

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2010

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

No correspondence had been received as of the last meeting of the Board.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following Treasurer's report: As of April 30, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$36,200. This includes income of \$5,000 mostly from the Spirit Wear. Expenses of \$3,700 were mostly for the President's Dinner and Reading & Literature. If there are any outstanding expense or income items, please submit these claims before the end of the school year on June 3.

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

Administration Reports:

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf began by mentioning the fact that many staff members were in awe of the wonderful job done by **Kim Gilman** and the **Staff Appreciation Committee**. Particularly impressive was a Monday morning breakfast that brought many Pleasantdale parents out quite early with their contributions which resulted in an amazing buffet! He also mentioned that no construction projects set to be completed this summer. He wished to remind all that there are many educational opportunities for Pleasantdale students this summer and the Elementary and Middle Schools are hosting both Camp Invention (7-26) and Center for Gifted/Worlds of Wisdom Camps (7-12). Many school events are scheduled this month and he indicated he feels we will have a great finish to a great school year.

Elementary Principal, Matt Vandercar echoed Dr. Fredisdorf's praise for **Kim Gilman** and the **Staff Appreciation Committee**. He mentioned the week has so far been fun and spectacular! **Mr. Woltman** and **Mrs. Burke** will host the final Elementary Band and Orchestra concert on 5-6 and all are invited to attend. The 3rd and 4th grades will perform a spring concert with the help of **Mr. Woltman** and **Mr. Brade** on 5-18. Lastly, Elementary will host the second annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on 5-27 and all PTA members are invited to attend.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny also expressed a heart-felt thank you to our **Staff Appreciation Committee** for a *wonderful* week so far! She was particularly impressed with the amazing decorations that changed daily to fit the "Around the World" theme! Meg also listed several important events in May: Gates testing this week and Reader's Lunch on 5-7, the Spring Choir and Orchestra Concert on 5-11, the Middle School Spring Band Concert on 5-13, and the 4th Grader visit to Middle the second week in May. 5th and 8th Grade field trips are planned for the third week

in May, to include a service project to be completed by the 8th Graders. Additional field trips are planned for the Art Institute and Mexican Cultural Museum the last week in May. The 7th Grade will also be completing a service project as well. The school picnic is set to take place and the 8th Grade Dinner Dance will be held on 5-27. The Middle School Talent Show, which has been growing in popularity in recent years, will take place in June. The 5th -7th and the 8th Grade Awards Ceremonies, Clap Out and the Move-Up Ceremony are also scheduled for the end of the year.

Ms. Kristi Vervack reported on behalf of the **Elementary School as Teacher Representative**. Her report was as follows:

Kindergarten – The kindergarten classrooms are proud to report that they hatched a total of 31 chicks this year!

1st Grade – First graders are taking their first standardized test this week with the Gates MacGinitie Reading Test. We are combining two topics in Math so that we focus on Math strategies in both addition and subtraction. The children are getting very excited about our upcoming tie dye t-shirt project on May 25th. More importantly, they are really getting excited about going to 2nd grade next year.

2nd grade - Second is working on their plant unit. They have planted various seeds to watch the growing cycle. They went to Lincoln Park Zoo last week and also visited the Conservatory to see various plants/flowers. Currently, they are working on GATES and ITBS.

3rd Grade – The third graders have started their Chicago Unit, and are looking forward to their annual field trip to the city. On May 25th, they will be visiting the Willis Tower, compliments of **Mr. Stancik**, and have lunch on a boat as they tour the beautiful architecture of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

4th Grade – The fourth graders are working diligently on their state projects, which are due at the end of the month. They are very excited about hosting a State Feast on May 25th. **Mr. Bryant** will be coming in to speak with the classrooms about staying healthy, which adds to their science unit this spring.

Music – **Mr. Woltman** and the 3rd and 4th grade students have been hard at work preparing for their spring concert. The theme this year is “Regions of the United States.” It includes familiar songs such as “Proud to be an American,” “R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A. and “Sweet Home Alabama”.

P.E. – **Mr. Bonn** has been taking advantage of the beautiful weather, and the kids are enjoying some time outside. They are currently finishing up their Ultimate Frisbee Unit! Lots of fun!

Art – It's clay week! Third and fourth graders are molding castles out of clay. The project will take approximately two weeks to complete. First graders are working on Jacob Lawrence watercolor paintings, and Second grade has started stitchery! Their theme this year is the Safari!

Library – **Ms. Maggie Smith** would like to add that the *Anderson Book Fair* was a great success. Thank you for all of your support!!

Ms. Vervack also read a note from **Mr. McAtee** thanking the Pleasantdale PTA for all they do, for their investment of time and their efforts.

Ms. Jana Stelter reported on behalf of the **Middle School** as **Teacher Representative**. Her report was as follows:

Grade 5 -Connections has just begun for Grade 5. We are studying Star Stories and ancient cultures which had a connection to the stars. Students will learn to tell a story and will research an ancient culture's architecture. We are going to the Adler planetarium on May 17th. The Fifth Grade is doing a switch day with the 4th grade on May 13th. The teachers will switch and this will allow the 5th grade teachers to meet the students and see the day in the life of a 4th grader, while the 4th grade teachers can reconnect with their prior students.

Grade 6 - Students will be getting ISLIP information during Advisory this month from a current 8th grade student who has also presented to the school board and National School Board. A question and answer session will follow. Look forward to the 6th Grade web pages to be up and running.

Grade 7- The 7th graders are currently working on their demonstration speeches in which they have 3-5 minutes to teach the class how to do something. Students also attended a presentation by the founder of Share our Soles, a volunteer organization that ships shoes to people all over the world, in preparation for their community service project later this month. Be on the lookout for information about an upcoming shoe drive.

*Also, we would like to thank you for the "very clever" German snack today! It was much appreciated!** (re Staff Appreciation)

Grade 8

Accelerated Lit: Just finished the *Red Badge of Courage*, will begin *And Then There were None*. Accelerated Comp: Just finished studying Stephen Crane, the writer, working on “war” reflections, Mother’s Day poems and will soon begin graduation speeches. On-Level: Just began reading: *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

Spanish students are working on past tense. The above level will be presenting two minutes speeches, On-level will be presenting one minute speeches.

Exploratories

Art - 7th grade will be going to the Art Institute, combining art with LA. They will also get a tour of Chicago architecture from a former P-dale graduate and architect.

Music - Thank you to **Mrs. Franco** and the PTA for supporting the musical with props, set pieces, and hosting the cast party. (Mr. Tatina & Mr. Neumann)

PE - In PE, we are taking our top 8th grade fitness students to the high school for the annual LT Fitness Day this week. Students have a chance to compete with other top athletes from the cohort districts. It’s a good way to meet other students and to honor the hard work and talent that these 8th graders bring to our PE classes. (Participants: **Michael Grabis, Vuk Radosavljevic, Kyle Dilcher, Dean Kuehn, Marko Kostich, Ashley Koziol, Alexandria Franco, Mia Mologousis, Kayla Morrissey, Gabrielle Cannistra, Alexia Petrovic, Mae Sophie, Christina Mertz, Erin Getty, Brynn Burke, Kim Berzanskyte, Rachel Walsh**). We are rounding out the school year with our in-class track meet. The students really seem to enjoy participating the events and trying to improve their own best record while they have some friendly competition with their classmates.

Mod Tech - In computer skills, the 5th grade has been discussing issues related to internet safety. The focus is on prevention and using specific skills to stay safe. We are also focusing on cyber bullying and methods to stop it from happening and what to do when it happens to them. The 6th graders just finished a unit which introduced them to modular technology and are now working with a partner on their first module. They seem to be enjoying the ownership involved with working on a module. The 8th graders have started on their 4th rotation and are now pros at working on the modules. All 8th graders just took an end of middle school computer assessment to assess their ability to use a variety of computer skills.

Health - **(from Ms. Cummins)** It's hard to believe that it is May already, and the school year is ending in a few more weeks. We are now in to the second half of the

trimester, and there is still much to complete at all grade levels in healthy family living. The last week of school, I will have all projects completed this year laid out for students to pick up and take home. I will make several announcements to let students know, but please remind them to get any projects from me, because I cannot guarantee that they will be here next year.

In **6th grade**, students just finished their presentations about the body systems. This month they are studying tobacco, alcohol and drugs, nutrition, and basic safety and first aid. They will also learn about the causes and spread of communicable disease and what can be done to prevent both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Each student will make a poster about disease that will be done in class. However if the student needs more time, they will be able to bring it home to complete.

In **7th grade**, students will complete the chapter on tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. They will evaluate their diets, and decide how to improve what is missing. They will study the effects of fast food on individuals and society in general. And finally they will discuss communicable and non-communicable diseases. Each student will be writing a mini-research paper about a specific disease they are interested in learning more about. We will work with Mrs. Stelter in the IMC to research information needed, and also for proper procedures in writing a research paper.

In **8th grade**, students just completed the unit on First Aid and CPR. After passing a practical and written test in CPR, students received a card that says they are certified to perform CPR in emergency situations. They are beginning a chapter on substance use and abuse, and will discuss the effects of substance abuse on individuals and society. They will learn about the latest drug fads and their dangers. They will also choose a specific drug to research, and will make a poster entitled "Top Ten Reasons Teens Shouldn't Use...." whatever drug they have researched. Next they will talk about what is needed to prevent diseases, particularly, heart disease and cancer (the #1 and #2 killers of people in the United States) Finally, they will talk about nutrition, diets, body image, and recognizing eating disorders.

As you can see there is still much to complete before the end of the school year. Thanks for all the help I have received from parents this year in helping your children to be more successful in Healthy Family Living.

This is my 30th year and **final** year in the Pleasantdale school district. I have felt privileged to work in a district as wonderful as this one. When I began teaching 36 years ago, I had a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, and I taught at a small high school in west central Illinois. I went back to graduate school and received a Master of Science in Health Education. I have taught both physical education and health (sometimes both in the same year) at all age levels including collegiate. For the last several years, I have been teaching health only at the middle

school. I have written in several professional journals, written a chapter in a college health text on teaching methods, and also in the past, have written the teachers edition of Current Health Magazine (Weekly Reader Publications). I have really enjoyed teaching health education because of the relevance of the subject matter to adolescents. I also, have been co-coordinator of Peer Leadership for over twenty-one years and feel that I've learned much from the children and their families in this district. I currently teach CPR and AED classes to teenagers, and adults (both non-professional and health professionals.) I am married and have two living children and one grandson. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family upon retirement. And I intend to spend much of my time gardening and reading for pleasure. Beyond that, there are many possibilities and challenges still to come. I'm looking forward to it!

Thanks so much for thirty amazing years at Pleasantdale Middle School, allowing me to do what I love, and that is to teach.

Library - Career Day was a success: All 333 students were able to choose among 29 speakers to learn about jobs and what it takes to be a success. Each student visited 2 presenters. Presenters spoke about education and professional “people skills” needed in their professions. Thank you to the PTA and **Mrs. Hannan** for providing the refreshments and needed water for our speakers.

Final Book Club is coming up this Friday, May 7th. 174 students participating in 35 book groups total. I wish to extend a big thank you to **Mrs. Doyle** and **Mrs. Becker** for the wonderful job with the meal and helping with the set up. I could not do it without you always. Book Fair ended last week. I sent the proceeds to Anderson. They will mail the profits to the PTA.

The Chair was unaware of any unfinished business.

The Chair was unaware of any new business.

Committee Reports:

Reading and Literature - Co –Chair Julia Doyle reported. 331 students participated in April’s Write Stuff. 4th Graders wrote about their favorite experience at Pleasantdale. The responses were amazing and very unique and special.

Incentives have been ordered and will be distributed at the end of the week. The Write Stuff Pizza Party is set for this Thursday (2 students per class, K-4th Grade have been chosen). She wished to thank Dominick’s for the discount on the pizza and **Mr. Vandercar** for hosting the event. Write Stuff Journals will be distributed at the end of the month. ES Reader’s Night last month was a success and it included an ice-cream celebration afterwards. Approximately fifty students were in

attendance. MS Readers third and final lunch will take place on 5-7 with 168+ participants! She wished to thank **Alli Gulliver, Leticia Rivera, Nancy Bugaieski, Elaine Reichert** and **Cheryl Pilipuf** for helping to serve lunch. Six Flags tickets will be distributed by 5-7. Paw Prints Journal is in the final stages and set for production shortly. Many submissions were received and cost-saving adjustments have been made on several fronts. Fantastic works of student art will grace the cover and back of the journal. She mentioned a thank you to all who had a hand in that coming together.

Birthday Book Club – no one to report

Book Fair - Chair and Vice President, Kelly Hahn reported for Book Fair and her report was as follows: Our book fair was held Thursday, April 29th and we grossed a total of \$3,530 which is well above our end of the year Scholastic Fair. I am still waiting to see the total which the PTA will receive from these funds. I would like to especially thank **Stacy Satala** and **Maggie Smith** for taking charge since I was out of town. In addition, **Judy Mirable** and her daughter, **Nicole, Kelly Hansen** and her daughter, **Cori, Sharon Wienold, Mary Sheehan, Serena Dreher, Ewa Jasiak, Jenny Corcoran, Jennifer Hawbaker** and **Alli Gulliver** along with anyone else who helped! It's great to have such a strong team that supports the library. I would respectfully request that we use only Andersons for next year as their return is greater than Scholastic, they supply author visits and the teachers prefer the selection to Scholastic.

Eighth Grade – no one to report

Hospitality – no one to report

Music Committee – no one to report

Performing Arts – no one to report

President's Dinner - Vice President, Christine Franco was unable to attend and provided the following report read at the meeting: A wonderful time was had by all who attended the President's Dinner this past Friday night. In spite of the torrential downpour, we were able to enjoy the delightful venue at Graue Mill. The food was splendid and the drinks and laughter were plenty. In addition to all of this, we were able to honor two retirees - **Mr. Neumann** and a surprise addition of **Mrs. Cummins** (unfortunately **Mrs. Frieslinger**, our other retiree was unable to join us). We will miss them all dearly and wish them well in their next endeavor in life's journey. Lastly, we inducted the new board saying a very sad goodbye to **Kelly**

Hahn who was an amazing contributor this past year and welcoming with open arms **Jennifer Hawbacker** as the new VP. We are very excited for the next school year and have already begun work to have another amazing year for our students and teachers.

PTA Special Lunch – Co-Chair Sherry Kulhanek reported that last's month's special lunch of McDonald's went well with 141 burgers and 226 cheeseburgers served to the students.

Room Representatives – Beth Schwartz was unable to attend, but provided the following report read at the meeting: (Elementary) I am getting ready for Field Days on May 28th and trying to collect Room Rep folders. I have sent out an email to Mr. Bonn about the volunteers and have not heard back from him. I will try to contact him again. (Middle) The all-school picnic is coming up on June 1st at the park. I am crossing my fingers for no rain this year! I am deciding on the menu and anything else we can squeeze in. I am planning on asking for some donations for store bought desserts. I will be contacting parents to volunteer their time and am really hoping for some dads. I hope to get the volunteer sheet out for both schools with the PTA material over the summer again. It was nice to get a jump start on it. I look forward to the parties. It's been a great year for both schools!

School Supplies – Mary Rochrohr was unable to attend the meeting but it was noted that she had sent an e mail that day to parents reminding them that the ability to purchase school supplies via the internet began today.

Spirit Wear – no one to report

Staff Appreciation – Chair, Kim Gilman, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided the following report read at the meeting: We kicked off Staff Appreciation Week starting May 3rd and will conclude on May 7th. This year's theme is "Around the World" and features 5 countries. The week began with departing from the US with an All American Breakfast. The buffet of breakfast foods was donated by generous Pleasantdale families. Not only did the table look fabulous but everything smelled delicious. There was so much food we donated many of the remaining dishes to the Pleasantview Fire Station, Willow Springs Fire Station and Willow Spring Police Station. Each of the stations was extremely appreciative of our generosity and assured us it would not go to waste. The journey continues with the four more destinations that include Germany, Mexico, Italy and ending the journey with a boat to China. Each day has unique decorations, music and food that represent the featured country. In addition the children have an opportunity to

show their appreciation by writing a message or drawing a picture for staff members. These messages are posted all around the staff's lounge. I wish to extend a huge thank you to the entire Staff Appreciation Committee for their donations. An extra special thanks to each day's leaders: **Ann Marie Daker, Jennifer Hennessy, Sherry Kulhanek, Dania Mahoney, Andrea Sarno, and Tammy White.** This week could not been possible without their creativity and dedication. We hope the teachers and staff enjoy their journey around the world and it shows them our appreciation as parents and all they do for our children each and every day

Open Forum:

Meals that Heal Chair, Karen O'Halloran, mentioned that she received a note of thanks and appreciation from the Holecek Family for the meals provided by her committee.

President, Kelly Hansen reported for **School Gifts** and **School Resources.** She mentioned she is working on the school gifts. Additional playground equipment for both schools had been mentioned as a possibility. For School Resources, she is considering the purchase of a monitor/software for the Elementary School.

She also reminded committee chairs that she will need to collect their folders in preparation for the 2010-2011 school year.

Cultural Arts – Chair, Paula Ogurkiewicz reported. She indicated that another assembly at Elementary has been planned for 5-20 with the kid-motivator, Jerry Jacoby doing a forty-five minute presentation for the students. She also mentioned that unfortunately, the only class at Middle to benefit from our Cultural Arts program was 6th Grade Language Arts which saw a play last fall. She mentioned that she had tried unsuccessfully to schedule an assembly on 5-20. She also mentioned that several additional efforts to schedule other events for the other grades were made but was told that there was a lack of interest with the exception of possibly the 5th Grade. Paula indicated she is hopeful that next year, an event can be scheduled for each grade or more school-wide assemblies could be planned at Middle.

Announcements:

President, Kelly Hansen announced that the next board meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be on Tuesday, June 1st at 7 p.m. at the Admin. Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.