

## Pleasant Avenue PTA Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2011

**Officer Attendees:** Monica Poitras, Elena Willett

**Additional Attendees:** Patricia Lago, Beth Edel, Deb Ammann, Heidi Norris, Jeff Vivenzio, Helen Reed, Karlene Peck

**Secretary Report:** Motion to accept -Jeff Vivenzio and Elena Willett

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept - Jeff Vivenzio and Beth Edel

**Central Council:** No Report - No Representative

### Memberships:

- Jeff attended a dance at his daughters school, a version of the Father/Daughter Dance, that had the Sign up for PTA right there and this was a great venue to get men signed up. Suggestion for next year?
- Reminder to submit additional memberships rec'd are due by March 31<sup>st</sup> to NYS. Monica sent email to Karen Miller as a reminder.

**Pancake Breakfast:** Great turnout. Thanks to everyone that supported by buying tickets, cooking, cleaning, setting up and just all around helping out!

- Things to note for next year: need more students to help set up and clean up tables, additional volunteers for the later hours to help clean up the kitchen, etc.
- Would like feedback from the teachers regarding the "pre-sale ticket strategy" for the staff. It was an idea suggested by a teacher and we'd like to know how it was received as a potential for future events.

**Carnival:** Friday, March 18, 2011 from 6-8. Elena still needs volunteers. Flyer sent home on Monday.

**Follow up:** The gym was full of games for the kids to play, the "Cake Walk turned Cupcake Walk turned Pizza Walk" was a huge success! Students in attendance seemed to have a really good time. Would have liked more kids to have come and need additional volunteers for setup and assistance for the evening. Realize it was a nice night and there was also a dance at Knox and that there were some "racing" related activities going on as well.

**Founder's Day Dinner:** 2010-2011 Pleasant Avenue recipients are: Lisa VanAernam, Emily Cox and Christina Hayes. Congratulations! Dinner is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at Winner's Circle. Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30pm. In recognition of their contributions, a donation in their names, and recipients from the past 2 years, will be made to the Pleasant Avenue library. In the past, a donation of books has been made to the library. It has been noted that the past few years the books were not requested so there is a bit of equity built up that the new Librarian would like to utilize to enhance the library at Pleasant Avenue. The Executive Committee has agreed to allocate \$1000 to be used to bring the awards "current" for the recipients and the school. Details for allocating the funds is below. Thank you to those that purchase raffle tickets for the Founder's Day baskets. Proceeds to go towards the Central Council Scholarship fund.

**Talent Show:** March 24<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm – LOTS of interest. There will be a performance limit of 2 min max. Good Luck to all that have entered!

**Educational Showcase:** Scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. So far there has been a low response rate. Wondering if scope is too big and kids can't decide or too many events scheduled for March. Is it an option to push back? Committee to decide what is best.

**Homework Club:** Students that have been asked to participate have been benefiting from the extra assistance. The Program would like to expand but is currently struggling to get volunteers to assist. If they are unable to secure additional resources, then they won't be able to open the program up to additional students. So, if you would like to help out the program, please contact Pleasant Avenue to see about volunteering.

Staff has also approached the PTA about funds to provide snacks to the participating students. At this point they rec'd a large donation of items remaining from the Carnival that will last for a few weeks. When they run out, we can discuss how to provide the snacks through the end of the year.

**Amazing Reading Race Reading initiative:** Great competition. Looking to have racers from Fonda come to celebrate the "Track Day". Date TBD. Keep up the reading!!

**Persevering Pioneers** – Celebration on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Theme for this month was Respect. Congrats to the winners!

**Parent Involvement Team** – A large amount of funding has been allocated for Pleasant Avenue, Warren Street and Knox to establish a Parent Involvement Team. This team will develop goals, ideas and ways to increase Parent involvement in the schools. From Pleasant Avenue, Beth Edel, Rachel Truckenmiller and Deb Ammann have volunteered. Jeff would like us to reach out to the PTA. Monica would like to research sending out a survey as to why people are not attending meetings, what they would like to see offered or changed at school and see if anyone would like to volunteer. Ideas so far would be to maybe bring in a consultant, offer babysitting services, monthly theme, offering food, etc. Would like to collaborate with Warren and Knox Teams.

**Library** – Looking to upgrade to automated on-line cataloging. \$925 includes scanner, bar code labels and library account. Jeff has confirmed that the school server has capabilities to handle the software. Already raised \$200 from current popcorn sale. Looking to PTA to fund remaining amount. Request to use Founder's Day allocated funds was approved. Annual fee of \$395 to continue service. Concern about paying for the maintenance was addressed by potentially funding by 2 popcorn sales or future Founder's Day awards. Trial period is for 30 days. Deb asked to research when annual contract starts and ends? Is it year to date or by school year. This will determine when the contract to purchase is signed.

**Toy donations for Indoor Recess:** The indoor recess staff is requesting items for the students to use when they can't go outside for recess. They are looking for Lego's, Tinker Toys and Lincoln Log type of items (not games as the students don't have time to finish and the parts get lost.) A flyer should be going home soon looking for donations before making a request for PTA to purchase. Any assistance would be appreciated.

**Porkchop Speedway** was a huge success. This was the reward from the Fall Fundraiser. Best Dressed pig was won by Mrs. Johnson's Class. Mrs. Swartouts class won the race.

**McDonald's Night:** April 13<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm. Proceeds go towards the scholarship given to a graduating Pleasant Avenue Senior.

**Art Show/Ice Cream Social/Book Fair** – April 28<sup>th</sup>. Beth Edel has already contacted Scholastic. This book fair is usually BOGO. Monica Poitras has contacted Stewarts for the Ice Cream donation (just waiting to hear back from them.)

**Pleasant Avenue BBQ to benefit Accelerated Reader:** May 12<sup>th</sup>. Committee will begin working on the details.

Next Meeting: April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Pleasant Avenue Library.