

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2010

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

Notes thanking the PTA for the Social/Auction held last month were received by **Berny Lucas** and **Barb and Patrick Lamb**. **Sara Reed** sent a note of thanks for the use of the bins to collect many items for the Haitian community. **Diane Dickman** thanked the PTA for the opportunity to participate in the book donation. **Jana Stelter** thanked the PTA for providing the meal for MS Readers. **Erin Oskroba** and **John Reid** sent a note of thanks for the refreshments made available during Family Science Night. Many letters and notes thanking the PTA for the Valentine's Day treats were received by **the 5th Grade Team, the 6th Grade Team, Lucy Arroyo** and **Judy Sarwark, Linda Sheridan, the Front Office Staff at Elementary** and the **Middle School Staff**.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following treasurer's report: As of Feb 28, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance (unreconciled) was **\$32,086**. This includes income of **\$13,300** mostly from the Social Function. Expenses of **\$15,000** were mostly for the Social Function, Book Fair and Special Lunch.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA were approved.

Administration Reports:

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf mentioned that he was not only pleased with the financial success of the PTA Social/Auction last month, but was also pleased with how well organized and fun the event was. He offered his compliments to the **PTA Board** and in particular, to **Vice President, Kelly Hahn**. He also offered compliments to **Meg Pokorny** and **Matt Vandercar** as Pleasantdale has recently received a number of awards, including the Illinois Honor Roll Award and an award from the School Search Organization, placing Pleasantdale in the top 5% of Illinois schools.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny mentioned that report cards will go out tomorrow. ISAT testing is currently in progress and will go through next week. March 12th is the deadline for submitting Paw Prints and on March 17th, this year's winner of the Scoty Award for good citizenship will be announced and a ceremony will follow later in the year.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar also mentioned that ISAT testing is in progress, making reference to the tradition of "celebrating" the kick off of testing with music and dancing, which is much appreciated by the third and fourth grade students! He also mentioned that NBC's Ginger Zee visited the second graders today. On March 17th, Elementary will announce six nominees and winner of this year's Scoty Award. On March 19th, Star Lab, sponsored by the PTA, will come to the school.

Jill Jensen provided the following report as **Teacher Representative for the Elementary School**:

Preschool Classes are getting ready for St. Patrick's Day. We have a home/school activity making Leprechaun Traps! **Kindergarten** just finished a unit of the ocean and began an insect unit. **Grades 1-3** voted on the Monarch Award 2010. The winner was *Scaredy Squirrel* by Melanie Watt. It won in a landslide. *Once I Ate a Pie* by Patricia MacLachan came in second followed by Nic Bishop's *Spiders*. We are waiting to hear the winner of the statewide election. **First Grade** began their unit on counting money. A lot of reinforcement at home always helps with this sometimes difficult unit. They also began a science unit called "Looking At the Sky". They will focus on the sun, moon and stars and discuss each planet. This unit will culminate with a visit to Triton College's Cernan Space Center on April 8th. **Second Grade** is working on their America unit for social studies and Ginger Zee from NBC visited. **Third grade** is doing a great job on ISAT testing. They have been working hard and are looking forward to their animal projects. **Fourth Grade** will be presenting their project boards in science and covering a unit on electricity and plant life. They will complete their final region of the US in social studies and will begin research for a state of their choice in the fourth quarter. In reading, they

are finishing *Riding Freedom* and will begin *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. Writing in different genres is still the focus in each classroom and vocabulary, DOL and weekly spelling is being done in each room as well.

Diane Washburn provided the following report as **Teacher Representative for the Middle School**:

5th Graders are finishing a unit on ancient China. **6th Graders** are wrapping up a debate unit and they did a fantastic job researching and defending their positions. Next up is composition in poetry! **7th graders** are participating in literature circles where they get to read a book with a friend and discuss. We have also finalized plans for our advisory community service projects. **Grade 8** (Accel LA) In Lit class, we are finishing *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In Composition, we are doing research on a topic of choice surrounding the Holocaust or WW 2 and then writing news articles. In on-level Lit, we are finishing the *Diary of Anne Frank Play*. In Social Studies, we are doing an in-depth study of the Holocaust and doing a research presentation on different Holocaust topics.

Exploratories - Second trimester just ended and we finished up some great ceramic projects. **5th grade** made some charming clay bears. They were playing basketball, swimming, playing hockey & much more. **7th & 8th grade** created Surrealistic Ceramic masks based on Dali & Magritte. Stop by the art room to see some of them. In Health, this is the beginning of a new trimester and students are reviewing information from last year. **6th grade** is learning about making good decisions. **7th grade** is practicing being assertive and role-playing ways to say no to negative peer pressure. **8th grade** students are using a software program called Inspiration to show the steps of making good decisions.

Unfinished Business -

Nominating Committee – Treasurer and Committee Chair, Alli Gulliver provided the following report:

The **Nominating Committee** submits the following nominations for officers of the Pleasantdale PTA for the 2010/2011 year: For President, **Kelly Hansen**, for Vice President, **Christine Franco**, for Vice President, **Jennifer Hawbaker**, for Secretary, **Kathy Shah**, for Treasurer, **Alli Gulliver**.

President, Kelly Hansen announced that officer elections will take place immediately following this meeting.

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

Committee Reports:

Eighth Grade - Vice President, Christine Franco reported for **Eighth Grade**. Her report was as follows: The bowling outing was quite successful with 85% in attendance. Fortnightly only has two sessions left. Baby pictures were due at the beginning of this month and they are working with the school on technology issues in order to purchase the class gift.

Hospitality – no one to report

Legislation – Rajer Shah was unable to attend, but submitted the following report read at the meeting:

As many of you know, our state is in a budget crisis with deficits that cannot be sustained. Fiscal (school) year 2011 promises to bring more financial challenges to school districts across Illinois. The Illinois PTA continues to support legislative action designed to provide long-term funding for schools an educational needs. The PTA believes that House Bill 174 (as amended by the Senate) will move Illinois in that direction. House Bill 174 would increase state income taxes, provide potentially some tax relief for lower income earners, and provide minimal property tax relief. Unfortunately, I have no specific action items that I would suggest. I would, however, strongly encourage you to contact your congressional legislators (federal and state) and ask them to get their/our fiscal house in order. Sometimes just knowing that we are paying attention and care (particularly in an election year) has impact. Fortunately, District 107 is

not affected as much as most thanks to our strong community support vs. state and federal funding. I will send a letter on March 15th to all state and federal legislators that represent our district on behalf of our PTA and express our concern and interest.

Reading and Literature – Julia Doyle reported for **Reading and Literature**. Her report was as follows: Six Flags tickets will be distributed in May to those students who have earned them. A total of 226 participated, making that our highest amount to participate to date. There is one Write Stuff Prompt remaining this year and that program has experienced a high percentage of participation as well. The MS Readers Lunch went well with a special thank you going out to **Alli Gulliver, Rosaria Becker, Leticia Rivera** and **Nancy Bugaieski** for their help. Read Across America books will be distributed on March 15th and this book will double for the next/last Readers book. Our author/illustrator presentation will occur on March 17th and over 40 books have been pre-sold. Paw Prints entries have come in slowly and it is expected that more will come in shortly.

Room Reps/Middle and Elementary – Lisa Uckerman later reported via e mail (not read at meeting): The Valentine's Day parties went well. Many students decorated bags and refreshments and treats were served, including heart-shaped pizzas in some classes.

Shamrock Shake/Elementary – no one to report

Special PTA Lunch – Sherri Kulhanek reported. On February 24th, the PTA served students chicken strips from Kombs along with chips and ice cream. The next PTA Special Lunch will be on April 28th and McDonald's burgers will be served. Only four loans are outstanding for special lunch.

Open Forum

Christine Franco reported for **Performing Arts**. She mentioned that she is in discussion with **Mr. Neumann** and **Mr. Tatina** for recommendations on how the PTA can help in terms of supplementing their needs for the spring musical.

Announcements – President, Kelly Hansen announced the next General Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be immediately following this meeting. The next Board Meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on **April 6th at 7 p.m. at the Admin. Building.**

President, Kelly Hansen adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.