

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2010

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

Correspondence – Many additional thank you notes were received for the events during Staff Appreciation week, in particular, from **Erin Oskroba, Linda Sheridan, Michelle Neuberg, Denise Spetter, Courtney Camer, The Sixth Grade Team, Erika Sawosko and Teri Nikischer**, and a large thank you note signed by many of the **Elementary Staff**. Notes were also received by **Deb Cummins, Larry Neumann and Kim Freislinger** thanking the PTA for the acknowledgment of their retirements. **The Sixth Grade Team** also thanked the PTA for their work on Middle School Readers this year and **Berny Lucas** expressed her appreciation for the new playground equipment.

Treasurer, Alli Gulliver gave the following Treasurer's report: As of May 31, 2010, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was \$26,789. This includes income of \$520 mostly from the General Mills Promotion. Expenses of \$9,900 were mostly for the 8th Grade and Reading and Literature. If there are any outstanding expenses or income items, please submit those claims before June 3. Once the year ends, the school boxes will not be checked until the end of summer. Please submit claims via e mail or fax and arrange delivery of income.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting of the board were approved as written.

Administration Reports –

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf began by thanking the PTA Board for an excellent year while looking as to have had much fun as well! He also welcomed new **Vice President, Jennifer Hawbaker**. He mentioned that next year's calendar will be in the works and tomorrow night is the graduation of our Eighth Grade Class. Both Camp Invention and Worlds of Wisdom summer camps will be offered this summer at Pleasantdale, along with the Summer Academy. Work will also be done on some curriculum projects this summer. He also mentioned that **Meg Pokorny** could not attend this evening as she was attending the Eighth Grade Dinner Dance.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar also thanked the PTA for making a difference in the experience of the students this year and felt it has been a great year. He also thanked **Beth Schwartz** and her volunteers for a great job on Field Day. Some changes to Field Day are being discussed and suggestions are welcome. He welcomed new Elementary PE teacher, **Almir Emso**. He also asked the Board to consider having a representative at next year's New Family Welcome event and thanked **Chris Markovitz** for her help this year serving as a Teacher Representative at board meetings.

Teacher Representative Reports:

Christine Markovitz reported on behalf of the Elementary Staff. Her report was as follows:

Kindergarten teachers would like to thank the PTA for supplying each kindergartener with a Kindergarten Celebration button. They say "Our students shine at Pleasantdale Elementary School".

1st Grade

First graders loved tie dying their t-shirts and they wore them proudly on this year's field day. This activity "tied" in nicely with our last science unit of Light and Color. The students continue with their math lessons on double digit addition and subtraction. They are spending time this week working on memory books that will help them remember all of the wonderful things we did in first grade this year.

2nd Grade

Working on map skills, reading about deserts

3rd Grade

Third grade is wrapping up a fabulous year. Last week we went on our Chicago Field Trip where we went to the top of the Willis Tower and saw the sights of Chicago on the Mercury Boat tour. We are all so proud of our third graders for their accomplishments this year and we hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

4th Grade

June 1 - 4th grade End of Year Celebration 1:30-3:00 at the Elementary

June 2 - 4th graders will go to the Middle School for the "Moving Up Ceremony"

Art

Mrs. Vervack reports that in art, clay castles were a big hit in 3rd and 4th grade. They are finally finished!! Second graders are starting to take their stitchery projects home. This was one of the most difficult projects of the year, but we were pleased with how they turned out. Some have even told Mrs. Vervack that they have taken up sewing/stitching at home. The first graders finished the year with a few origami projects. They learned how to make an origami kite, puppy, and flower. The kindergarten classes made butterfly costumes this week to wear at the release of their butterflies. They will also be sporting the special wings at their kindergarten celebration on June 2nd. Thank you for a fantastic first year. Mrs. Vervack is looking forward to what is sure to be another creative year at Pleasantdale!

Ms. Smith

The PTA Anderson Book Fair was a big success. The teachers loved the selections as well as our students! The Birthday Book Club had their best year ever. People's generosity continues to astound and amaze. Thank you. All of our students benefit from this wonderful club!

Sharon Blogg-PE

In First Grad P.E., we finished tumbling and gymnastics. Recently, we have been reviewing what has been learned throughout the year. The kids have been having fun goal shooting in soccer and shooting in basketball. They are doing fitness activities, jumping rope, as well as enjoying many games.

Penny Defenbaugh for Recycling - We continue to collect the paper for the recycling bin over the summer. Please continue the effort during the summer. The funds go back to our recycling efforts.

Almir Enso reported on behalf of the Middle School Staff. His report was as follows:

Exploratories

- **Music** - Please thank the PTA music committee (particularly Barbara Lamb) for all their support this year. They helped make this year a big success, especially the parents who helped with the Orchestra Festival, Ice Cream Social, Pizza Party, and Great America Trip.
- **PE**— We would like to say thanks to the PTA for their wonderful support. We appreciate the parent participation during All About Us night. We are grateful for the great group of parents that support our programs. A special thanks to the parents for the outstanding picnic. We know that the students and staff appreciated the great obstacle course you provided.
- **Health** - Thanks for 30 wonderful years in the Pleasantdale School District. I believe I'm leaving the health curriculum in very capable hands, and so I can leave without regret. If I get too lonesome for teaching, perhaps they will invite me back to substitute once in a while. I'll miss teaching and the families in this district. I'm looking forward to retirement, though. Thanks again. - Deb Cummins

- **Library**—I'd like to thank the PTA for a year of support for the programs that are dear to my heart. Thanks again for allowing the Middle School to use Anderson's book company as our book fair provider. The quality of the book selection is outstanding and truly reflects the interests of the students. Also, your support with the Middle School Book Club is second to none. You allowed me to tweak the program and it has taken off in a huge way. We are regularly involving over 50% of the student population. That is a success that would not have been possible without you. I look forward every year to the support and enthusiasm for education that our PTA provides. Thanks again - Jana Stelter

5th grade

The fifth grade is so grateful for all that the PTA has done for us. We appreciate the sweets, the snacks, the special lunch days for the students, the constant support, and we also appreciate their help with the picnic and talent show. It is so great to work in a community with this much assistance! You exemplify the meaning of teamwork.

6th Grade

The 6th grade team would like to thank the PTA for their wonderful generosity this year. We so enjoyed the play that you generously helped pay for. Teacher appreciation week was so much fun and delicious too! Any finally the picnic was a blast. We even had some teachers on the obstacle course you provided. Hopefully there are no pictures to prove it! There are so many other reasons, but we can't name them all. Have a terrific summer with your children!

7th Grade

Here's to the conclusion of another great year! Thank you PTA for all of your support and generosity. We had a great day for the picnic, and you helped make it fun and memorable. Thanks again for all you do.

The Chair was unaware of any **unfinished business**.

New Business – **President, Kelly Hansen** wished to acknowledge parents whose last child is graduating from Pleasantdale this year and thank them for their years of participation and support in our PTA. These parents included **Sylvia Avalos, Maureen Barrett, Josephine Barry, Veronica Crouchelli, Donna Czyzewicz, Karen Dilcher, Karen Doria, Ellen Hardy, Kathryn Lange, Maria Mertz, Caryl Molinaro, Lisa Morrissey and Mary Soudan**. Each will receive a certificate of appreciation and pin.

Committee Reports

Cultural Arts – no one to report

Eighth Grade - Vice President, Christine Franco reported for Eighth Grade. Her report was as follows: The 2009-2010 8th grade committee has had a successful year. We managed to do a lot for them and be economical in the process. A couple of things to note... this year's class is a great group of kids and we saw unprecedented numbers of participation. From the class outing to turning in baby photos to the dinner dance, we had over 85% of the class take part in any given event. As for the Candyland-themed dinner dance, the kids are enjoying that event at this very moment at the Ashton Place! The kids also did a great job of fund-raising (candy apples, bake sale) and were able to buy the school six Flip video cameras as the class gift that can be used in the classrooms or for projects etc. A frame with the class picture will be put in the display case as a permanent reminder of the class. It was a honor to work with such a great group of committee chairs. Thanks much to **Josephine Barry, Caroline Marwitz, Pat Finnegan, Caryl Molinaro, Mary Soudan, Kathryn Lange, Christine Franco, Cheryl Cannistra, Jill Kuehn, Bea Mologousis, Anne Petrovic, Pam Banda, Chris Gennett & Nancy Cook**. And best of luck to **Barbara Lamb**, who is heading up the new 8th grade committee for next year and to all who will be working with her. Lastly, the DVD is in its final stages of preparation. Orders will be taken through tomorrow. It's only \$6.00 so remind all 8th grade families to turn in the order form. Congratulations 8th graders and best of luck in high school.

Meals that Heal – no one to report

Music Committee – Barbara Lamb could not attend, but sent the following summary of her committee's work/recap this year: During the past year, the PTA Music Committee was engaged in three activities.

Middle School Pizza Party -

The Committee assisted Fred Bell in organizing a lunchtime Pizza Party for all Middle School music program participants. In December, students come to the Band Room for pizza during their lunch periods. The Committee Chair should contact Mr. Bell in October to finalize a date for the party. Mr. Bell can also provide a list of all music program participants as a starting point for recruiting parent helpers. The Committee recruited 5 parent volunteers to work at the Party and shopped for the food and supplies. Mr. Bell ordered pizzas from Dominick's for pickup just prior to lunchtime. Liters of soda, cookies and paper goods were purchased in advance. Middle School Administration underwrote the cost of the party.

Lyons Township Band Orchestra Festival -

On February 5th, Pleasantdale hosted the Lyons Township Orchestra Festival. This is an annual event that brings together all LT feeder schools and the LTHS orchestra staff. The Music Committee organized a pizza lunch for all festival attendees. This involved ordering the pizza, purchasing other food and paper goods, and recruiting volunteers to serve. For this event, we

used Nonno's Pizzeria on LaGrange Road because they would deliver it. We also purchased canned soda rather than liter bottles. Given the large number of students and the short time allowed for the lunch break, approximately 15 volunteers were necessary. Lunch was served and eaten in the lobby outside the large gym. The cost of this event was fully paid for by the attendees.

Ice Cream Social -

Early in May (see School Calendar), the Committee assisted the Middle and Elementary School music teachers in organizing a PTA sponsored Ice Cream Social for Pleasantdale 4th and 5th Grade music program participants in the Middle School APR. The Social is an after school event (3:30-5:30) intended to introduce 4th graders to the Middle School music program. 4th Graders are bused to the Middle School for 2 hours of games and ice cream sundaes with the 5th graders. Games are conducted in several locations around the school and students rotate in groups to each location. Ice cream sundaes are served in the APR during the last 30 minutes of the event. Attached is a copy of the rotation schedule used at this year's Social. The Committee recruited 12-15 parent volunteers to escort groups from station to station, run games, and serve ice cream. The Committee also purchased the ice cream, toppings, and paper goods (bowls, spoons and napkins) for the event. Experience suggests that 1 cup (2 half-cup scoops) of ice cream per student is just about the right amount to buy. Toppings included chocolate, strawberry and butterscotch sauces, M&Ms, decorating sprinkles, and whipped cream. It worked well to have parents start scooping ice cream around 4:45pm and stack the bowls in the large deep freeze in the kitchen. Then we set up three serving stations with parents handling all of the toppings. This kept things orderly. The cost of the Ice Cream Social was approximately \$125.00.

Stage Decorations -

This year, the Committee also purchased two artificial ficus trees for use in decorating the stage during choir, orchestra, and band performances. The cost was approximately \$36.00.

Music Department Instrument/Equipment/Supplies Purchase -

After paying for the Ice Cream Social, the three music teachers decide among themselves how to allocate the remaining funds in the Music Committee budget. They purchase what they need and submit the receipts to the Committee Chair to process for PTA reimbursement. This year the Committee had a \$2,000.00 budget. The middle school vocal music department purchased new choir folders and a shelving unit to hold the folders at a cost of approximately \$1,500.00. It is anticipated that the remaining funds will be used to purchase pins for graduating 8th grade instrumental music students.

Room Representatives – Chair, Beth Schwartz reported that Field Day and the picnic were great successes, with lots of sun! The students very much enjoyed the day and she felt the volunteers were quite helpful as well. The food was very enjoyable and she felt all ran smoothly.

Other:

Lisa Uckerman was unable to attend, but reported via e mail as she wished to also say that Field Day went quite well and wished to thank the following individuals for their help during today's 4th Grade Party: **Sue Camba, Jolene Carlson, Gina Nelson, Cheryl Cohen, Jennifer Cooper, Sonia Dombkowski, Michelle Geraci, Kim Gilman, Sharon Holt, Kaleem Malik, Grace Klimes, Michelle LeBeau, Sheila Gremer, Mike Spencer, Renata Stankus, Alma Venegas, NathalieYoussef, AnnePetrovic, Rosaria Becker, Mr. Ralph and Mr. Vandercar.**

Reading and Literature Co-Chair, Rosaria Becker added that she and **Julia Doyle** are wrapping up the year and Paw Prints and Write Stuff journals have gone out. Their committee was under budget this year as well with extra funds going to classroom teachers to embellish their class libraries.

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

Meeting of the 2010-2011 Pleasantdale PTA Board on June 1, 2010

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:25 p.m.

The Chair was unaware of any **new business**.

Committee Reports:

School Supplies – no one to report

Welcome Back – President, Kelly Hansen indicated the 2010-2011 Welcome Back Event will be held at Darien Sportsplex and will be an ice skating party.

Other – no additional reports were made

Open Forum – no additional items were presented

Announcements –

The next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be on Tuesday, September 7 at 7 p.m. at the Admin Building. The next general meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA Board will be on Wednesday, September 8 prior to Curriculum Night at Elementary.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:27 p.m.