

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2010

President, **Kelly Hansen** called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Many thank you notes were received for the books provided to students through the Reading and Literature Committee, in particular, wonderful hand-made cards from the **Kindergarten, Mrs. Berwick's class** and from each student in **Mrs. Vidakovich's** class.

Treasurer, **Alli Gulliver** provided the following report: As of March 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance (unreconciled) was **\$34,969**. This includes income of **\$2,379** mostly from the Shamrock Shake. Expenses of **\$2,227** were mostly for the Shamrock Shake, Performing Arts and Reading & Literature.

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

Administration Reports –

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Fredisdorf commented on today's incident concerning the fugitives who abandoned a vehicle in Western Springs. He mentioned the police notified the school and the school implemented a "soft" lock down. There was no immediate danger and it is believed the fugitives have left the area. However, Dr. Fredisdorf indicated he will remain in touch with the police. He also mentioned that our district will take part in and present at the National School Board Conference as Pleasantdale has experienced outstanding gains. Also, as the topic has been in the news much lately, he also wished to mention that our district is in good fiscal shape, with much credit going to our school board. More details will be made available to parents on this subject shortly.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar wished to thank the PTA for Read Across America Week events. He felt the authors that visited had a great message for the students. He also wished to thank the PTA for the Shamrock Shake which was well-attended. Elementary will host "Experience Elementary" tomorrow evening from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and the Spelling Bees will be held on April 29th and 30th.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny wanted to mention her gratitude for the parents who have assisted with copying this year. She also mentioned that progress reports will go out on April 12th along with recommendation letters for the summer school program. On April 16th and 17th, students will perform Beauty and the Beast and on April 22nd, the middle school will host an open house, "All About Us", with a fourth-grade parent meeting preceding the event.

Teacher Representative Reports

Erin Oskroba reported for **Elementary School**–

Kindergarten students are talking about the farm! Each classroom has the opportunity to incubate 12 eggs that come from Farmer Carol's farm, in Winfield. The students are participating in turning the eggs, candling the eggs, and making many observations. Hopefully, by day 21 (April 20) there will be some chicks hatching. We are also preparing for Preschool visitation next week. The Pleasantdale Butterfly Garden is bursting with excitement. Observation opportunities change daily.

The **First Graders** have begun their first chapter book for whole group guided reading. It's titled The Warrior Maiden. It's a Native American legend. On Thursday, April 8th, we are going to the Cernan Space Center at Triton College. The first graders have begun a new unit in Science all about Earth's Resources. This unit will tie in nicely with Earth Day coming up in April.

Second Grade - We are working on our weather unit, which will then lead us into our plant unit. We are going to Lincoln Park Zoo on April 27, and it will include a visit to the conservatory to go along with our plant unit. In math, we are working on geometry.

The **Third graders** have started reading Sarah, Plain and Tall in Language Arts. They have also started a new unit in Science on the solar system and are looking forward to working on a planet project in the next few weeks. We are excited for all family members to come to Experience Elementary tomorrow night to see all the wonderful things we've been working on.

Recycling Club: We entered in the Paper Retriever paper drive for the month of April. We will earn double profits if we double our contribution to the Paper Retriever. Please drop off all your paper: newspaper, magazines, shopping catalogs, office and school papers, and mail. The retriever is located in the back of the school. You can bring your paper at any time of the day.

We are also planning activities for Earth Day. April 22nd is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Jason Munchoff reported for **Middle School:**

Grade 5 - Students in science are finishing up their chemistry unit and getting ready for the All about Us night when they will highlight some of their favorite experiments. There will be over 30 students doing the Mentos and Diet Coke experiment at the end of the evening on April 22. We will also be doing an Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader activity where students will formulate questions about what they have learned and go against their parents in a quiz show format that evening. Students are going to the Planetarium to take a course on the planets and watch a Night Sky presentation in May.

Grade 6 - The composition students completed their personal poetry books and they will be showcased at the All about Us Night through video presentation and display.

Grade 7 - 7th composition classes will be writing persuasive essays on a topic of their choice. Be on the lookout for 7th graders acting like Skinner or Pavlov because science classes are working on their animal behavior experiment in which they attempt to change an animal's behavior. You may be in someone's experiment right now and not realize it.

Grade 8

Grade-Level LA: Non-fiction Unit: Students are reading biographies/autobiographies of people who have "made a difference."

Connections Grade 8 : We are studying of Ray Bradbury as an author. Students are reading both Fahrenheit 451 and Dandelion Wine to identify some of Bradbury's techniques as an author. Composition relates to these writing techniques, as well.

Exploratories

Health -The first full week of April, all grade levels will be taking their first unit test in health on April 8, 2010. Students were given a review worksheet in all classes on April 1st so that they would have plenty of time to begin reviewing for their test.

In **6th grade**, students will begin talking about body systems and human growth and development. They will have a project in which they will trace their own bodies, draw and label the main parts, and then give a presentation to their classmates on this system and the importance of what it does for a person.

In **7th grade**, students will begin the chapter on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs after their first unit test. They will test their present knowledge, learn about current drug fads and then discover what gives them a "natural high" instead of the temptation to use drugs.

In **8th grade**, students will begin First Aid and CPR. They will learn various steps to provide first aid in common injuries and illnesses, as well as CPR and the use of an AED (automatic external defibrillator.) After passing a practical and written test in CPR, students will receive a card which says they are certified to perform CPR in emergency situations.

Library—The month of April will be a busy one. We have been putting together the Middle School Readers book Club. Signups were due today to Mrs. Stelter. So far, we have 168 participants up from the last book club by 10. Mrs. Stelter has purchased books from the Rebecca Caudill 2011 list for 5th and 6th grade students and from the Abraham High School Book Award list for the 7th and 8th graders. Please see the newsletter for titles. Mrs. Stelter has been testing the 6th and the 8th grade students for library state standards and teaching lessons to help with mastery of those skills. Also, there will be an Anderson's book fair the week of April 20th. Thanks to the PTA for all their support over this past year. We could not offer the quality programs we do without your backing.

Paw Prints update: Students are busy reading submissions and the final tallies are coming soon! We will be informing the students whose entries will be submitted (after editing) on April 12. April 19 is the deadline for submitted entries to be in appropriate network folder.

Spanish - Fifth grade Spanish will be presenting a sports and weathercast in the near future. 8th grade Spanish will be participating in a white elephant bargaining activity. From there, they will finally learn the past tense of regular verbs.

Unfinished Business – the Chair was unaware of any unfinished business

New Business - the Chair was unaware of any new business

Committee Reports:

Reading and Literature – Rosaria Becker was unable to attend, but sent the following report read at the meeting:

The Reading/Literature Committee is moving ahead full speed as we wrap up a terrific year! Write Stuff took a break in March, but February incentives (cell phone sharpeners) were handed out right before spring break. The final write stuff prompts will be handed out this Friday, April 9th, and a specialized prompt for the 4th grade will ask about a most memorable Pleasantdale Elementary school experience. Once the April prompts are collected, a write stuff journal will be put together for each student to be distributed by Memorial Day. Thanks again to **Judy Mirabile** for helping with Write Stuff copies and to **Jennifer Hawbaker** and **Linda Thorell** for updating our bulletin board and rotating our essays.

Read Across America Week: During the week of March 15-18, Reading and Literature marked this occasion with several events. Every elementary student received a new Scholastic book, many classrooms had a parent (room rep) come in and be a special reader to the class; art teacher **Kristi Vervack** had the students in all grades design their favorite book jacket and/or favorite character; **Mr. Vandercar** picked a few 4th graders to read his/her outstanding February write stuff essay aloud during lunch; all students received a popsicle during lunch on the 18th; and on the 17th, the elementary school (including preschool) was treated to a couple of very special presentations by author/musician Eric Litwin and illustrator James Dean promoting their new book Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes. Thanks to Andersons Books for sponsoring this event--Pleasantdale students purchased 63 copies of this book in which both gentlemen autographed that day. James Dean also donated two wonderful Pete the Cat canvases he created during the presentations which will be displayed in the library. We look forward to more successful collaborations with Andersons in the near future--this was a very auspicious start.

ES Readers: We are looking forward to celebrating our last ES Reader's nite next Thursday, April 15th. Slowly but surely, the RSVP forms are coming in. We know that we are now competing with the spring sport schedules, but hope that all students will make an effort to join us for this event. More facilitators are needed and we would welcome any interested parents or teachers to join us.

2009-2010 Paw Prints Journal: The Selection Committee, comprised of: **Jenna Doria, 8th grade, Anika Ranginani, Caroline Bednara, Sydney Stanak, 7th grade; Ceili Doyle, 6th grade and Dheeksha Ranginani, 5th grade** along with **Mrs. Judy Johnson and Mrs. Kristin Thompson** are busy at work choosing those literary works which will be published in this year's journal. **Mrs. Dianne Washburn** reported that over 25 students have submitted art for this year's literary journal. The works include: ceramic masks, colorful landscape paintings, and individual drawings. Students will be notified in the coming days of the committee's decisions, along with the deadlines for submitting final copies. Once all works have been received, the Reading/Literature committee will assume the technical component of publishing the journal. A big thank you goes out to the teachers (**Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Washburn**) and the student selection committee for all their hard work.

MS Readers: The list is still being finalized for our final MS Readers lunch being held this year on May 7, 2010. All interested students should see **Mrs. Stelter** to sign up this last event of the year. As before, the PTA will be providing a special lunch for all those attending.

As we wrap up our work this year, we encourage all parents to think about playing an active role in the Reading and Literature Committee next year. There are many hands which lift this program and we are in need of new energy to continue the good work that has begun.

Eighth Grade – Christine Franco reported for **Eighth Grade**:

We are in the final stretch for 8th grade. The next two bulletin boards will be fun (baby pics and graduation photos). The main part of the class gift has been ordered and should be in soon. The dinner dance invitations will be mailed home shortly. The date is June 1st and we are hoping every student will make it. An RSVP box will be set up in the office for response cards. The graduation reception is also being planned. Invitations with details of the evening will be mailed home. Lastly, anyone interested in being on the 8th grade Executive Committee for next year is encouraged to attend the April 27th informational meeting. Parents will receive a letter in the mail regarding this date.

President's Dinner – Vice President, Kelly Hahn reported. The annual PTA President's Dinner will be held on April 30th at Graue Mill in Oakbrook. 50 tickets will be available and an invitation will go out in this week's Friday Packet. The tickets are \$22 per person to include a buffet dinner by Tommy R. There will also be a cash bar.

Room Representatives –

Elementary – no one to report

Middle – no one to report

Shamrock Shake – no one to report

Open Forum –

Vice President, Kelly Hahn wished to thank all those who volunteered in the libraries this year.

Sandra Hannan could not be present, but reported via e mail/read at the meeting. She mentioned that the **Hospitality Committee** will be supplying refreshments to the adult volunteers that present at the Middle School Career day which is Friday April 30th.

Announcements:

President, Kelly Hansen mentioned that as the year is coming to a close, we are turning our attention to committee chairs for next year. She hopes that our chairs will continue on. She also wished to mention that all committee folders will need to be collected and reorganized/redistributed next year.

The **next meeting** of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on **Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Administration Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.