

# PTO MINUTES

## **S.S. Palmer/Parkside Elementary PTO Minutes**

*February 10, 2014*

The meeting was called to order by Nicki Frank at 7:04 p.m.

### **Officer attendance**

Nicki Frank – present, Michele O'Neill - Present, Brigitte White – Present, Angie Balch –present Mary Brumbach - present

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were read from the January's meeting and approved. Larissa Kimmel made a motion to accept the minutes, and seconded by Stephanie Meixsell.

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was read from January's Meeting and approved. Sue Novak made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, and seconded by Karen Thomas.

### **Old Business – Committee Reports**

- **Spring Fundraiser** – Report Given by Brigitte White. Orders are due back by Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Krispy Kreme donuts and Matey's Pizza will be delivered on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30- 3 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping sort and distribute donuts, please show up at the High School Cafeteria at 12 noon. No help is needed for the pizza portion of the fundraiser. Gertrude Hawk pick up will be April 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Palmer Cafeteria. Help will be needed but it will be requested at March's meeting.
- **Dance** – report given by Angie Balch. The dance was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Things went well, however volunteers were really needed especially at dismissal. The next dance is the Farewell dance in May. This is a big event plus it's at night, so lots of help will definitely be needed.
- **Parkside Book Fair** – Report given by Karen Thomas. Book fair was last week. Unfortunately there were a lot of delays; therefore, it wasn't as successful as previous years. Family night was cancelled. During Penny wars, \$166 was collected; therefore the library was able to purchase more books. Going forward, Karen requested to have the event moved to March. Scholastic is okay with the changing in the months. Mrs. Brumbach is okay with it as well, as long as it doesn't interfere with PSSA's or Easter. Karen and Mary will discuss. If Parkside parents are still interested in shopping. Palmer Book Fair is next week. New Parents: the second fair of the year, we don't take cash profit, we take profit in books. The money is divided up and the profit goes to the teachers and books for the library. The past few years the first graders have a teddy bear picnic and they receive a "good luck moving to the big school" book. So even though Karen didn't do as good as she hoped, she still earned enough money for the library, each teacher to receive \$25 for classroom library and all the books for the first graders. All the teachers are happy for what they received. The weather isn't always our best friend during PTO events, but Karen did what she had to and did a great job. Family night at Palmer is February 20<sup>th</sup> for Parkside parents that are interested.

### **Monthly Fundraiser Reports**

- **Market Day** – Report given by Nicki Frank due to Pam's absence. The next pick up will be February 27<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m. with the truck coming around 6:15 p.m. anyone interested in helping, please stop by.

- **Gift Cards** – report given by Angie Balch. The gift card flyer wasn't sent home because of all the snow delays. So the flyer will be sent home next week. The sale will not end right away. The pick-up will be in conjunction with March's Market day- March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Box Tops/Labels for Education** – report given by Michele due to Kathleen's absence. Submission for Box tops for December and January was \$605.10. Submission of Labels for Education for December and January was 2,337. November contest winner was Mrs. Dobias PM with 608 – the class is still having a party, however with the weather and holidays there isn't much time for play time. Please be patient...Kathleen and Mrs. Dobias will schedule a date. December contest winner is Mrs. Yeager's class with 344. No party has been scheduled yet. January's contest is almost complete. Points are calculated and up to date. Keep up the good work.

## **New Business - Committee Reports**

- **Rainbow** - Report given by Nicki. An itunes gift card was given to Erik Brong due to his sister's car accident. Emily is doing better and moving to a different location tomorrow. Team Emily bracelets are for sale if anyone is interested.
- **Palmer Book Fair** – Report given by Karen Thomas. Book Fair at Palmer will be February 18-21<sup>st</sup> with setup on the 14<sup>th</sup> – probably 9 a.m. in the PTO room 108. Flyers should be sent home next week. Family night will be February 20<sup>th</sup> – times – TBA.
- **Jump Rope for Heart** – Report given by Karen Thomas. Jump Rope for heart will be held the week of February 24<sup>th</sup> – Students will be scheduled to participate in Jump rope for heart during their regularly scheduled gym class. A lot of people have already signed up to volunteer. This event needs a lot of helpers! People can still sign up to help by filling out form or scheduling a time on the sign up genius on the PTO website. No schedule was sent out yet. When the time comes closer, an email will be sent.
- **Basket Social** – Report given by Nicki Frank. The basket social will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-3 p.m. at the Palmerton High School. Drawing will start at 2:30 p.m. A lot of empty baskets are still needed for this event. If anyone has baskets that they would like to donate, please contact one of the committee chairs (Nicki, MaryJo King or Melissa Hager) or any officer. You can just drop off on their porch or at the meeting. Michele O'Neill will have the bake sale and food. She will need help with baked item donations and help working. New this year: collection bins will be in each classroom, and then the kids can see what is actually going in their basket. This year we will not pull from other classes to fill the baskets. We are also letting the children design their own card and name the basket. This card will be placed on the basket and all the children's names will be on it. Flyers should be in the Wednesday Express. Please be advised that teachers are busy with delays. So if flyers aren't sent home, please be patient. Emails will be sent when the time comes closer with request for help and donations.
- **President Report** –Report given by Nicki Frank. February is the last chance to earn points to go on the field trips this year. Clearances will need to be into Mrs. Brumbach to be able to go. The first Field trip is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a chair person, the point sheets really need to be in so Brigitte can have all the points updated. Last month we spoke about the license for the Basket social. Nicki is taking care of this and is applying for the small games of chance license for the Chinese auction and 50/50. The government has loosened up on the rules so Nicki will be getting a 1 year license. A table will be set up for Kindergarten registration. We would like to get the word out about the PTO and get new parents involved. If we hit them at registration, they will have time to review the package over the summer and contact us if they should have any questions. Instead of receiving the package at the beginning of school and not having time to read it. If anyone would like to help, please let Nicki know. Nicki spoke to Beth Brong and Beth is very thankful for all the thoughtful cards, text and facebook messages. She really appreciates it and hopefully she will be back with us next month.
- **Principal report** –Mrs. Brumbach reported that currently we had 8 snow days, 9 late starts, 2 early dismissals and we only had 10 full days of school since January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be making up all the days. The last day of school is not set in stone yet so no date will be announced at this time. Last year, we didn't have snows days,

except for the "Sandy" storm. So this year is totally different and that may add to this situation we are experiencing. For as much as anxiety that you as parents are experiencing, the teachers too are experiencing difficulty and anxiety. The teachers are going crazy trying to fit everything in between all the delays and cancellations. Once the weather gets nice, it is very difficult to get kids to do what they need to do when they aren't interested in doing it. Paperwork: Parkside does not have a Wednesday Express like Palmer. Teacher's just send paperwork home daily. Palmer does use Wednesday Express and paperwork is only sent home weekly. Therefore, Parkside people will receive paperwork before Palmer. Kindergarten Registration will be February 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Typically appointments are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the rest of the week is reserved for make ups. Clearances: Last month, Mary was a little testy about Towamensing and their clearance date. The reason why she was so testy is because the superintendent announced at our September meeting that the clearances were due by December 1, 2013 and Towamensing was told the same information during their meeting. Apparently, Mrs. Steigerwalt and everyone else didn't hear that. The Superintendent ensured Mary that he told both schools the same information. Mary just wanted everyone to know that she doesn't make things up on her own. She follows the information that is given. Typically, Towamensing and Palmer/ Parkside all work together; however the environment is different at Towamensing compared to here at Palmer/Parkside. FYI: when school has a 2 hour delay, there is no way to make up specials. Lunch starts at 11 a.m. In the February newsletter she will add what day it is and then it is your responsibility to figure out from there...example if March 1<sup>st</sup> is Day 2 March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Day 3, if we are off March 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> will be Day 4. There were some staffing changes – two new aides. One is replacing our Title 1 aide – Janel Scheckler and Felecia Strauch as an individual aide.

**Questions/Comments** – From Nicki – the sign in front of Palmer is frozen shut. Parkside - there is a bench frozen to the ground in front of the sign. There will be no updated signs until they can be accessed. Anne questioned about lunches on days off. Mrs. Brumbach will have a conversation with Mr. Porter. In the elementary world it is very difficult for the kids to expect one thing for lunch and receive the lunch from the day before because we didn't have school. Mary will talk to Mr. Porter tomorrow regarding this situation.

### **Next Meeting**

March 10th at 7:00 p.m., in S.S Palmer cafeteria

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 p.m. and was passed unanimously. A Motion was made by Karen Thomas and seconded by Sue Novak.