

## SS PALMER PTO MEETING MINUTES SEPT 12, 2011

- Meeting called to order by PTO President Mary Jo King at 7pm
- Introduction of PTO officers by Mary Jo: President, Mary Jo King; Vice-President, Nicki Frank; Secretary, Julie Stroup; Treasurer, Chris Leshner. All were present at the meeting. Mary Jo gave a summary of what PTO does for Parkside/SSPalmer. All PTO fundraisers pay for fieldtrips for students, assemblies, and other activities. Chaperones for fieldtrips will be paid for by PTO as well. The PTO officers are the foundation of PTO but the members make the whole organization work through all your volunteer time, donations, etc. Please feel free to contact any officer with any questions at any time (via email is best...all of our contact info is on all PTO paperwork). Issues/questions regarding specific students/actions at school should be dealt with by teachers or the principal, not at PTO meetings
- Girl Scouts Presentation-Georganne Seely-Person in charge of membership for Palmerton school district. Girl Scouts also rely upon tons of volunteer help like PTO does. This area serves about 200 girls. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouts. There is a new program guide for each age group now for Girl Scouts, which has changed greatly since any of us were in Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts has lots of day camps in the summer for girls to experience Girl Scouts. Larissa Kimmel is planning a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in Palmerton in the spring.
- Minutes from May's meeting are attached to agendas to be read. Membership update- as of today, there are 235 PTO members. It usually grows to over 300 members. PTO has received a lot of donations along with the memberships. The \$1 that is charged for membership is for insurance purposes. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Tiff Christman and seconded by Jen Shinsky.
- Treasurer's Report- Chris Leshner- behind the minutes-expense, income and ending reports. Motion to accept the report made by Jen Shinsky and seconded by Anne Howard.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Community Festival**-update by Michele O'Neill- festival was held this past weekend where PTO stand sold crepes. Thanks for tons of PTO help. IT was a huge success, lots of sales. Apple, berry, and peach crepes were all successful this year. Fruit was all fresh and prepared by PTO members. Tons of man hours were volunteered to make this stand successful and well as the cleanup of the stand this week. People LOVED the crepes! Michele will have profit numbers at the October PTO meeting.
- **Fall Fundraiser**-update given by Nicki Frank-fundraiser items are on display next to refreshments. There will also be food items in the fundraiser this year. It will go home on Sept 28th- Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. One day pickup during parent-teacher conferences. Will need help getting packets organized to go out to students. Look for an email asking for help. The company's offering great incentives for the students. Fall fundraiser does pay for Christmas gifts for the students.
- **Kids Stuff Book**-update by Jen Tobia- in conjunction with fall fundraiser- should be delivered and go out Sept 28-Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. PTO gets 50% profit (\$25 book, we make \$12.50). Fundraiser will go to every child, kids stuff books will go one per family.
- **Health Fair**-update by Larissa Kimmel- working on this since last year with Towamensing PTO here at SS Palmer. Will be open to the community. The bloodmobile will be here and lots of other interesting booths. There will be a book swap that day as well. Lots of volunteer help will be needed that day. It will be held Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Halloween Parade**-update given by Jen Platts-last year was it's a Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown. This year will be a Smurfs theme. Would like to do a bigger float this year. Asking PTO for \$250 for start-up money for float construction. PTO members are welcome to help with construction of the float and then to be on the float in the parade. Look for an email/flyer for more information. Need lots of candy donated to hand out at the parade. Motion for PTO to give \$250 for construction of float made by Lisa Leshner and seconded by Fred Nothstein.
- **SS Palmer/Parkside PTO website**-update given by Anne Cronk-our PTO website is [www.sspalmerparksidepto.org](http://www.sspalmerparksidepto.org) -email all information to Anne and she will post all activity information. Links for market day, boxtops, our PTO yahoo group are all on the website. All emails will be done

through the Yahoo group so please be sure to join the group. All members have to be accepted as members by one of the officers. All PTO minutes are on the website. Bylaws are there as well. Blank sign-in sheets can be found on there as well.

- **Committee Chairs**-update given by Nicki Frank-on the PTO website, there is an area that lists open PTO committees that need chair people. If you may be interested in chairing a committee, please see that. You can fill out a form to submit your interest. For next year, will we need someone to handle PTO stand setup/teardown. Also for next year, we will need a Fall Fundraiser chairperson. Jump Rope for Heart needs another chairperson (we like 2 chair people for each committee). Nicki has the new packets for the Chair people. Please pick one up after the meeting. PTO has a room #306 to store what we need to.
- **PTO Points**-Julie Stroup- Points are accumulated when you help and or donate items at a PTO event/activity. The point cycle goes from March 1 to the following Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. These points are tallied under your child(ren) names and recorded whenever new sign-in sheets are presented to the Secretary. When it is field trip time, teachers ask for PTO member listings for their classes. Names of PTO members are given in point order. Therefore, those members with the most points (at least 3 per classroom) are chosen to attend the fieldtrip. If there is a medical reason for a parent to attend a fieldtrip, they must be a PTO member and they will NOT take a spot away from another PTO member. Please see the bylaws (copies are available tonight) for a detailed explanation. Any questions regarding points can be asked anytime to an officer.
- **Market Day**-update given by Pam Andrews-should have received market day flyer in wed express. PTO earns 10-20% each month. This month's pickup is Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday, here in the cafeteria in SS Palmer. Help is needed from 6-8pm (6 for set-up, 7-8 for pickup) Market day sales pay for all the 6<sup>th</sup> grader's yearbooks. There is also an incentive in the spring to earn discounts for your child's yearbook cost. Cutoff for this month is Friday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup> for ordering. You can order online or send your order in to school. Look for discounts/coupons emailed to you. Every month has different incentives and free items offered (see the Market Day flyer each month for details).
- **Book Fair**-Nicki Frank-theme will be "to the book fair and beyond". Parkside Oct 11 shopping on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Teardown at Parkside will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>. SS Palmer's book fair will be Oct 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> for shopping, teardown on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **Christmas Gifts**-Lisa Leshner-last year PTO gave Bomber beach towels as gifts PTO usually spends up to \$15/child. Lisa's email is [llesher@pencor.com](mailto:llesher@pencor.com) Please feel free to email her any ideas you may have. Santa delivers these gifts the last full day of school before Christmas vacation to all of the children.
- **Fall Activities**-Tiff Christman-held on Fri, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Will be held in the park. Lots of help will be needed to hand out snacks for all the children as they come back from parading in their Halloween costumes. One meeting will be held prior to the event so look for an email if interested.
- **Dance**-Julie Stroup-dances are for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. However, donations and volunteer help can be provided by anyone that wants to help. Help will be needed to decorate and set-up, chaperone during the dance, and for clean-up and help with dismissing the students. Donations of baked goods, individually wrapped snacks, bottles of water and juice boxes would be greatly appreciated. PTO points will be given for donations. The first dance is Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. A committee meeting will be held in the beginning of October to plan for the dance.
- **Beautification**-Robert Balch-thanks to local landscaping Lang's Landscaping for donation of wood chips, etc. LOTS of help is needed picking weeds, maintaining the school landscape (at both schools). We want our schools to look good and be proud so please help. You can definitely earn a lot of points with help. A fall cleanup will be held so look for further information soon.
- **Halloween Costume/Clothing Swap**-Bridgette White/Angie Balch-Thurs, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm in the SS Palmer cafeteria. All will be combined in one day. Bins will be out around the schools to place donations into. Look for a flyer going home soon for more information. Will need volunteer help for setup and help during the swap.
- **Hospitality**-Julie Stroup/Anne Cronk-update by Anne-thanks to the officers for supplying refreshments tonight. We will no longer be serving soda at meetings. We are going to supply bottles of water with

flavor packets and coffee and tea. Small bottles of water will be supplied to the children (no juice boxes this year). We will also need donations for the Talent Show. If you donate a food item, etc, you will receive a PTO point for your donation.

- **Child Care**-update given by Mary Jo for Rose Henning-childcare offered in the gym during each meeting. LOTS of help is needed for this. The only requirement is that your child is potty trained. We will need at least 2 volunteers per meeting. Please see Rose or an officer if you are interested in helping out. The National Junior Honor Society also sends two students down per month.
- **Box Tops/labels**-Kathleen Leister-will need help to collect box tops to count on a weekly basis. The most amount of box tops per classroom will receive a prize. Lots of points can be earned counting, trimming, and bundling box tops. PTO earns money twice per year from box tops. \$1215 earned from April-present. For the labels, we earn points which we can redeem for school items. Send in with your child's name and homeroom on the bag.
- **Ink Cartridges**-update given by Mary Jo for Tricia Steinmetz-there is always a bin at PTO meetings to place them. We accept cell phones, ink cartridges, etc. If anyone works in an office and they want to donate cartridges, PTO will take them.
- **Santa's Workshop**-Anne Howard/Lindsey German-at Parkside and SS Palmer during the 1<sup>st</sup> full week of December each year. There are always opportunities for points for this committee. More information will be provided next month.
- **School Board**-Mary Jo-held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. You can go on the district's website to look for specific dates of meetings, agendas, etc. Very beneficial for PTO members to go to the meetings to stay informed about what's happening in the school district. We would like more PTO members to attend school board meetings. Therefore, PTO points will be offered for those who attend school board meetings. Please let an officer know if you will be attending.
- **President's Report**-Mary Jo-Coal Bowl completed in early June thanks to LOTS of volunteer help and donations. The official dedication ceremony will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the coal bowl followed by refreshments and our regular PTO meeting will be held afterward at 7pm. All those who donated items, service teacher, or teacher that experienced a loss in their family. Yearbook will be handled differently this year. One of the activities cut due to the budget cutbacks was Yearbook. PTO couldn't imagine children not receiving a yearbook. Our advisor, Mrs Andrews, offered to volunteer to do the yearbook but is not allowed due to the teacher's contract. The only way to get around this was for PTO to pay the stipend to the district to pay Mrs. Andrews to do the yearbook. Mary Jo will be presenting this to the school board in September.
- **Principal's Report**-Mrs. Brumbach-Welcome!! Has always been involved in PTO as a parent, teacher, and now a principal. We have an incredible PTO here at SS Palmer/Parkside with unbelievable community support. She really appreciates all the work all that we all do. Please save coupons that you don't use (can be expired up to 6 mo) to help military families. Kudos to PTO for the GREAT job at the installation of the playground equipment at the Coal Bowl!! Thanks to Robert Balch for all the work with Beautification. The grounds look better thanks to all the hard work. Please look for the monthly newsletter that will come home the first of the month with important information regarding that month's activities. One change made this year is with the drop-off/pick-up locations here at SS Palmer. Students will enter the building in the morning, and leave the building in the afternoon, via the main entrance on 3<sup>rd</sup> street (rather than Lafayette Avenue). Her door is always open...feel free to call and set up an appointment to meet to discuss any concerns.
- **Comments/Questions**- worries about the child abductor that was rumored to be around the school, what is the school doing about this? Please speak to your children about stranger danger, don't let your children walk alone, etc. We need to be more vigilant about watching our children. A concern was raised regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> street drop-off...it is very hard to see your child enter the school.
- Door Prize Drawings
- Meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AT 7PM IN SS PALMER CAFETERIA.**