

## SS PALMER PTO MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2011

- Meeting called to order by PTO president Mary Jo King at 7:00pm
- Mary Jo spoke briefly to everyone thanking so many people for continuing to come to the meetings and helping at the various PTO activities. This time of year, especially, there are lots of activities that need volunteer help. This organization is so successful because of all the help from members, with the officers acting as guides in the process. Thanks to everyone again. Our meetings also continue to be productive and smooth. Our members treat each other and administration very respectfully. If there are any specific concerns, questions, comments, they should be discussed with the specific person such as a teacher, the principal, or superintendent. Officers will also answer any questions at any time.
- Minutes from February's meeting were attached to the agenda to be read. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Lori Cesanek and Anne Cronk.
- Treasurer's report is attached to the agenda for your review. Per the report, the ending balance appears really high. Please note that all the spring fundraiser money is in our account but we still have to pay for the pizzas, candy, and the Gianni's desserts. Payment for field trips will also be going out shortly. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Jen Shinsky and seconded by Linda Koch.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Spring Fundraiser:** update given by Julie Stroup. Reminders will be going home this week to let everyone know that K-2 pickup is this Thursday 12-6pm and Friday 8am-12noon at the West End Fire co. Grades 3-6 pickup will be held next week on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 12-6pm and Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 8am-12noon at the West End Fire co. Please note that this pickup includes the pizzas and Gertrude Hawk candy. The Gianni's dessert pickup will be on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am in conjunction with the Market Day pickup at the high school. This year's fundraiser was really successful. Sales for the various items were as follows: Pizzas \$11,228.00, Gertrude Hawk candy \$15,583.00, Gianni's desserts \$6,142.00 (with a \$2,004.00 profit), and Krispy Kreme doughnuts over \$3,300 (with a profit over \$1,500). If anyone still would like to sign-up to volunteer to help with pickup, please contact Julie. Thanks for all the help!!
- **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 Cartridges, Box Tops, Fall Fundraiser, Halloween activities, Mother's Day Plant sale, and Kidz Stuff books.
- **Basket Social/Bake Sale/Kid's Bingo:** update given by Tammy Suto. This year's bingo/bake sale will be held on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm. It will be held in the Palmerton High School cafeteria. Lots of items and baskets have been collected so far. A lot more donations were given this year since PTO points are now awarded with the donated items. There is an email list of items that we are still in need of. If you would like to donate any of these items, please get them to Tammy or Nicki Frank by Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Basket wrapping will take place on Thursday night. Look for the time of that on the website. Help will be needed on Sunday as early as 8am for set-up (especially at the bake sale). Help will also be needed throughout the day and to clean-up.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **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.
- **Scholarship Donation:** update given by Mary Jo for Pam Andrews. Every year at the Senior Awards, two students are given a PTO award. The faculty of SS Palmer and Parkside to various dress down days, etc. to generate donations to give a scholarship to 2 students, who "graduated" from SS Palmer, with the highest GPAs. It is a \$500 award per student. The faculty provides \$800 of it, with PTO contributing \$200. A motion from the floor to continue this tradition of PTO donating \$200 toward these scholarships was made by Larissa Kimmel and seconded by Anne Howard.

- **Playground:** update given by Mary Jo. Special thanks was given to Superintendent Carol Boyce for assisting PTO in getting the playground equipment at a reasonable cost and moving this project along. Right now, with the money in the playground fund, plus a \$10,000 donation from a local business, we now have enough money to install all the equipment. Right now we have a choice of doing a full installation through the company providing the equipment, at a cost of \$4,000. Or, we can choose an assisted installation at a cost of \$500 (West End Fire Co. already volunteered their men to help and we can probably get a large amount of PTO volunteers as well). A motion was made from the floor to approve the equipment purchase with the assisted installation by Michele O'Neill and seconded by Anne Howard. The order will be placed this week and the date of installation will be announced ASAP.
- **Spring Farewell Dance:** update given by Mary Jo for Vicki Haupt. The dance will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Clothing Swap:** update by Mary Jo for Deb Taylor. The swap will be held on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week/Luncheon:** update by Mary Jo. This year the appreciation week is May 1<sup>st</sup>-May 7<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon will tentatively take place on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> which is National Teacher Day. A flyer will go home looking for donations of various food items, supplies, and or money for that day. PTO points will be awarded for donations. Help will be needed that day for set-up, serving, and clean-up.
- **Nomination:** update given by Anne Cronk. Officer elections are held at the May meeting. In April, please look for a sheet going home looking for nomination of officers. 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.
- **Principal's Report:** update given by Mrs. Brumbach. Kindergarten registration was held 2/28-3/2 which yielded 124 registrations (40 of which for Towamensing). Both schools celebrated Read Across America week and Dr Suess's birthday with lots of activities. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Title 1 Family Camp out was held and was a great success. There was an article and pictures in the Times News documenting the night's activities. PSSA's were held the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's schedule change in the PSSAs and elimination of activities for students upset many parents and Mrs. Brumbach apologized for this. In the past, PSSA's impacted both schools for a 2 week period. All the special teachers were utilized in administration of the testing (so no specials were held during testing time). This year, the tests were taken over a condensed 1 week time period. No activities for students were provided each day after testing. Instead, at the end of the testing week, there was a school wide celebration which consisted of watching a movie (Toy Story 3). If you have additional comments or concerns, please make an appointment to speak with Mrs. Brumbach. After last month's newsletter, lots of tissues were donated to help teachers with their dwindling supplies. Also, please note that the last day of school is June 8<sup>th</sup> (half days on June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>) and that the first day of school for next year is August 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Mary Jo announced the dates and locations of upcoming field trips:

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

Door Prizes were handed out.

Meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT PTO MEETING IS APRIL 18, 2011**