

S.S. Palmer/Parkside PTO Minutes

March 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by **Nicki Frank** at 7:07 pm.

In attendance

Nicki Frank – Present, Brigitte White – Present, Magin Gursky -Present, Larissa Kimmel –Present

Introduction: Nicki thanked everyone and mentioned that its been a long time since we last met due to weather. She introduced Larissa as the new treasurer even though she has been doing the treasurer's duties for a little while. Nicki just never got to welcome her due to the meetings that were canceled. If you have any questions for Larissa please see her after the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from November's meeting and approved. Sue Novak made a motion to accept the minutes, and seconded by Jenn Platts.

Approval of Treasurer's Report-

Larissa mentioned that the November/December report was in with the minutes and the January/February was a separate paper by the sign in sheet. Larissa said nothing really stands out. Both Nicki and Larissa mentioned that currently we have a CD that is a 6 month term. It has been there for many years, maybe as long as 12 years. It started with \$5,000 and currently only has \$6,787.48. They would like to take the money out of this CD and put it in a different one with a different term and interest rate. They want to put the original \$5,000 in to start the CD and put the remaining \$1,787.48 in the general fund. Larissa will get more information about which CD will benefit us most. Currently she mentioned there is a 5 year CD that has an interest rate of 1.89% vs. our 6 month CD that has an interest rate of .25%. She will look around and see if there is anything better than the 5 year CD. Michelle Burkett if there is anything that really improved regarding fundraisers and such. Nicki said no that everything is pretty much the same, although she didn't know any numbers from the Spring fundraisers yet. Nicki did mention that the field trips will be our biggest expense. Stephanie Meixsell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and seconded by Jennifer Sommers.

Old Business –

- **Computers for Education-** report given by Wendy. We made \$1,281.50 on those little cards. Wendy has been looking for another company for next year but, hasn't found anything. She is leaving it up to the members to decide if we stay with the same company or bag it. Steph Meixsell and Jenn Platts both said to stay with it as it doesn't cost us anything to do. Nicki asked if anyone was against staying with the same company. No one opposed.
- **Spirit-Wear-** report given by Steph Meixsell. Went pretty well sales wise. Order sheet was a nightmare. We do have extras that we had to order, which will be sold at the basket social. We profited \$636.00. We did get 26 donations for kids to receive a free t-shirt. We are in the process of working on the Spring order. The order form will be revamped this time. Steph Bollinger said that the draft should be sent to the officers by the end of this week for approval. Once approved we will get them copied and hopefully get going in April. Tank tops and shorts will be available this time. The boys will have mesh shorts and thicker strap tank-top and the girls will have different style shorts that will be long enough for the dress code and have thinner straps than the boys. Sue Novak asked about sizing. Steph B said there is a size chart that is available but she doesn't think there is any way to get any samples. Steph M said she would double check about the samples and if she can get them they would be at the PTO meeting only to see. Steph B did say that the items aren't all the same brand so she thinks it really isn't possible for the samples. She will try to figure out how to get size charts to everyone whether it be attached to the order form or put on website/facebook.

- **Thanksgiving Lunches-** report given by Ms. Brumbach- It went very well. It's the biggest event with family members. Everyone loves it. As long as Ms. Brumbach is at our school she would never do away with it. She loves being able to walk around and chat with parents and see the smiles on the faces. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out.
- **Santa's Workshop-**
 - **Parkside-** report given by Brigitte. Laura said it was a great time with the children. They were ecstatic buying gifts. We were given \$100 free from the company to give to any child that did not have any money and I'm happy to report that every student in Parkside was able to purchase an item. A small profit was made from selling previous year's items, but this event is not to raise a profit but to allow our children to buy presents for their families. A special thank you to all the parents that helped out this year. Even with the snow delay it was a great event! Thank You!
 - **Palmer-** report given by Jennifer Sommers. Thank you to everyone who helped. All kids got a drawstring bag and loved it. Total sales were \$5,907.45 (this was not the profit amount). We are looking into different companies for next year as every year this company seems to have the same items. We are going see about maybe getting some personalized items that would say Bombers.
- **Christmas Dance-** report given by Nicki. Amy said everything went well, no issues.
- **Student Christmas Gifts-** report given by Magin. Everything went great. The kids loved their bags. Mr. Acerino liked them so much that he bought 2 bags from us. Santa was AMAZING. He couldn't have been more real. All the kids loved him. The way he interacted with the kids and laughed was incredible. I believe having this Santa might have changed some kids thinking. There are pictures up on Shutterfly with the kids and Santa and they are just precious seeing the kids' faces. There was even one little girl who was so happy she cried when she saw him. It was great that he took the time to be away from the North Pole to come visit that day. We definitely need to contact the North Pole and see if he would be willing to do it again next year. Brigitte said she will use her connections and contact him.

Staff Christmas gifts- Nicki said all teachers received a \$10.00 gift card to Barnes and Nobles. Custodians, Crossing guards & Cafeteria Staff received a \$10.00 Subway card. For the secretaries, they are really into fitness, so Nicki got them each a \$40.00 gift certificate to Dedicated Fitness. Each of the gift cards only cost \$35.00 as Nicki got a deal. There are thank you cards at the table for the Christmas gifts. Feel free to read them.
- **Bingo-** report given by Larissa. It was a big success. This year we had it at the high school. We got a lot of great donations. We sold 80 tickets. 41 kids & 39 adults played bingo. We had a profit of \$336.32.
- **Bingo food and baked goods-** report given by Brigitte. We had a \$306.31 profit. Thank you for the donations and help.
- **Jump Rope for Heart-** report given by Joe. It took 5 weeks to complete. It was a lot of fun. We need more help as it seems 5th & 6th grades get no help. Also make sure envelopes are in on time with names on. If kids bring checks or money make sure it is addressed with all the info so Mr. Heller knows who to give credit to. We need to figure out a better system for handing in donations for next year.
- **Valentine's Day Dance-** report given by Nicki. This dance we introduced some new snacks to the kids, including hot dogs and baked goods. This went over extremely well! We would like to continue this in the future. We made a profit of \$68.49 introducing the new items. Our question is, can this profit go towards our next budget for the next dance? We would like to ask for monetary donations for our Farewell dance this May, as this dance is free to our kids to attend and eat. Our thinking is if you donate \$5 you will receive 1 point, if you donate \$10 (max donation) you would receive 2 points. We would like to send this out to everyone in school for an equal opportunity to donate. All donations would go toward decorations and food. We were also thinking of charging the 5th grade students the dollar to get into the last dance as this is not their last dance at S.S. Palmer, and keeping it free for the sixth graders. A big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help set up, chaperone, and clean up. It is greatly appreciated. After reading Amy's email Nicki said no to the profit from this dance go to their next budget. Instead she mentioned that we should raise their budget. The current budget is \$75.00. Nicki agreed to the monetary donations, maxing out at the 2 points for \$10. The donations will go toward

decorations and food. Nicki also said no to charging the 5th graders to get in. Nicki said each child will get 2 tickets, one for a drink and one for a baked good. Depending on donations possibly a 3rd ticket for a hot dog. This would vary each year due to donation amount. Larissa asked if raising the budget is per dance? Nicki said yes it is. There will also be a limit on an amount that can be used for decorations. Larissa also asked where decorations were from prior years? Nicki said there are some but not much. What she would like to happen is to pick 3 themes and purchase stuff for those themes only and keep rotating the themes so that there isn't a class that would have the same theme twice. She also wants to revisit the prices of the snacks, drinks, etc. for next year. Nicki proposed that for the last dance of this year, we raise the budget, so that they can buy the new items and decorations. Joe Gostonyi made a motion to raise the budget from \$75.00 to \$150.00. No one was against this motion. Another thing that will be looked into is the DJ. A few members mentioned to use your cell phones, computer or to ask Mr. Palazzo to do the dances as he has all the equipment. Ms. Brumbach said she would run it past him. Amy and her co-chair spent \$36.00 on hot dogs, \$38.00 for chips, \$22.00 on baked goods, and \$52.00 on iced tea for the Valentine's Day dance.

- **Spring Fundraiser Krispy Kreme-** given by Brigitte. Pickup went very well this year on February 15th. The profit this year was \$1,978.75.
- **Parkside Book-fair-** report given by Steph Meixsell. If I did the numbers correctly we had \$2,000 in sales. \$1,000 was split by library, teachers, basket & 2nd grade books. It finally finished today. There were no issues and just about every child had money to shop.

Monthly Fundraisers

- **Market Day-** report given by Nicki. Thanks to those for assisting with the last sale and thanks to those who ordered. Next Market Day pick up will be March 26th @ 7pm. The truck will arrive at 6:45pm. Pam will be needing help to unload and at pick up.
- **Gift Cards-** report given by Wendy Bartholomew. December profit was almost \$640. January profit was \$85 and February profit was \$35. Wendy said sales in February might be down due to the other fundraisers that were out.
- **Box Tops and Labels for Education-** report given by Nicki. Kathleen mailed in \$527.40. We should receive a check in April. They were sent in February 26th. She will announce February winner shortly. If anyone wants to help, text or call Kathleen at 484-515-5870.
- **Ink Cartridges-** report given by Brigitte. Not much to report. If anyone has any questions regarding what can be sent to recycle, they can check the Cartridges for Kids website or contact Tricia.

New Business - Committee Reports

Committee Chair update- report given by Brigitte. The following position is open for all Active PTO Member to apply:

- **Basket Social-** 2 co-chairs needed. The Basket Social committee helps collect and sort donations for the auction, solicits donations from the community, as well as prepares baskets and sets up prior to the auction and helps at the event. MODERATE
- **Craft Fair-** 2 co-chairs needed - This event is to get vendors and crafters together to try to sell their beautiful products. This is held on a Saturday after Towamensing's Craft Fair. Members may donate hot food items, baskets for the basket social and their time!! Set up spots for vendors. Schedule advertising to get crafters and vendors to join us. MODERATE
- **Thanksgiving Lunch-** 1 co-chair needed. This is the opportunity for you and your children to have a Thanksgiving lunch together on a designated date. The faculty and PTO members get together and help organize and serve a wonderful meal to you and your children. EASY
- **Halloween Parade-** 1 co-chair needed. Mostly secretarial work. Decide on a theme for the community parade that we participate in every year. You will need to come up with ideas for what the children will wear, as well as help decorate the float. You will need to make any arrangements for truck and trailer that is safe for the children to ride on. You will also be marching in the parade with the children. MODERATE

- **School Board**- 2 co-chairs needed. You will be a representative and attend or find someone to attend every meeting and report back to the President before the next PTO meeting. EASY
- **Beautification**- 1 co-chair needed for Palmer Building. Help maintain gardens/grounds around building. MODERATE
- **Children's Bingo – Hot Food**- 2 co-chairs needed. Organize a menu and contact the membership for food donations. Preparation for supplying all the hot foods at Winter Bingo. MODERATE
- **Craft Fair – Hot Food**- 2 co-chairs needed. Assist with organizing a menu and contacting the membership for food donations. Preparation for supplying all the hot foods at the Fall Craft Fair. MODERATE

If anyone is interested in any of these committees, please talk to any of the officers as the website application is currently down. Anne is working on fixing it. MODERATE

- **Rainbow Committee**- report given by Nicki. As you see on the treasurer's report there are four checks that say accident victim. Those were for the four teens we sadly lost in December. Nicki gave the checks to the superintendent to mail them where they need to go. They were all S.S. Palmer kids. We gave gift cards to three teachers who had surgeries and to one custodian who had a death in the family. Jenn Platts asked if Mrs. Brown got anything for having her baby. Nicki will double check as she can't remember. Both Nicki and Ms. Brumbach will be checking on this.
- **Spring Fundraisers**-
 - **Gertrude Hawk**- report given by Brigitte. There was a profit of \$3,966.73. Currently you can order online till March 29th. To order online go to gertrudehawk.com and enter code 127422. If you order online you will pay shipping cost and it will ship directly to your home. Pick up is March 13th 3:30-7:00 in S.S. Palmer Cafeteria. Delivery will be Thursday March 12th 5-7. Brigitte will be starting at 2pm on Friday to sort and get ready for pick up. She is in need of help. If you can help please see Brigitte.
 - **Joe's Place**- report given by Nicki. Tina is not here and no one has a report.
- **S.S. Palmer Book-Fair**- report given by Jennifer Sommers. Books will be delivered this week. I will be needing help March 16th thru March 20th. If you are available and are able to lend a hand please let me know.
- **Basket Social**- report given by Nicki. Classroom baskets will be collected tomorrow. We will be in need of help tomorrow evening around 7 to log all the items for points, organize, and wrap the baskets. This will be the 28 classroom baskets only. We will be meeting at my house next Thursday the 19th to wrap the additional baskets. Please be there around 7pm if you would like to help. If you do not know where I live, see me after the meeting. Tickets have been on sale for the children to drop in school and we have been doing well this far. As of today, we are looking at next Thursday for Palmer and Friday for Parkside. In the event of a snow day, Palmer will move to Monday the 16th. These dates are based on availability of the library. In the event of the WORST case scenario that we would have off next Friday, I will personally call every parent that has purchased tickets and offer them the opportunity to come to the auction on Sunday, have us drop tickets for them or I will refund their money. We have been soliciting donations from businesses and are doing well; however, there are still many businesses that generally donate that have not been visited. I have a list as well as a letter and would appreciate the help. Please see me after the meeting if you would be able to hit up even one or two of these places. We will definitely need some assistance with the event during school and most likely will need a lead person with this event as the 3 chairs are not able to be at the event for the entire day due to work schedules. We will do everything in our power to be there and will ensure that everything is prepped for a smooth run at each building. The morning of the event usually consists of a convergence at my house to collect and drive the baskets to the high school around 8am. We set them up and then begin helping the ladies with the food as they have a ton of work and need to get hot things hot and cold things chilling. There will be something for anybody and everybody that shows up to do. It is not an event that can operate on a few individuals. We have been growing each and every year. We hope to see our tried and true volunteers as well as some newbies this year!!! We will have a table featuring spirit-wear items as well as some of our previous year's Christmas gifts. Thank you to Steph Meixsell for agreeing to man this table all day.

- **Basket Social Food & Bake Sale-** report given by Brigitte. Flier was sent home asking for donations. All of the crock-pot items have been filled. We are still in need of small things, such as walking taco stuff, water, Capri Suns, and baked goods. You can drop off the day of the event or contact Brigitte or Michelle for any baked good drop offs. If your item needs to be heated please make sure it is hot when you drop off day of.
- **Nothing But Dumplings-** report given by Lisa Kistler. Forms will go out April 8th. Money and orders are due April 17th. Dumplings will be delivered April 29th from 5:30-7:30. It will be same day as Market Day. Will need help at 4:30 to help with delivery and to sort.
- **Clothing Swap-** report given by Brigitte. Clothing swap will be April 9th 3:30-5:30. Will have bins out front of the schools starting March 16th. If you have a large donations please contact Brigitte or Kristy Gable to have it picked up. Please NO undergarments, stains or holes. Also NO toys. Brigitte will be sorting the clothes at 2pm in the PTO room on the 9th. After lunch is over, we will then move the clothes to the cafeteria. There is no more Book Swap. Nicki mentioned that if anyone had any unwanted, unused boys underwear the nurse at Parkside is in need of some. She likes to keep them on hand in case someone has an accident.
- **President's Report** – Given by Nicki. This is the first meeting since November. After last month's meeting was canceled, I had some complaints. I want to explain why we canceled rather than rescheduled. In order to reschedule, I must provide 5 days notice, ensure that my officers and principal are available, enter a use of facility form and try and round up enough people to constitute a meeting. We must have 12 people for a meeting to count. February 16th was the following Monday and we were off. That Tuesday is a board meeting and the list goes on. I spoke with Mary and we felt that there was not anything pressing on the agenda. However, I felt that we needed to take the proactive approach this month and will keep this in mind for our winter months next school year.

There has been some chatter as to why I am giving up all my committees. I would like to set the record straight as I know how the rumor mill works. To be honest, I have finished this school year with over 700 points and I didn't even submit my February hours. Quite frankly, something has to give. This year has been a trying year as there have been a great deal of issues that I have had to deal with. I'm hoping next year will run much smoother, however, I cannot guarantee that will be the case. I'm planning on focusing next year on my duties as president as well as getting back to what I enjoy, spending time around the kids. I've found that I don't have the hour or two to give to committees that I enjoy helping with.

I would like to address the school sign as we have gotten some complaints. First of all, the signs are not the easiest to change in fair weather and now they have huge piles of snow in front of them and have iced locks. I feel that we communicate often and well especially since the addition of the newsletter. They will be changed when they can be changed. This is not the 1st winter in which have had problems. I'm proposing that come December we put a nice "Enjoy the Winter" on the sign or something and call it a day.

We are currently finishing up logging points as a few sheets have just come in. As soon as they are complete, we will work on getting the lists to the teachers. In some grades, we will be asking both mother and father to chaperone as we have a lack of parents with clearances. In that case, we would have the teacher assign you and your spouse a group of say 8 rather than 4 so that you can both enjoy the day with your child. I have room on some of the trips for the photographers and will try and extend openings to parents that didn't make the cut when possible.

I would like to take this time to remind you that when on field trips children are not permitted to enter the gift shops. Please abide by these rules as they are there for a reason. Every child will eventually get to 6th grade and they are permitted to shop in 6th grade.

We will be holding a small volunteer appreciation at the May meeting. The event will be similar to that of last year. For every 10 points you have earned you will receive a ticket and for each meeting you have attended you will receive a ticket. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the rate of \$1 each, 3 for \$2 or 15 for \$5. The event will take place prior to the meeting with the drawing at the conclusion of the meeting. This is our way of extending a little thank you for all that you do for this organization and these children.

- **Principal's Report** – report given by Mrs. Brumbach. Thank you to all of you for all you do. We appreciate it as it benefits our children. Also thank you for the duffle bag. The kids love it. I get to see them in the morning and their faces were smiling the next day that they were able to use the bag.

Last year I mentioned that the clearances would last long. PDE is changing rules which means they will now only last 3 years. Next month I will have more facts. I think this is a good idea so that we can make sure everyone is still good as anything can happen. The new rules will go in effect on July 1st, 2015. I will have handout by next meeting.

PSSA's are different than last year. Last year they were 1 week now they are 2 weeks. 1st week will be April 14th - 17th with English Language Arts. Writing is embedded across the board. FYI this is for grades 3-6. They will test in the morning only. There will be NO homework during these weeks. April 21st, 22nd, 23rd will be Math and 4th grade will have Science on 28th and 29th. Make-ups have to be finished by May 8th. NEXT YEAR, 2015-2016 PSSA's will be the weeks of April 11th -15th -English Language Arts, 18th - 22nd -Math, 25th -29th -Science. Make-ups will have to be finished by May 6th.

Now for the weather events. We are better off than we were last year. So far we have had 8 snow days, 16 late starts, and 3 early dismissals.

FYI 4th quarter starts April 2nd & the 3rd quarter is done on April 1st. Report cards will go home on April 15th.

Kindergarten registration isn't as early as we need better test results from each child. They will be the first week in May 4th, 5th, & 6th. Letter will go home with the 3rd quarter report cards.

FYI Wednesday Express is so used that all papers go home. The youngest/only child in Palmer is the one who gets all the papers. Parkside everyone gets them. I've been hearing people aren't getting papers, which hopefully will soon not be an issue.

That's all I have. Thank you for coming and hopefully no more bad weather.

- **Questions/Comments** – Jennifer Sommers asked Ms. Brumbach if we would have to watch a video for the clearances as her church has their volunteers do so. Mrs. Brumbach said no as it's different.

Next Meeting

April 13th, 2015 at 7:00 pm., in S.S. Palmer Cafeteria

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:01 pm. and was passed unanimously. The motion was made by Sue Novak and seconded by Wendi Bartholomew.