

**Oak Grove School Parent Teacher Organization  
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 9:31am CT on Zoom. Participants included:

|                   |                      |                   |                    |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beth Zender       | Kate Byers           | Elizabeth O’Neill | Haeli Byrnes       |
| Aayshah Mirza     | Jen Barnabee         | Leslie Weber      | Allison Sherman    |
| Dave Huber        | Ashley Wilson        | Emily Savino      | Kate Robinson      |
| Cathie DeMoon     | Hillary Bolke        | Jennifer Davis    | Jill Procop        |
| Julie Kovach      | Karin Pawlowski      | Laura Reutzell    | MaryAnne Korkut    |
| Melissa Rakestraw | Raabia Khan Mohammed | John Jacksack     | Madhumita Banerjee |

Rachel Margelos

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes from November 3, 2021 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as read.

**3. Reports of Officers**

- a. President (Beth Zender & Kate Byers)
  - i. Mrs. Leslie Weber, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, was invited to present regarding updates to the OGS health curriculum that impact PTO programming. Historically the PTO held a 5th Grade Girls’ Tea and a 5th Grade Boys’ Night where students and parents listened to a Candor Health speaker discuss puberty topics, food was provided and the students received a small toiletry bag of relevant health supplies. New mandates in the state of Illinois require OGS to update the health curriculum for grades 5-8. Candor Health will continue to present the information to 5th grade students, but the information will be shared during the school day. Boys and girls will receive instruction at the same time with an option for parents to opt-out, if desired. Superintendent Allison Sherman reiterated that the school wants to continue to partner with the PTO to engage students and families on this topic, but the school will take the lead on the educational component of the program. Ideas discussed included offering a parent informational night, several weeks before the in-school component and moving the whole program earlier in the 5th grade school year so students get the information in the early fall instead of late spring. A concern was shared regarding the comfort level of students to ask sensitive questions in a mixed-gender setting. Next steps will be for the committee chairs to meet with the PTO Exec board and OGS admin to figure out how the PTO programs can evolve and best support changes to the in-school curriculum. Any comments or suggestions are welcome to both the PTO Exec Board and/or Mrs. Weber.

- ii. An online management system is being evaluated that will replace the printed PTO directory and include many other features such as a calendar, volunteer sign-ups, online sales features, etc. Volunteers are needed to help test the new platform. Contact the PTO Exec team, if you are interested.
- b. Vice President (Elizabeth O'Neill)
  - i. The PTO is the charter organization for Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Pack 194. As a charter organization, the PTO functions in a leadership/oversight role and is responsible to elect an option regarding the proposed BSA bankruptcy plan in response to sexual abuse claims against the BSA. The proposed bankruptcy plan calls for the BSA, its local councils and in some cases, chartering organizations like the PTO, to contribute cash and property to a fund for abuse victims. The PTO's charter relationship with Pack 194 began in 1999 and no abuse claims have been filed against the PTO or Pack 194. Beth Zender, Kate Byers and Elizabeth O'Neill met with the three leaders of Pack 194 as well as representatives from BSA Northeast Illinois and after careful review of the options and in-depth discussions with stakeholders, the recommendation is for the PTO to select "Option 1" which will not require the PTO to contribute to the settlement fund and will release the PTO from any potential abuse-related claims in connection with its relationship with Pack 194 since 1999 until the date the bankruptcy petition was filed. Next steps will be for the PTO Exec Board to discuss any feedback offered and for an option to be selected once a unanimous Exec Board decision is reached. Additionally, the PTO Exec Board has requested that a representative from Pack 194 provide a monthly update regarding their activities as part of Standing Committee reports.
  - ii. Report from the November 16, 2021 BOE Meeting:
    - 1. Facilities: Planning for the replacement of the parking lot is ongoing. The school is maintaining 20% fresh air at all times.
    - 2. Bus Service: The BOE approved an amendment to the contract with Durham bus service to incentivise drivers to stay with or join Oak Grove.
    - 3. District Health: The district did not host a student vaccine clinic, but may revise this approach if vaccines become harder to get. The district is considering a confidential vaccination status survey in 2022 to evaluate vaccination numbers and herd immunity. The Covid testing program is in a good routine.
    - 4. Several elementary teachers and parents made public comments regarding changes to the informal TAG program for lower elementary students whereby students are no longer pulled out of the classroom for enrichment. Teachers and parents requested that the district hire someone so that services could resume as they had in the past. The district is considering hiring a .5 FTE position to fill the role and is also re-examining the informal TAG program.

5. The district is posting a position for the Director of Curriculum and Innovation in December and plans to interview in January. The position will start next school year.
  6. In December the BOE will vote on the tax levy.
- c. Treasurer (Haeli Byrnes)
    - i. Expenditures: Reimbursements for K-4 party supplies, teacher fund reimbursements, PTO Directory printing costs
    - ii. PTO taxes are filed and PTO insurance is paid through the next year
  - d. Registrar (Aayshah Mirza)
    - i. Committee volunteer lists are being sent as needed and the lunch volunteer sign-ups are being monitored. Additional lunch volunteers are needed in the coming weeks and at the start of 2022.
- 4. Report of Administration** (Jen Barnabee)
- a. Gratitude was shared for both the meal and dessert bar during Parent-Teacher conferences as well as for the generous contributions following the book fair.
  - b. Sports at OGS have had an exciting winter season for basketball and cheerleading/Poms. Boys and girls wrestling will begin in January.
  - c. Upcoming dates: Winter Break December 23-January 9. There is an 11:30 am early release on January 14 and Monday, January 17 school is closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
  - d. A comment was offered regarding the Future Quest program. The request was that the program be promoted more among parents and students so that they fully understand the opportunity.
- 5. Reports from Standing Committees**
- a. Teacher's Liaison (Dave Huber) - Many thanks were offered to the PTO for the dinner and desserts during conferences as well as for support throughout the year.
  - b. OGS Winter Market (Kate Byers on behalf of AnneRose Poor, Becky Ketterhagen & Shellie Fahy) - Stan's Donuts will fulfill pre-sale orders and sell donuts throughout the event and make a contribution to the PTO. Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts (Buckley Road locations) have donated all the coffee and hot chocolate that will be sold at the event. Fun Services is the vendor partner for the Secret Shopping Village. Fun Services has a shopping voucher option where parents can purchase vouchers with a credit card and students can use them like cash in the Secret Shopping Village. Additional details are available in OG News. Eight vendors will have tables at the event to sell their merchandise, the PTO will sell take-and-go spiritwear and the Boy Scouts will be selling s'mores.
  - c. Book Fair (Melissa Rakestraw) - Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked shifts at the book fair and during set-up and tear-down. Overall sales were \$13,605 which is 12% more than the fall of 2019 when the last "usual" (pre-Covid) book fair was held. The PTO will profit \$2,188 cash from Scholastic as well as \$2,000 Scholastic dollars which Mrs. Rappaport and Mrs. Osterman will use to purchase books for the OGS libraries. The PTO had a balance of Scholastic dollars leftover after the Spring '21 bookfair and these were used to purchase additional books for the

libraries and to fulfill teacher wish list items that were not purchased throughout the duration of the fair.

- d. Grade Level Coordinators (Beth Zender, Julie Kovach, Laura Reutzel) - K-4 Winter parties will take place on Wednesday, December 22 and Grades 5-8 will have a PTO-sponsored pizza party during their lunch period. All grades are moving forward with Foundation Gala projects.
- e. Son Plus One (MaryAnne Korkut) - Pricing estimates were shared for three different bowling facilities. Laura Reutzel shared that the 2020 Mother Son Dance had 276 attendees. The committee will regroup to discuss options and dates to decide how to move forward. Jen Barnabee is also going to check if grade will be doing traditional end-of-year field trips. Since some grades go bowling, the information will help the committee assess overlaps.
- f. Turnabout Dance/Daddy Daughter (Ambika Meyer) - The committee is investigating venue options including bowling, roller skating and Canlan Sports.

**6. Report from OGSEF (Hillary Bolke)**

- a. Gala tickets are available for sale on the OGSEF website. The team is working on collecting auction items so please notify OGSEF if you have an item or experience you'd like to donate. The silent auction will be hosted on the GiveSmart platform. Three new OGSEF members were approved: Sharee Bowsher, Ty Rakestraw and Zara Faruki.

**7. Old Business**

**8. New Business**

- a. Julie Kovach made a motion and Raabia Khan Mohammed seconded the motion to discuss a request for funds from Heather McCarty (on behalf of the 3rd grade team) for \$100 for plastic picture frames from Dollar Tree to complete the 3rd grade family project that students give parents. Motion passed unanimously via Zoom poll vote.

**9. Announcements**

- a. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30pm.
- b. Other important dates:
  - i. February 1-3, 2022: Jr. High Bookfair
  - ii. February 19, 2022: OGSEF Gala
  - iii. May 27, 2022: Field Day (early dismissal)

**10. Adjourn**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 10:39am CT.