



# S.S. Palmer~Parkside P.T.O.

298 Lafayette Ave. Palmerton, PA 18071

sspalmerto@gmail.com • sspalmerparksidepto.org



## Minutes for Meeting March 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Michele O'Neill at @ 7:03 p.m.

**In attendance:** President: Michele O'Neill; Vice-President: Larissa Kimmel; Secretary: Anne Cronk; Treasurer: Melissa Hager; Principal: Mary Brumbach; 24 members

**Minutes:** Anne Cronk: Minutes from February Meeting - no changes or corrections: Motion made to accept minutes made by Sue Novak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristy Gable.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report: Melissa Hager - A lot of fundraisers came in, looks like we have a lot in our bottom line, but all our Field trip bills are due soon. Gertrude Hawk was just paid. But overall we should have good amount left at the end of year after field trips. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Michele Gordon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jen Sommers.

## Old Business / Committee Reports

- a. Kid's Bingo: Larissa Kimmel / Kristy Gable: 91 tickets plus were sold, it was a good response made a profit \$930. The donations were fantastic! Didn't spend what we budgeted-which was great! Did good with food, had plenty to serve and hardly any food leftover.
- b. Gertrude Hawk/Joe's Place Gift Cards: Michele Bennyhoff / Tina Reph: Candy pickup was Friday, had many not show, had a pickup today before the meeting as well, many boxes still left. All of the Joe's Place cards have been picked up. Sales were up over last year- no final numbers yet though.
- c. Jump Rope for Heart: Michele O'Neill: volunteers were great! Thank you so much to all the parents and helpers. Weather was on our side so people could plan to take the time from work. There was a delay one day, which schedule was condensed rather than re-schedule. It was a bit crazy but Mr Heller did wonderful job working it out. Mary Brumbach: We have almost hit \$15,000 raised!! Mr. Heller will have to eat some bugs! He will be made into a human sundae.
- d. Parkside Book Fair: Jenn Sommers; Parkside was last week-had our first family night in almost 5 years, which went really well, it was great to have it back. Clifford was in attendance and the mayor of Palmerton read 2 books. Total for the week, approx. \$1904 sales - \$718 scholastic dollars.
- e. Spirit Wear- Steph Bollinger/ Michele Burkett: Sale closed on Friday, but we just got a few more in today. Less sales than fall, but that is expected. Delivery date TBA.
- f. Computers for Education: Wendi Bartholomew/Lisa Kistler: Given by Michele- We surpassed our goal in returns and will get a bonus from the company, just waiting to hear what it is. Went better than other years. Have prize robots as a give-away tonight...and the winners are: Palmer-S. Bollinger; Parkside- A. Strohl. Congratulations to the winners!
- g. Dine & Donate: Pam Andrews/Jenn Sommers: Pam- A thank you to all who came out for all the events. Almost \$1500 raised for the year. Joey B's: \$750, Balch's Soup & Salad: \$177, Palmerton Hotel: \$200, West End Saloon: \$360. An excellent year! Please pass along to all family and friends who also supported! This did much better than previous MarketDay profits.
- h. Open Committees -chairs needed
  - i. Childcare during meetings -Beth is gone next year, we need someone to step up so it can continue
  - ii. Community Festival - to shadow current chairs
  - iii. Hospitality – co-chair needed need someone to just give Lisa a hand
  - iv. Bomber Fun Run- need co-chair- Larissa only has next year
  - v. Box Tops- Kathleen stepping down at the end of this year, Lisa Gaffney will remain and Wendi Bartholomew will be co-chair

## New /Upcoming Business

- a. Palmer Book Fair: Jenn Sommers/Steph White: Being held this week, March 14-18, Family Night will be on Thursday, March 17. Started today - all is going smoothly. Kids are adjusting to sales tax, but they are sad they can't spend all the money they have on books/items and have to leave some for the tax. We need donations and volunteers for family night please. Reading challenge is going on all month. Some younger grades are doing during the time during the week

in class, and just at home on weekends. Doesn't have to be every day if they aren't able to, send in whenever they do read, it all adds up!

- b. Clothing Swap: Kristy Gable/Jennifer Lax: Clothing swap will be held on Sat. April 9, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Palmer Cafeteria. Will need help sorting clothes and during event. Bins will go out March 28 in front of buildings. We are looking for donations of Spring clothing items are looking -not winter coats, etc.
- c. Play Day/Field Days: Sue Novak: K & 1<sup>st</sup> – May 9 (rain-May 10); 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 11 (rain-May 12); 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – May 13 (rain-May 20). Teachers will be given cases of water to give to kids (K-3) - we used to have parents volunteer to write names, chill the water, but no one volunteered so we went with it going directly to classrooms to be handed out as they go to the event. Track and Field has large 5 gallon with water/Gatorade. Mr. Heller doesn't like having Gatorade - just water. PTO provides cups for grades 4-6. And water bottles for K-3. Will need volunteers to help at the events.
- d. Community Festival: Anne Cronk: We had our first 2016 chair meeting. In past years the Festival Committee has held the Duck Race to raise funds to offset the cost of the Festival. This year, due to the amount of work that went into the Ducks they are returning to the old "Treasure Chest Raffle". All the stands will have to sell 20 \$5 raffle tickets, or Rent will go up next year. Tickets are due to committee by end of July. Hopefully we will have them before next month's meeting or at least May's meeting to sell.
- e. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: MaryJo King/Sue Novak: Held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. PTO provides a pot luck lunch for teachers at both buildings, ask parents to donate food, PTO also buys Subway sandwiches. Sometimes have raffles for teachers. A thank you for all the hard work and dedication, and for dealing with us and all we ask of them! Used to be week-long celebration- it got expensive and difficult to organize. A flyer will go home with donation requests. It will be a very crazy week with multiple field trips and schools closed on Friday. More info at the April meeting.
- f. Scholarship-Senior Awards: Pam Andrews: Every year at the Senior Award banquet the PTO and staff award 2 \$500 scholarships to 2 students who attended Palmer with the highest GPA. \$800 donation raised from Teachers (dress-down days etc) and \$200 from PTO. We hope to continue this tradition. A motion was made by Amanda Knappenberger to give \$200 to the scholarship fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky Christman. No one opposed. Motion passed.
- g. Fundraisers:
  - i. Basket Social April 3: Michele O'Neill & Committee: Social will be held 9:30am to 1:30pm. Once we get through donations given by classes tonight a list will go out on Gmail and Facebook with what is still needed. Deadline of next Monday to return items. Still accepting gift cards for Card tree, & family baskets valued of \$25. Can split that with another family, each receiving 2.5 points. If you can wrap your basket-that would be very appreciated!! Over 100 baskets plus a high value raffle. Many from places we never got donations from before. We are advertising in the Morning Call free section and also in Local TN What's Happening. We will not mess around when pulling tickets, we need to clear out by 3pm. Requesting clear cello wrap donations, but we need money to purchase tickets, supplies, basket items, baskets, etc. We would like at least \$200 if not more, won't spend it if we don't need to. A motion was made by Michele Gordon to give \$300 to Basket Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tara Spiker. No one opposed. Motion passed. Some parents have already said they will round out baskets once we see what's needed. We need basket donations as well. Set-up on Sat, April 2 from 2-5pm. The committee decided not to hold the raffle in school this year, as it was done last year. We didn't get help, not much room, had to get all the baskets to and from each building. Not many kids had money for it. This did make some money but in the end it wasn't worth the work, the time out of class for the kids. Kid had a lot of difficulty with the tickets as well- ripping them, understanding concept.
  - ii. Basket Social Hot Food/Bake Sale: Kristy Gable/Tina Reph: Flyers will go out tomorrow or Wed. We are requesting food & volunteers, the sign-up genius will be ready tomorrow. Will need help Sun. to sell. We did not receive a budget this year- we will need money to purchase items not donated. Last year problems with hot dogs, mixed brands, frozen rolls, etc. We will purchase hot dogs and rolls, will request Harvest Gift Cards but may not get enough to pay for 200 hot dogs. Becky Christman made a motion to give \$200 to Hot Food committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Burkett. No one opposed, motion passed. For donations-you will get more points for crock pots of food- Typically 5 pts per crock. Bake sale will be on sign-up as well. Want a variety- so we don't get 500 cupcakes and nothing else.
  - iii. Box Tops/Labels for Education: Kathleen Leister, given by Michele O'Neill: Balance \$823.80, a check will be mailed at the end of April. 292.50 in Tops submitted last month (included in that total). Currently a balance of 22,043 Labels of Education points. We can redeem 22,000 for a \$250 gift card. We will have another submission as we close out the school year.

Contest for Feb winners: 1<sup>st</sup>-Mrs. Barclay (353), 2<sup>nd</sup>-Mrs. Gilmartin (179), 3<sup>rd</sup>-Mrs. Fantasia (151).

Cambell's Soup Labels contacted us, they are discontinuing the program. It's been noticed that the labels have been phasing out of many products. They will still accept what is still out there for a short period of time. Please get in now if you are hoarding them - we get cash gift cards. New programs will be coming- no details yet on those. Box tops still going on- no changes to that.

- iv. Gift Cards: Wendi Bartholomew: Given by Michele O'Neill- Only 3 sales this month for Easter. Will be holding sale again next month. If you are interested please watch for flyer.
- v. Ink Cartridges/Staples Rewards:- Wendi Bartholomew, Given by Michele O'Neill: We received many ink cartridges from Times News through Tara Spiker- which we turned into Staples rewards. We can turn in 10/month- for \$20 in Staples rewards. We will purchase supplies, pens, note pads, cases of paper. Becky Christman suggested, can we do an office supply basket for basket social? With the time left and we do need some supplies for day-to day we will plan to do that for next year if we can stock up on supplies over the course of the year. Searching for a new company to mail ink into, the current company we have to wait until we have \$25 in cash back, and doesn't accept many types. They have to be sorted etc,. If you know of any place that accepts, please let us know.

**President Report:** Michele O'Neill: Thank you to all our volunteers for the great job they have been doing. Again, busy weeks coming up finishing out Book Fair, Basket Social and then onto Field Trips! Points are almost tallied. Getting list of amount of chaperones needed from teachers. Will be notified soon if you are chaperone.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Brumbach: We got very good news just a few hours ago, Autumn Heydt (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) Won the Paint The Pig contest for Iron Pigs! She is very excited! Thank you to all who voted! We had some scheduled make-up Snow dates this year- and we didn't have to make-up one! School closed, Thurs, March 24 - thru Monday, March 28. 2016-17 School Calendar will be approved at tomorrow night's School Board meeting. Many people are taking off during PSSA's - and yes they make them up- but its different environment. Please try to NOT schedule a vacation during PSSA testing. Next year- PSSAs- ELA 4/ 9-13, 2017, Math- 4/16-20, Science- 4/23-27. Easter breaks it up in between. Kindergarten registration will be last week of March. Any child that is 5 by Sept 1 is asked to register now. Letters went to parents of known eligible children, and notices to local Day Cares for them to tell parents. 69 registered so far. School was originally ending on May 26, Making up snow day on , so school end Friday, May 27. Both half -days. Graduation set for Wed. May 25

Sue Novak asked about the change in dismissal, 2<sup>nd</sup> gets out first now. Mr Heller asked Mary about a week ago to change to see if it would help with the chaos of parking etc. Dismiss the small kids, those parents are the ones who occupies most of cars parked out front. 5 & 6thgraders will run anyone over getting out the door - so now most cars are gone by the time 5/6 grades are out. The change has made it a bit better. Continuing to monitor the situation.

**Member Question & Comments** - Anne Cronk- there is a Google calendar on PTO website, if you are on Android it is public and you can probably link to it for your phone if you wish.

Pam Andrews: Will PTO still provide the 6<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts ? Michele- Yes we will continue-please get us any information you need! Also we will provide water for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade picnic. Becky Christman: Do we have a 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents meeting? She heard a Townensing Parent attending one. Michele-No, there is a new "moving up" ceremony but that is held within school during the day. Parents/PTO has nothing planned.

Michele O'Neill - there is a meeting for basket social after this meeting if anyone wants to stay and help. Also- it was really nice to see people stay after last month's meeting to socialize so please feel free to stay and have a snack and talk!

**Call to Adjourn** made @ 8:10 p.m., motion made by Sue Novak, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennifer Sommers

**Next Meeting: April 11, 2016 7:00 p.m.**