

**Oak Grove School Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 1, 2023**

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 9:32 am CT in the Professional Development Room at Oak Grove School. Participants included:

Zoom Participants

Cathie DeMoon	Sharonda Brown-Kern	Cheryl Turner	Karin Pawlowski
Aayshah Mirza	Doug Malkin	Raabia Khan Mohammed	Laura Reutzel

In-Person Participants

Kate Byers	Beth Zender	Haeli Byrnes	Elisabeth Cobb
Jina Rappaport	MaryAnne Korkut	Jacki Lewis	Amy Peterson
Kate Robinson	Joni Kane	Allison Sherman	

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from January 11, 2023 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as read.

3. Correspondence

- a. The SEL Team sent a thank you email for helping celebrate Gratitude Month by providing Cookies for Kindness.

4. Report of Officers

- a. Presidents (Kate Byers & Beth Zender)
 - i. January usage of the lunch pantry was slightly down from prior months. Lunch staff are encouraging students to call home before distributing pantry items to ensure parents know when students are making a request.
 - ii. The staff provided a great list of potential ideas for future funding from PTO Surplus funds. The Strategic Planning Committee will gather approximate costs and distribute the information to parents for any additional ideas. Dr. Meltzer won the survey participation gift card.
 - iii. Nominating Committee will begin the '23-'24 search soon. They will first identify candidates for the Executive Board followed by Committee Chairs. All current chairs have first right of refusal. Reach out if you are interested in helping the nominating committee.
 - iv. SEL assemblies are in progress. PTO donated spiritwear items as prizes.
- b. Vice President (Beth Zender for Elizabeth O'Neill). Report from 1/17/23 BOE Meeting:
 - i. Finance Update. The Board discussed the financial impact of a commercial property tax appeal. It is costing the district several thousand dollars in legal and appraisal fees.

- ii. Facilities Report. The wood canopy structures near the JH playground will be sealed once the weather is warmer. The work on the JH vestibule was completed over Winter Break.
 - iii. Tech Report. At the January Board meeting, the technology team was doing a dry run of the streaming equipment. The goal is to start streaming in February.
 - iv. Calendar Update. The DEI committee is recommending that OGS makes Eid a non-attendance day due to the significant amount of absences seen historically on that day and to align with the high school. The three options the Board is considering are posted to the Board agenda packet. OGEA also prefers Option 3. The Board will vote next month.
 - v. Bus Contract. Steve Cummins is in the process of negotiating the Durham Bus contract. He is looking for a reduction/concession for the 22-23 routes. Due to labor shortages, several of the afternoon routes are not departing on time. OGS contracted for 11 on-time departures but is not getting that.
 - vi. Strategic Planning. Allison noted that Portrait of a Graduate (which was explained last meeting), is pricier than other options, but neighboring districts have done it. Administration is talking to neighboring districts to get more information and there is some potential that feeder schools may be interested in joining with OGS in retaining PoG. More information to come.
 - vii. Superintendent Report. Allison Sherman noted that 10 OGS students received perfect IAR scores. They will be honored at the February Soaring Eagles assembly. There was a private, anonymous donation for STEM benches. Seven robots are needed to continue the development of the STEM program. The Foundation will hear the administration's proposal to help with funding.
 - viii. President Comment. Krysia Ressler noted she is excited to start streaming in February and that the Board will continue to have Allison Sherman reach out to individuals who make public comments.
 - ix. TAB. A TAB (Teacher, Administration, Board) representative noted a meeting was held with all three entities. They discussed kindergarten staffing issues and culture & climate.
 - x. Public Comment. 25 individuals spoke at public comment during the COW and Regular Board meetings. OGEA President, Erin Smith, spoke on behalf of 88 teachers who strongly opposed the involuntary transfer of Ms. Dugan and Ms. Mosquera to the vacant kindergarten position.
 - xii. The Facilities Committee met on January 19 to discuss the need for an early childhood classroom and tentative expansion options.
 - xii. The Communications Committee met on January 31 to discuss the district communications survey, Board Briefs/meeting summaries and the exit interview survey.
- c. Treasurer (Haeli Byrnes)

- i. Bank statements and Marla's numbers not available until mid-day due to it being the first day of the month.
- ii. Recent expenses include Jr. High winter pizza luncheon and the November parent/teacher conference dinner. Both were approximately \$1,000.
- d. Registrar (Aayshah Mirza)
 - i. No report.

5. Report of Administration (Allison Sherman)

- a. OGSEF hosted an event with Simply Bee titled "Building Resilient Minds". 30-40 participants joined, babysitting was offered, and the event was recorded. If you have an event that needs to be recorded and/or streamed, the option is available in the JH Cafeteria.
- b. DEI will host Biz Lindsay Ryan on 2/7, 6-8pm. This is a workshop model and will not be recorded.
- c. Interviews have started for Principal (9 candidates) and Director of Student Services. Twelve parents (out of 30 who shared interest) are on the interview committee.
- d. OGEA shared with members that the BOE and OGEA leadership came to a collaborative solution re: the memorandum that was submitted to the Board.
- e. Restorative Practices training is scheduled for 2/13 and 2/21. Mr. Murray has shared that aids and lunchroom supervisors have been trained. The RP team plans to present at the February BOE meeting.
- f. Leslie Weber and Allison Sherman attended an HR event with districts from across Illinois. Information was shared on how to incentivize staff (including subs).

6. Reports of Special Committees & Representatives

- a. PTO-Teacher Liaison (Jina Rappaport)
 - i. The Junior High Book Fair has been selling well.
 - ii. The Treat Train continues to be a teacher favorite.
 - iii. Fine Arts Day is April 14. Fine Arts Day is a schoolwide event planned by the school and financially supported in-part by the PTO. It's a fun day filled with a variety of demonstrations such as make-up artists, a violinist who plays at Lollapalooza, bagpipes, Bollywood dancers, Slamfunk, LHS students showcasing their talents, etc.
- b. BSA Pack 194 Liaison (Doug Malkin)
 - i. The Boys Scouts have been busy! 1/21 Pinewood Derby, 1/28 Wolves hockey game. Upcoming events include: Dozing with Dinos camping night, indoor skydiving at iFly and a STEM event. Summer events include fishing and hiking.
 - ii. Scouts will be "scouting for food" in March for National Service Day.
 - iii. Boy Scouts is open to K-5 girls and boys. Join the fun!
- c. OGSEF Representative (Raabia Khan Mohammed)
 - i. First seminar with Simply Bee will be available to watch online for two weeks.

- ii. OGSEF is hosting a fundraiser with Lolo's Bowls on February 18.
- d. DEI Representative (Raabia Khan Mohammed)
 - i. DEI is hosting Biz Lindsay-Ryan on 2/7 in the JH Cafeteria. Childcare will be provided.
 - ii. DEI is planning to present to BOE in April.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Jr. High Book Fair - The bookfair is underway - no report due to committee members staffing the fair.
- b. Community Give Back (Beth Zender for Brooke Schamber). Currently partnering with St. Joseph's Food Pantry the entire month of February. Flyers have been sent out, boxes outside of nurse's offices, food items will also be accepted at Girl & Guest. Thanks to Nurse Callie for assisting us!
- c. Girl & Guest (Kate Byers for Ambika Mayer). Dance is at capacity - 245 students and 189 adults registered. Volunteers are still needed for Friday setup and during the event on Saturday.
- d. Grade Level Coordinators
 - i. K-4 (Beth Zender for Aayshah Mirza). Valentine's Day parties are on track. Parents have been donating generously through Amazon wishlists.
 - ii. Grade levels are beginning to make end of year plans. Some grades will continue to partake in the Kona Ice Truck. Karin Pawlowski shared that 4th grade will have hot cocoa during each block of ELA at the end of February, Science and Social Studies will have a popcorn celebration in March, Math teachers will have candy during IAR testing. Leftover funds will be used for end-of-year celebration. Other grades are in the planning process.
- e. Grade Level Socials
 - i. K-1 (Jacki Lewis). Ultimate Ninjas on February 10, 6-7:30pm. Almost to capacity with 92 signed up. Snacks will be provided at the end.
 - ii. 2-3 (Kate Robinson). Ultimate Ninjas on February 23, 2-3:30pm.
 - iii. Grade Level Socials are not drop-off events. All students need to come with an adult who stays throughout the entire event. PTO can not be a legal chaperone. Siblings can not attend. Transportation can not be provided.
 - iv. Other socials are in the works!
- f. Partnership Fundraising (Beth for Erin Liebgott). Frontier Soups partnership had 71 orders totaling over \$4,000 with a 45% profit which means the PTO is receiving around \$2,000. Amazing work!
- g. Son + One (Kate Robinson). Glow Bowl on March 11 at Bowlero. \$30 for each parent and student, \$10 for each additional student. Have received \$2,200 from sponsors - looking for more. If interested in sponsoring, please reach out. Advertisements will be placed on lanes.
- h. Spiritwear (Kate Byers for Courtney Johnston). Collecting orders for spiritwear through February 5. Twelve families and/or staff have placed orders. There is a teacher discount code.

- i. Treat Train (Kate Robinson). Next Treat Train is February 10. The theme is Mardi Gras funded by 5th grade families. March treat train will be sponsored by 6th grade families.
- j. Variety Show (Beth Zender for Christine Merrild & Ashley Wilson). The Variety Show is a long-standing tradition. Looking for individuals to shadow current chairs this year to then take over and chair next year. Christine & Ashley would love to chat more - Feb 13 - 12pm at Hansa and 6:30pm at O'Toole's. The show will be held April 14.

8. Old Business

- a. None

9. New Business

- a. None

10. Announcements

- a. The next PTO meeting is March 1 at 6:30pm in the Elementary Library.
- b. Important Dates:
 - i. January 31-February 2, 2023 Jr. High Book Fair
 - ii. February 4, 2023 Girl & Guest Dance
 - iii. March 11, 2023 Son + One Glow Bowl
 - iv. April 14, 2023 Fine Arts Day
 - v. April 14, 2023 Variety Show
- c. Be sure to follow OGS PTO on Facebook!

11. Adjourn

- a. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 am CT.