



Pleasant View Elementary

Pleasant View PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: March 6, 2023

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Pleasant View library

- **Present:** Steven Cotton, Megan Barone, Karyn Green, Amy Featherstone, Susan Smith, Erin Onions, Mindy Gassman, Laura Kies, Loretta Gilbeck, Nikhil Wagle

Board Members:	President	–	Megan Barone
	Co-Vice-Presidents	–	Amy Featherstone, Karyn Green & Susan Smith
	Secretary	–	Mindy Gassman
	Treasurer	–	Erin Onions
	Principal	–	Steven Cotton

Regular Business:

- Call to Order – Called to order at 6:32 PM.
- Approval of Minutes– Approved as written.
- Principal’s Report – Steven Cotton
 - We are wrapping up conferences this week. The goal is to have 100% of families attend. It has been a successful conference season.
 - 3-6th graders will start MAP testing after spring break. ISAP testing will be in April.
 - There was an item in e-news regarding 23/24 classroom lists. If you have information about your student’s learning preferences or characteristics that would be helpful, please submit the form (contact Mrs. Blake for assistance.) Do NOT include teacher names.
 - Gifts to School list has been approved. Thank you for your generosity during Fall Fest.
- Treasurer’s Report – Erin Onions
 - The coupon book fundraiser has raised \$2,600. The return rate was not better than last year, with around 125/130 books still unaccounted for. If you have a book at home, please return it.
 - There was also revenue from staff appreciation and payments for conference childcare and gifts to school.
- President’s Report – Megan Barone
 - The superintendent meeting has not yet happened this month.
- Vice-President’s Report – Amy Featherstone, Karyn Green & Susan Smith
 - Conference childcare was well received with 32 kids participating. Next time, information could be provided at the same time as the notice for conference sign-up.
 - Correspondence was received from Mr. Gauss and Mrs. Doyle both thanking the PTA for the conference meal, book fair books, and continued support.

New Business:

- Walkathon Goal - May 5th
 - Mr. Cotton will survey staff for ideas. The campaign will be electronic, not envelopes.
- Donuts with a Grownup - April 14th
 - This event will be held indoors with the outside available, weather permitting. All sales will be electronic, except for that day, when cash will be accepted.
- Staff Appreciation - March 21st
 - The sign-up will go out this week and have a spring salad theme.
- PTA Committee Chairs
 - If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Megan Barone. There is a need for co-chairs for the variety show, ideally someone with theatre/performing arts experience, as well as culture night. It may be possible to incorporate the 2nd grade culture unit.
 - The PTA will look into ways to increase awareness for these volunteer opportunities at curriculum night, a table at unpack-the-backpack night, kindergarten assessment, school tours, etc.

Old Business:

- Book Fair
 - The spring book fair was fantastic and generated \$10,794 in sales. Susan was able to utilize Scholastic dollars earned to buy all teacher-bin books remaining that families did not buy. There was no e-wallet day, and we will keep this model, but may extend hours on the second evening. It was noted that teachers appreciate no e-wallet day. Mrs. Stevenson did a great job with showing the preview videos, as many of those books sold out. Susan did a great job and agrees to continue this position next year.

Announcements:

- Nikhil Wagle, Pleasant Valley Board of Education President
 - Mr. Wagle shared that the continued growth in the District has led the District to approve the expansion of Forest Grove Elementary from two to four sections and also expand the junior high. The high school would be expanded over the next several years. There was a special meeting on March 6 to look into the possibility of a land purchase. When Hopewell opened, it was expanded faster than expected. The timeline for the new land would be 5-10 years, but that is uncertain. Mr. Cotton noted that the Hopewell land was owned for 30 years before building. Mr. Wagle explained that there is a need to buy the acreage now, before it is developed for residential. The next land the District looks at will be on the other side of I80. The District wants to decrease the pressure of students coming to Pleasant View or Hopewell.
 - Because we are a public school, we must abide by state laws, maintaining compliance despite always changing laws. The State is now debating if a book is banned somewhere in Iowa, should every school in Iowa be required to have an alert to parents. If this passes, it would require an investment of six figures. There is also a transparency act that would require everything a teacher uses to be available publicly, which would require 2 FTE's. These changes come at the expense of other things.
 - Mr. Wagle urged everyone to get involved – the local politicians represent us. The District does not want to give up on public schools. The vouchers represent two hundred fifty million dollars going away from public schools to private. The District currently has a special education deficit of over one million dollars. We do not want to lose teachers to other states paying more.

- Mr. Wagle appreciates all the work the PTA does and will try to recruit volunteers.
- Mr. Cotton noted that we must advocate for older buildings while the new buildings are coming. The 1959 hallway of Pleasant View, parts of Cody and the Junior High should be kept in mind. We need to keep up what we already have.
- There was a question about the District open enrollment numbers. Mr. Wagle explained that the state legislative trend over the last few years has emphasized parental choice. In the past, open enrollment required approval. Davenport did not allow it unless there were special situations. Now, it can happen at anytime (no deadline.) If a student open enrolls here, the money follows the student. If a high schooler open enrolls, he/she is not able to go into sports for at least three months. In the past, we had more enrolling out than in, but now more enroll in than out. Families can pick the district, but not a specific school. There is conditional placement each year for that school, although the District tried to keep families together. Busing is provided to the edge of the District, but not beyond.
- In terms of vouchers, the income restrictions will be lifted in two years. There is no requirement for a private school to accommodate special needs, provide transportation, subsize lunch, for follow public school mandates.
- Another big issue is recruiting and retaining teachers. The high school went from 12 applications to a couple. Mr. Cotton noted that Pleasant View used to have hundreds of applications, but this year had 79. Pleasant View started the process early and had great candidates. Mrs. Gilbeck noted that the number of students majoring in education has gone down overall. Mr. Wagle noted that teachers are inspired by student interaction and making a difference, and we want to recruit and retain the best, but that has been increasingly challenging.

- March 13 - 17, Spring Break
- April 5 - Early Dismissal, 1:30pm
- April 10 – PTA meeting, 6:30pm

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.