

SS PALMER PTO MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2011

- Meeting called to order by PTO president Mary Jo King at 7:00pm
- Mary Jo spoke briefly thanking all PTO members for their hard work. April is Volunteer Appreciation month so all the hospitality items were provided by the officers as a way of saying Thank You for your hard work.
- Mary Jo introduced our guest speaker, Diane Danielson Director of the Palmerton Library. Diane informed members of the many activities and clubs the library has such as Preschool Story Hour, Knitting Club, Book club, Yoga classes, book sales, Friends of Palmerton library (a volunteer group), the Teen Advisory group, Watercolor classes, Tail Waggin' Tutors (therapy dogs that help children with reading), Homework helpers, summer reading programs, and several monthly special events. All of these clubs/events are FREE for members of the public to enjoy and utilize. We must not take the library and its services for granted. If the school board votes to cut back funding to the library, the library might lose state funding which would result in the library being scaled back tremendously. All of the programs listed above would be gone. Please voice your concern to school board members to preserve the library!!!
- Minutes from March's meeting were attached to the agenda to be read. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Marge Beahm and Missi Kolnik.
- Treasurer's report is attached to the agenda for your review. Per the report, all the spring fundraiser payments are reflected. Payment for field trips will also be going out shortly. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mary Herrmann and Missi Kolnik.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Spring Farewell Dance:** update given by Mary Jo for Vicki Haupt. The dance will be held on May 20th from 6-8:30pm. This dance is free of cost to the students. They do not pay admission or for food or drinks. Lots of donations of food and drinks will be needed for this night and appreciated.
- **Market Day:** update given by Pam Andrews. Thanks to everyone that helped at the last pickup. If you earned a free yearbook due to your market day sales, you were given a slip stating this at the last market day pickup. If you have earned a reduced-price yearbook, a slip will be going home this week in the Wednesday express so you can place your yearbook order on time. The LAST SALE until September will be on Sat May 21st. Orders are due by May 16th. Volunteers will be needed that day from 9-11am at the high school cafeteria for unpacking, sorting, and distributing orders. 6th graders will receive their yearbooks for free due to all the market day fundraising. Please forward field trip pictures, etc to Pam as soon as you can.
- **Clothing Swap:** update by Mary Jo for Deb Taylor. The swap will be held on Thursday, April 28th in the SS Palmer cafeteria from 3-7pm. Volunteer help will be needed beginning at 2pm for set-up. Look for bins outside the school the week of the swap for the placement of donations. If you donate clothing, you are welcome to take what you need.
- **Spring Fundraiser/Pizza party:** update given by Julie Stroup. The last fundraiser pickup was held this past Saturday for the Gianni's dessert items. Moving forward, we are planning the pizza party for students who sold 5 pizzas or more during the spring fundraiser. The dates are May 2nd for Parkside, May 3rd for SS Palmer. Notices will be going home with students so they know they are invited to come to the party and won't need a lunch that day. We are looking for donations of CapriSuns, paper plates, napkins and chips. PTO will provide the west end pizzas for the parties. The parties will be held during the snack time/lunch of the grades. So, help will be needed those days from 10:30-1:30 to help make, cut, and serve pizza and chips to students. A sign up sheet is posted up front for those who wish to donate items for the party.
- **School Board:** update given by Mary Jo. The agenda for all school board meetings is posted on the district website. You are always very welcome to attend the meetings. If you care to speak about an agenda item, you must note that when you sign in to the meeting. Please try to attend tomorrow night's school board meeting, Tues, April 19th at 7pm. Budget issues will be discussed and the cuts that may be made to our children's programs are scary! Please go to support our children!!
- **Website:** update given by Anne Cronk. All the current PTO news, meeting minutes, important dates can be found on the PTO website. Please look for open committee chair positions there as well. If

you're interested in chairing a committee, please fill out the form completely on the website. Currently, we are looking for chairpeople (and/or co-chairs) for the following committees: Book Fair Palmer, JR4H, Ink Catridges, Box Tops, Fall Fundraiser, Halloween activities, Mother's Day Plant sale, and Kidz stuff books.

- **Mother's Day Plant Sale:** update given by Lisa Leshner. The plant sale will be held May 4th and 5th. Foil cutting is scheduled for Tues, April 26th at 6:30pm. May 3rd plants will be delivered to the alcove area of the school around 5:45pm. Help will be needed to wrap all the plants with foil.
- **Nomination:** update given by Anne Cronk. Paper will go home in the Wednesday express next week so you can make nominations for PTO officer positions. You can nominate whoever you want, including yourself, or note that you want to keep the same people in office, it's up to you. If anyone has any specific questions about the duties of any specific officer, please ask one of the officers. Just a note that our PTO website is now posted on the district website.
- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon:** update given by Mary Jo. The luncheon will be held on May 2nd at both Parkside (Jen Sterner will be handling) and at Palmer (Mary Jo will be handling), Sheets will go home this week asking for donations for this event. Help will be needed that day to set-up, serve, and clean up.
- **Basket Social/Bake Sale/Kid's Bingo:** update given by Mary Jo. This year's bingo/bake sale was a HUGE SUCCESS. There was a ton of PTO help with the baskets and the bake sale! The profit for both the basket auction and bake sale was \$2,700!!! Thanks to everyone who helped to make that day a success!!

NEW BUSINESS

- **Committee Chair Update:** update given by Nicki Frank. New chairpeople have been selected for clothing swap, spring fundraiser, children's bingo, beautification, and dance. We still need co-chairs for various committees, Please see the PTO website for available committee positions and the application to become a chairperson.
- **Playground:** update given by Mary Jo. Mary Jo will be attending the school board meeting to do a public check presentation. She will be giving the school board our check for the payment of the new playground equipment that the board purchased on our behalf at a discount and tax free. If anyone would like to see the new equipment, Mary Jo has the book with the pictures of it. The company will be able to deliver everything in late May or early June on a Saturday. A LOT of PTO volunteers will be needed to help construct the equipment.
- **Festival Committee:** update given by Michele O'Neill. The festival will be Sept 9-11th. PTO will be doing crepes again this year and will be adding a new warm apple flavor. Also, our stand will be open for breakfast and will need extra help during that time. Michele will be having a meeting at her house on May 11th at 7pm. Please RSVP to Michele for this meeting since she will be serving the new crepe flavor and needs and exact count. If you know of new parents to our PTO for next year, please invite them to help with the festival since the festival is so soon after the start of the school year. The committee is looking for donations of serving spoons, mixing spoons, spatulas, cutting boards, sharp knives, dry and wet measuring spoons and cups to start establishing a festival kitchen. PTO points will be given for donations. Michele is asking PTO for \$400 to purchase a cast iron double propane stove top for the stand. One will be used that is borrowed, but we will need a second one to handle all the crepes this year. Jen Shinsky made a motion for PTO to budget the committee \$400 to pay for the propane stove and paint to repaint the stand, Anne Cronk seconded the motion. Also, Michele is looking for any pictures that members might have of parents volunteering at various PTO events like ice cream parties, book fairs, Santa's workshop, etc. She would like to put something together for the festival with a theme "What PTO does for our children".
- **Track & Field Day:** update given by Chris Leshner. Sheets went home earlier this month designating all the days/times of the field days for the grades and asking for volunteer help. Ryan Heller will be in touch with you if you volunteered to help. PTO needs 1-2 people for the K-3 field days to fill the 5 gallon jugs with water and Gatorade and get the cups out. Also, to rinse out the jugs and take them back to the school. The Track and Field day for 4-6 graders will be at the high school on May 25th. PTO will continue to provide drinks for the students for that day.
- **Principal's Report:** update given by Mrs. Brumbach. Is happy to report that there were no snow days utilized in April and that all the PSSA's have left the building and are on their way to the state.

Mr Palazzo is looking for help with a SOAR carnival that will be held for students this year. Students will be able to trade their soar tickets for various prizes, etc. Spring pictures were held on 4/12 at Parkside and 4/13 at Palmer. 3rd marking period report cards went home in the Wednesday express last week. Palmerton's 6th Sense team finished in 4th place after a very close loss to Panther Valley. Great job to them!!! Mrs. Brumbach emphasized that the board members NEED TO HEAR FROM PARENTS about ending budget cuts to programs for our children. Right now, we are at risk of losing HALF OF OUR AIDES, all after school/extracurricular programs, and maybe an increase in class size for our students. She encourages all parents to attend the school board meeting and/or email your thoughts about ending budget cuts to school board members. Right now, the board has only been hearing from senior citizens on fixed budgets worried about their taxes going up. The board needs to hear from concerned parents too! Our children are worth it!!

- **President's Report:** update given by Mary Jo. Please notice that there are now containers on the table when you come in to sign in to the PTO meetings. They are there too collect box tops, ink cartridges, etc. Also, the Health Fair will be held on November 5th at SS Palmer from 10am-2pm. Becky Anthony and Larissa Kimmel will be having a meeting on Friday, April 29th. PTO always provides a gift to our departing 6th grade students. We always get them tshirts with the year they are graduating printed on them (2017...wow!!!)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Mary Jo announced the dates and locations of upcoming field trips (from March's meeting but for info):

- 6th grade: Tuesday, April 12th Iron Pigs Education Day
- 1st grade: Tuesday, May 10th, Crayola Factory
- Kindergarten: Friday, May 13th, Bethlehem Ice House for a play (am and pm go in the morning)
- 2nd grade: Friday, May 13th, Philadelphia zoo
- 3rd grade: Friday, May 27th, Quiet Valley
- 5th grade: Friday, May 27th, Jim Thorpe
- 4th grade went on their field trip to the DaVinci center in December.

Pam Andrews noted that Summer Rec will be June 20th until the end of July.

Door Prizes were handed out.

Meeting was adjourned.

NEXT PTO MEETING IS MAY 16, 2011