimester. The topics included on this assessment were: Comparing and ordering whole numbers, decimal place value, comparing and ordering decimals, rounding whole numbers and decimals, estimating sums and differences, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, using mental math to multiply, estimating quotients, multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, or 1,000, multiplying and dividing a decimal by a whole number and estimating the product of a decimal number and a whole number. Above level is finishing up the fraction unit. They will re-visit fractions in the algebra and geometry units later in the school year.

Science: We have just completed our unit on Interactions in Ecosystems. The students learned what land biomes are like and how organisms interact in an ecosystem. We will complete how energy and materials move through an ecosystem before break.

Social Studies- We have finished our unit on Ancient Mesopotamia which included the study of the geography of the Fertile Crescent and Hammurabi's Law Code, the development of the first civilization in Sumer and how it connects to today. This week we have moved on to Ancient India.

Literature and Composition: Mrs. Specht's classes have just finished literature circles and expository essays. Now, Ms. Wallner is in for the Connections unit. They are focusing on the concept of change, and practicing this through short stories and poems.

Ms. Triggs' class is finishing up their reading novel groups and will be completing the Novel Comprehension packets this week. We are beginning expository essays this week.

Grade 6

In math, the students just completed a graphing unit in which they were asked to graph their math grades. From these graphs they were asked to analyze their progress in math thus far. They looked for areas of strength and decided why these were so strong. The students also looked for areas that needed improvement and set goals for the 2nd trimester. The students shared this information with parents either at parent teacher conferences or at home. Mrs. Riordan was very proud of the effort put forth on this activity and felt that the kids learned a bunch not only about graphing, but about themselves as math students.

Grade 7

In 7th Grade Spanish the students recently finished their Day of the Dead projects, and they were great. The project required the students to create a small altar or shrine for a famous person who passed away. They used new adjectives to describe the person, and discussed things the person likes in Spanish, which are new skills tied to the curriculum. The projects were a hit!

Grade 8

ALA: We have just finished Connections, studying *To Kill a Mockingbird* in both composition and literature. We will be doing research on the Civil Rights Movement.

Grade-level Comp. and Lit.: We have just finished *The Outsiders* in literature and will be exploring non-fiction texts. In composition, we are studying how to use introductory clauses and phrases, as well as semicolons in our writing.

Exploratory Classes

Art Not only was Santa's workshop at Pleasantdale on Sunday but it is going on in the month of December in the art room. The kiln is firing night and day with the 5th grade creating clay bears and the 7th and 8th grade making creative bowls, dishes and mugs creating a personal holiday memory for their families.

PE - We're in the middle of one of our favorite units: Tumbling and Gymnastics. Students have a lot of fun working independently and with partners and small groups learning and practicing skill that require balance, strength, agility and coordination. But it's all in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. So everyone can work at their own pace. We are also doing some basketball which will continue into early January. Mrs. DiFebo would like say thank you to our copy machine volunteers. You are a great help when those study guides and tests come around.

Mod Tech- The 5th graders are working on using their correct fingering while becoming more familiar with where everything is located on the keyboard. They also just completed their first word project, applying the skills we have been working on. The 6th graders have been working on presentation skills by creating and presenting a *PowerPoint* project. The 8th graders are off to a good start and are just finishing up on their first module. They like exploring different areas and doing the related hands-on activities.

Health **6th Health**

The 6th graders are off to a great start to the 2nd trimester. We are currently moving into Social/Family Health, where they will be role-playing different Refusal Skill Techniques. The upcoming project for 6th grade will be their body system posters. Each student will have their body traced out and will then label the corresponding body parts. The 6th grade is doing a great job so far!

7th Health

The 7th graders are working very hard to start off the 2nd trimester. They are currently making posters on using Resistance Skills. There listing the Top 10 Ways to say No to Negative Peer Pressure.

8th Health

The 8th grade students recently created a stress manual discussing many different stress management techniques and identifying different stressors in their life. They are doing a great job this year and are all working extremely hard. The 8th grade is moving along into Nutrition. They will soon be watching part of the documentary Super Size Me. In addition, will begin a Nutrition Analysis - a study of their eating habits

Library

Just a quick note to thank you to the PTA for hosting the Book Fair. I really feel that the choice to hold the book fair over conferences allowed parents the opportunity to come and browse the books. This year we also did a Teacher Wish List and some parents took advantage of the opportunity to purchase books for classrooms. All in all, I feel that it was a success.

Another Thank You goes out to the PTA for giving some students a \$5 coupon toward the purchase of a book. You see in the past the PTA has been able to offer some "perk" for coming to the book club in the form of food. But with the new guidelines, food was not an option. The PTA set aside dollars toward a raffle of students who participated. I believe 18 students took advantage of this special raffle purchasing books at the fair. Thanks again.

Now on to the future. . . . The Middle School Readers book club is starting up. Mrs. Stelter has visited all the classes and announcements are made each day reminding students to get their groups together and choose books. We already have a nice turn out of 5th graders already to go. The books will be purchased, cataloged, and distributed before students leave for winter break. The actual book club for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will be held Friday Jan. 13th and 5th graders will be meeting Jan. 20th. So talk it up at home to make sure that your son or daughter does not miss out on this great activity.

Unfinished Business – Nominating Committee: We are starting to plan early in hopes of getting the word out that the search for a new Vice President for 2012-2013 must begin. But before that, we need to form a nominating committee. According to our bylaws, the election of the nominating committee must take place at the General Meeting held in January. At that time, 3 members from the Executive Board plus 1 alternate and 2 members from the General Membership plus 1 alternate will be elected. A chairman must be selected before the end of that meeting. At the February Board Meeting, the progress of the Nominating Committee must be reported. By the middle of February, the slate must be complete, a report prepared and copies distributed in the Friday packet and posted at both schools.

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

Committee Reports –

Book Fair – Middle – This information was included in the Middle School report - Just a quick note to thank you to the PTA for hosting the Book Fair. I really feel that the choice to hold the book fair over conferences allowed

parents the opportunity to come and browse the books. This year we also did a Teacher Wish List and some parents took advantage of the opportunity to purchase books for classrooms. All in all, I feel that it was a success.

Cultural Arts –

Elementary – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: We have 2 presentations this month. On Dec. 15, we will have a reptile show in the afternoon with a variety of different species. Then, on Dec. 20th, the harpists will be back again. This time they will play holiday music for the entire school.

Middle – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: On Dec. 19th, the 7th grade will attend a production of “A Christmas Carol” at the Metropolis. Cultural arts has covered ½ the ticket cost.

Eighth Grade – Beth Tegtmeier provided the following report: The 8th grade committee is restructuring a bit. An email blast was sent inviting all 8th grade parents to a meeting to explain the committee. It was a good meeting. Questions were asked and answered. We are a little behind on Fort Nightly. Thank You to **Paula Ogurkiewicz** for getting this event together. The invitations were sent out and we are back on track. Dinner/Dance – the location and theme are to be determined. Things are going good.

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

Membership – Julia Doyle provided the following report: As of December 1st, we have 103 staff and 311 families who have paid membership dues. Based on 476 (approx) families, that is about 65% of families who have paid. Membership cards were filled out and attached to the Pleasantdale directories and distributed in November. For any late registrations, membership cards will be sent home with the child at school to the family through the office.

Music Committee – no one to report

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – Allison Streigel provided the following report: The 3rd WriteStuff prompt garnered identical participation as 2nd (68%) vs. 1st prompt at 75%. The due date needs to be modified for next year to be further from Thanksgiving break. Many stragglers turned in late and others probably skipped it due to the date. Well over 200 students are on their way to completing all 5 prompts and earning a Meatheads certificate. The next prompt will go out on January 13th.

ES Readers – Jenny Corcoran provided the following report: The date for the next ES Readers' Night has been changed from Thursday, February 16, 2012 to Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30. We have contacted a popular author to speak to the children about her books and the writing process. We are waiting to hear if our extra funding will be approved. If we are unable to have the author come to the Feb. ES Readers' Night, we will probably read sports themed books and have our usual discussion and activities for the Night. We hope to send out more information to the students before the holiday break.

Room Representatives

Elementary – no one to report

Middle – Paula Ogurkiewicz provided the following report: We will treat the students with a small snowman themed gift.

Santa's Luncheon – Lisa Uckerman provided the following report: Santa's Luncheon went well. We served hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, candy, pop, hot chocolate & Dino's pizza which was a new addition to the luncheon this year. We did well. I would like to thank the following people who I could NOT have done this without: **The 8th graders, Jennifer Hawbaker for helping me shop for the food at Sam's club, Tammy White, Karen O'halloran, Sherry Kulhanek, Kim Payne for helping me set up, and Haley & Jenna Uckerman. A special Thanks to George Daker for saving the day by helping me with my power problems in the kitchen. Thanks again to everyone from the bottom of my heart!**

Staff Appreciation – Kim Gilman provided the following report: The Staff Appreciation Committee showed the Pleasantdale teachers and staff our continued appreciation by providing special treats during the November parent-teacher conferences. This year's theme of "Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes" continued with Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater. The treats all had the common element of PUMPKIN in them: pumpkin cookies, pumpkin bars, trail mix (with pumpkin seeds) and water. A thank you to **Jennifer Hennessy** for leading & coordinating the event as well as **Laura Schetter** for daily cleaning up. In addition thank you to **Sherry Kulhanek, Dania Mahoney, Melissa Mendez, Bea Mologousis, Kim Praser, Tammy White and Kim Gilman** for their food donations.

The ever famous Sweets Table is will be held on Wednesday, December 21st. The popular Hansel and Gretel fairy tale will be featured. The staff looks forward to this time of the year with all the delicious sweets our Pleasantdale families donate. Mark your calendar to show your appreciation with a sweet treat. Families can drop off their goodies on Tuesday, December 20th from 3 pm to 3:45 pm or 8:00 – 9:30 am on Wednesday, December 21st at either school. *Please include a family picture/Christmas card along with your sweet. The staff loves to see pictures of their students or former students.*

Santa's Workshop, Winter Wonderfest and Craft Show – Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker provided the following report: The day went well. A big thank you to the following people: **Kristin Violante for the entertainment for the kids, Rhonda Flores for Santa's Secret Shop, Lisa Uckerman for all her help with the luncheon, Ann Marie Daker for her signs and decorations, Kathy Hadraba for coordinating the craft show, the many 7th and 8th graders, and a big thank you to all volunteers. Also, a big thank you to our Special Guest Santas – Mr. Jim and Mr. Krzeminski.**

Wrapping Paper – Vice President, Ann Marie Daker, provided the following report: The sale is over, all product has been distributed. The treasurer was given the invoice to pay and all money has been collected. Final sales were \$12,208.00. **A great big thank you to all who purchased and to Jennifer Hawbaker and Jody Breen for their help.**

Open Forum – nothing to report.

Announcements – The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Meeting Room.

The next schedule General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 immediately following the Board Meeting.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.