

**Amberly PTA Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2011
(Pending Approval)**

Colleen Semler, President - The meeting was called to order at 9:01pm. There were 21 members present. Welcome and introductions were conducted. The October, 2011 minutes were distributed and approved.

Guest speaker – Judy Beam, The Beam Family Elementary Reading Endowment Fund

Mrs. Beam spoke about the many ways to donate to our school district to benefit our children, especially now that funding has been reduced. The Beam Family Reading Endowment supports reading instruction at Portage Public Elementary Schools. So far, they have given \$5,000 to PPS. You can donate by going to the PEF NOW website and clicking on endowments. Donations are tax deductible. Your donation, even \$10, is appreciated.

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report – Lisa Mace

- The following reports were handed out: APT Profit & Loss Budget versus Actual July 2011-October 2011 and the APT Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2011. Copies of these reports are available for review upon request.

President's Report – Colleen Semler

Thank yous:

- Becky Bach for a successful Community Sharing Food Drive.
- Lilly Wong for her hard work on the School Directory.

President Elect – Due to personal reasons, Kelly Rorabaugh has had to step down from her positions. We are currently trying to find a replacement.

Amberly Dad, Deke Coopes passed away yesterday, our condolences go out to the Coopes family.

President Elect – Kelly Rorabaugh

Nothing to report.

Past President's Report – Jeslyn Gordon

Nothing to report.

Fundraising Report – Robin Neeb

Nothing to report.

Principal's Report – Mary Daoust

Thank you to everyone for donating winter wear and those who come in to help with breakfast. Volunteers are always welcome.

A school-wide celebration will be held Friday to celebrate good behavior as part of the Pawsome Expectations program. The next celebration will occur when the fish tank in the office fills up again with good behavior tickets. Those students who have a major behavioral infraction between now and then will not be allowed to participate and will instead be required to attend Rule School with Mrs. Daoust to review behavior expectations.

Pawsome Expectations banners will be going up around the school in the next few weeks.

Chicago Conference – Mrs. Daoust and 11 staff attended a weekend conference regarding the Daily 5. Focus is on students reading more, increasing their work with words and building their stamina.

Parent Teacher conferences are this week. Parents will be getting a home/school contract.

Notes and News will be adding a section for Teachers Wish Lists. Keep an eye out for that in coming issues.

Committee Reports

Fifth Grade Cleanup – Marcy Compton – The cleanup was a success, there was no rain delay! Leaf clean up was accomplished as well as picking up the courtyards. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.

Media Center – Jeanne Case – The media center is in need of two more volunteers to help out during the week, please contact me if interested.

Barnes and Nobles Book Fair to benefit Amberly Media Center is December 8th from 5-8pm. Information will be going home in Friday Folders, please save your holiday shopping for that day or you can shop online. We are in need of volunteers that night, and if you volunteer, please wear your Amberly Spiritwear or your Amberly name tag.

Amberly Forum – Michelle Behr – The district will no longer be sending flyers from outside groups home in Friday Folders beginning in January. A website is being set up so parents may access outside groups electronically.

Mrs. Daoust reported on the status of the MiBlisi Project. Students are responding well to the tickets for positive behavior. There have been some issues in the cafeteria and they are now working on modeling appropriate behavior there.

The Chinese Program sponsored by the Confucius Institute is continuing. There is talk of an expansion into upper grades and the high schools. The new Chinese teacher for Amberly will start in January.

MEAPs have concluded for the year. The state made some changes in the threshold scores for proficiency, This may mean a higher number of students whose scores are considered below the proficient level.

Amberly snack policy – Consensus is that it should be as consistent as possible across all grade levels for the convenience of students, teachers, and parents.

Community Sharing – Becky Bach – Amberly collected 1173 food items and over \$50 in cash that was given to the Portage Community Center to help out families in need. Thank you to all who gave and the volunteers who collected and delivered the food items. What a success!

CIC – Rita McKenzie – CIC members were given a hand out listing *Five Academic Non-Negotiables for the district* and the one year goal for each of these.

A research scientist from WMU presented a First-Year Pilot Report on the *Chinese Pilot Program* currently at Amberly and Lake Center. Contact me if you would like a copy to review.

Science Curriculum update – Formal proposals detailing the changes to the elem, middle and high school science curriculum will be presented at the Nov 30th meeting. A vote is expected to take place at the December CIC meeting.

German Textbook Proposal – It was proposed to purchase 28 German Textbooks and Student Activity Manuals for IB German IV and V for an estimated cost of \$3311.65. A vote will take place at the next CIC meeting. All approved votes are “pending funding.”

Common Core Update – KRESA consultant Courtney Huff will be hired by the District to assist in implementing the Reading and Writing standards in all core content areas. Middle and high school teachers have already attended a half day training session in content literacy strategies for ELA, Social Studies, Math and Science.

Spiritwear – Julie Bossch – The order is underway now, orders are due Nov 22. No late orders will be accepted. We are expecting the order to come in Dec 19th and are looking for volunteers to help with sorting and distributing. There will be one more sale in the Spring before Tiger Trek.

Deb Coll – Staff Appreciation – Goody Bags for teachers for Conferences were made and delivered Wednesday morning. Thank you to all who helped.

Holiday Art – Shelly Denny – All artwork has been turned in, thank you to Linda and Michelle for helping. We will start wrapping after Thanksgiving. We are accepting donations of generic wrapping paper. Please contact Shelly Denny if interested in helping out or donating.

Old Business

None

New Business

Vote on Teaching Staff Gifts – A motion was made to give full-time staff \$100 and part-time staff \$50 for a total of \$3250 in gifts to our teaching staff. The motion was seconded, a vote was held and all were in favor. This is done via an internal account that goes directly to teacher for use in their classroom.

Announcements

1. Upcoming Events:
 - Notes and News – contact Kristy Zeluff, kkminer@chartermi.net, Monday, Nov 28th.
 - Nov 18th Movie Night – Cars 2 – Michelle O'Hern.
 - Holiday Art – Shelly Denny mdenny@shepherdcompany.com
 - Next APT meeting – Tues, Jan 17 2012 7pm Media Center. Topic will be PPS new technology with guest speakers Kelly Jensenius and Jessica Winstanley.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.