

# PTO MINUTES

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

*January 13, 2014*

The meeting was called to order by Nicki Frank at 7:08 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 November's meeting and approved. Sue Novak made a motion to accept the minutes, and seconded by Larissa Kimmel.

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

The Treasurer's report was read from November's Meeting and approved. The CD renewed as of January 12<sup>th</sup>. A vote will have to be made by the end of the school year to renew again or cash out on the CD. Kristy Gable made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, and seconded by Laura Konze.

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

- **Clothing Swap** – Report Given by Angie Balch. Brigitte started sorting some of the clothing leftover from the last swap, but there are a lot more that needs to be sorted. If you are interested in helping, please let us know. The clothes are being sorted in the purple bins by size, which are currently marked. We would like to have the clothes sorted and available for anyone that may need. We are planning on having the next clothing swap in April.
- **Fall Fundraiser** – report given by Lisa Kistler. The event has finally wrapped up and there really isn't anything to report.
- **Santa's Workshop** – Report given by Laura Konze for Parkside. Things went okay. Help was really needed but with the weather and school cancellations, there was a lot of confusion and lack of help. There were some issues with damage products after purchasing and money with miscounting. Snow played a huge role in the issues that were experienced. Merchandise was better quality this year. The bags that the company supplied worked so much better and easier. There was a request for different colors markers – Mrs. Brumbach said not to purchase, that she has plenty on hand. Magin Gursky suggested moving the event up earlier due to the snow plus the busy time of year but Santa's workshop has always been in December representing Christmas time. There was no report for Palmer.
- **Dance** – report given by Angie Balch. The dance was held on December 13<sup>th</sup> and it was fun. The kids were a little crazy this time but it was handled. Everything went smooth however a lot of help was really needed especially during dismissal.
- **Christmas gifts** – Report given by Magin Gursky. Everything went well but she would like to start planning and ordering gifts earlier next year. She has only heard positive feedback about the blankets. Everyone seems to enjoy them. It was a great item selection. Santa was very friendly and did a great job. Santa enjoyed all the children and handing out the gifts. In turn, the children had a great time with Santa.

### **Monthly Fundraiser Reports**

- **Market Day** – Report given by Pam Andrews. Thank you for all the help at the December pick up. Paper orders must be in by January 21<sup>st</sup> and online orders must be in by January 24<sup>th</sup>. The next pick up will be January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Help will be needed starting at 6:15p.m to unload the truck and sort. A welcome letter is displayed at tonight's meeting. Spend \$25 and get \$5 off your order for new customers. Starting in the fall, packages will be by customer, so that means no sorting and less time. Putting all the boxes in Alphabetic order is still needed but overall it will be a welcoming change. Yearbook: The code is available to upload pictures. The quality of some of the pictures isn't as good as others, so if you have a bunch of pictures, it may be best to download on a CD or let Pam borrow your SD card to retrieve your pictures. There are some yearbooks available yet, if anyone would like. Next year, orders and payment can be made online.

- **Gift Cards** – report given by Angie Balch. Pick up will be January 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m. in conjunction with Market Day. If you would like to stop earlier, Nicki should be there by 6:15 p.m. to start distributing. Starting in January, we switched companies. We are now dealing with a company directly. Before we weren't. We now have higher commissions, cheaper shipping chargers and faster turnaround. There is a larger list to select from as well. Gas stations, more fast food and dining. By next month, ordering online should be available. Total sales: \$8,000 Profit: \$ 600. Doing pretty well.
- **Box Tops/Labels for Education** – report given by Nicki due to Kathleen's absence. We received a check for \$1,398 from April to December. We have collected a total of 3,679 labels for education since August. Currently, there is a balance of 33,000 points. Nicki will meet with Mrs. Brumbach to see what is needed or may want. Mrs. Dobias' class was the December winners with 608. Congratulations and good luck in January.

### **New Business - Committee Reports**

- **Committee Chairs** – Report given by Nicki Frank. There were a lot of chairs that were open, that are now filled. Beautification Parkside – Fred and Melissa Nothstein, Palmer Book Fair – Karen Thomas and Linsey German, Dance – co-chair Amy Carrelli, Kidstuff Books – co-chair Becky Christman, Fall Fundraiser – co-chair Kristy Gable, hospitality – Stephanie Meixsell and Lisa Kistler, School Board – Beth Brong, School signs – Karen Thomas, Spirit wear – Stephanie Bollinger and Stephanie Meixsell. We still need Santa's Workshop and Halloween parade. If you are interested, please apply online on the PTO website.
- **Rainbow** - Report given by Nicki. Mrs. Hunsicker (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher) had a baby in November and she was given a \$25 gift card to Babies R Us. A 6<sup>th</sup> grade child lost his father and we donated \$25 into a scholarship for him. If you know anyone that could use a pick me up or congratulations, please inform one of the officers.
- **Spring Fundraiser** – Report given by Brigitte White. Sale starts February 5<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be offering Krispy Kreme donuts, Matey's Pizza and Gertrude Hawk Candy. Pick up for Krispy Kreme and Pizza will be Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the High School from 1:30-3 p.m. Pick up for Gertrude Hawk will be Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Palmer Cafeteria.
- **Spring Book Fair** – Report given by Karen Thomas. Parkside Book Fair will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> and the theme is Reading Fiesta. Set up will be Monday, shopping on Tuesday, Family night on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and teardown later in the day on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will be sent home next week. PALMER will be February 18-22<sup>nd</sup> with setup on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Valentine's Dance** – Report given by Angie Balch. The next dance will be February 7<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m. Help will be needed starting at 1:30 p.m. to set up. As always, chaperones and help for dismissal are very much needed.
- **President Report** –Report given by Nicki Frank. After reviewing committees, it was decided to remove the Bingo Committee for this year due to all the red tape we have to go through to get a Bingo license and the lack of interest and availability of the committee chairs. We have looked into getting the bingo license and it would be a lot to complete and maintain. Retrieving a bingo license is different than a small games of chance license. Larissa Kimmel stated that she would contact Doyle Hefley and see what she can find out for us. The bingo could be held at the school; however there is no bingo board and it would be difficult for the kids. If anyone is interested in looking into this and could make something happen, please let Nicki know.
- **Principal report** –Mrs. Brumbach reported that currently February 14<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup> are now makeup snow days. She added that after Christmas, time flies and then it's time to scramble with prepare of end of year and

snow days. The decision of the snow days and cancellations were mentioned – she wanted to add that it is not her decision to cancel or delay school. The bus company decides and goes with the rest of the county. The new superintendent is the reason for the calls at night, which is very appreciated by the parents. He has children and understands that getting a call at night is so much easier on the parents and children. Some may not agree with the cancellations; however the interest is for the safety of all the children.

**Questions/Comments** – Karen Thomas: Thoughts about PTO carnival day at the end of the year. We can have a bounce house, dunk tank, popcorn machine, snow cones, etc. on a Saturday afternoon. We can contact National honor society for assistance. Mrs. Brumbach was concerned that it would interfere with the SOAR carnival. She requested maybe scheduling it earlier in May or in conjunction with the SOAR carnival. The SOAR carnival can be on Friday and then the PTO carnival can continue the next day for the whole family. We would just have to pay a little extra for the two day rentals. Mrs. Brumbach told Karen to pick a date wisely and then they will discuss. Anne Cronk – Background checks. There are some concerns about the due date of the background checks. December 1<sup>st</sup> was scheduled by the superintendent but Towamensing's due date is February 28<sup>th</sup>. A lot of our PTO members are not volunteering because they feel that they didn't have time to get their background check and now the time is past. They can't get them in time and submit them so they stopped volunteering period. Mrs. Brumbach said that she will look into the situation and add it to her February newsletter. Nicki will do the same. Larissa Kimmel: signs on each table requesting school supplies that the girl Scouts are collecting for children that can't afford their own supplies for school. Collection will continue during each PTO meeting. A reminder will be sent home prior the next meeting. Nicki Frank commented: During November's meeting the subject came up about Raise the House 5k Run on March 15<sup>th</sup> that Towamensing PTO is running for the loss of their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. House. Nicki reached out to PTO president and there was no reply. Nicki requested that Mel come to our meeting and explain a little more as to what is needed or requested from our PTO to help in their event. If you are interested in helping with this event, you are contact the Towamensing PTO for more information.

### **Next Meeting**

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

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:21 p.m. and was passed unanimously. A Motion was made by Laura Konze and seconded by Sue Novak.