

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**03/06/2019**

- I. The PTO meeting was called to order on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 9:00 am in the Elementary PD Room at Oak Grove School.

**Attendees:** Liz Howard, Christine Merrill, Agata Karpowicz, Ashley Wilson, Julie Kovach, Lonny Lemon, Andrew Fenton, Jina Rappaport, Cathie DeMoon, Ken LaCrosse, Laura Reutzler, Donna Griffin, Raabia Khan, Sarah Gotlund, Lynsey Wolfe

- II. February 6, 2019 minutes were approved as distributed. Under announcements it was noted it should state Cubs Scouts vs Boys Scouts. An updated version will be posted online.

III. **Reports of the Officers**

- A. **President's Report** - Liz reported the Meet the Candidate night for the Board Member Candidates will take place from 7:00-9:00PM on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The PTO has requested that questions for the candidates be submitted in advance. This has been shared in recent OGS Newsletters. The PTO also has questions from previous years if needed. A separate email and social media announcements will also be done.

- B. **Vice-President:** Agata Karpowicz gave a brief overview of the February Board Meeting -

1. Some Standards Based Grading would start next year for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but there will still be letter grades and SBG grades provided during conferences. Teachers in attendance said there would be an open-door policy and parents are welcome to talk to teachers. SBG would then be reviewed prior to deciding whether go forward with it at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level for 2021. It was noted the Administration has the authority to make decisions on grading & reporting.
2. The meeting included a showcase of new technology.
3. The Board declined to act regarding the recent debate in Waukegan and Gurnee on pollutants coming from a local plant.
4. There was discussion on the school calendar for this year and next. This year the Board approved ending June 7<sup>th</sup> if approved by the State. Based on a recent survey of the teachers, OGS will instead have early dismissal at 1:00 on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday). Next year's school calendar will include dates for snow-day make-ups and late start if weather questionable will also be an option for next year. There will be no date changes for the class picnics or graduation this year.
5. Eighteen applications were received for Dr. Lemon's replacement and seven were chosen; they will continue narrowing down to three candidates by this spring. Dr. Lemon is retiring in June 2020.
6. The Board Briefs from the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting have been included below.

**New Business/Information**

- PTO, SEDOL and TAG committee reports are attached to BoardBook
- Mr. Scott Blumberg reported that four bids were received for

our internet service, the contract was renegotiated with Comcast. The contract is for 36 months at \$1,500 per month for 1 Gbps. (currently we pay \$2,475 per month for the same bandwidth) Still looking for equipment and service bids, only one bid has come in so far. We have three teachers piloting the MacBook Airs for us to replace the current 6 yr old MacBook Pros they are using now. Estimated cost for the replacement for all teachers is \$138,000. Formal recommendation of device and cost coming in March with approval at the April meeting.

- Dr. Valentin & Dr. Lemon are looking into the costs of Oak Grove purchasing a riding lawn mower to save money by having our custodial staff do the lawn maintenance instead of contracting it out. Also checking into the affordability of purchasing a plow for it for sidewalk snow removal.
- Lengthy discussion was had regarding Standards Based Grading. Dr. Cacciatore requested the board make a decision by the March meeting whether they are comfortable going in this direction. Dr. Lemon shared policy 6:280 that explains that the administration does not need Board approval to go establish a grading system. The Administration shared a plan and timeline for continuing preparations for any possible transition to Standards Based Grading. Professional Development will be offered to teachers in grades 6-8.
- Dr. Lemon shared the revised Master Facility Maintenance Plan regarding the needed projects. Some of the bigger items were pushed back two years due to the loan with D70. Dr. Lemon and Mr. Graves shared with the Board the proposed renovations that need to take place in the summers of 2019 and 2020. The light replacement figure will end up being significantly less due to us doing the work ourselves. This summer we will replace the bathroom floors in the '97 wing and the boiler in the Junior High; the following year we will need to replace the Junior High library roof and the elementary gym roof. The Junior High parking lot is three years out.
- Mrs. Osterman, Mrs. Thoun and Mrs. Simms gave a presentation regarding Book Creator and Photo Essay
- Dr. Lemon reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade musical is this weekend. Parent/Teacher conferences are next week. The PTO is sponsoring "Meet the Candidate" night on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Dr. Lemon reported Oak Grove's 'Greatness Indicators'
- Dr. Giamis updated the community regarding the Superintendent Search

### **Approvals**

- The Consent Agenda was approved.
- The amended 18/19 school calendar was approved. Students will attend school on Good Friday and the last day of school will be June 7.
- Option #2 of the 19/20 school calendar was approved with possible e-learning, and Good Friday and President's Day as possible attendance days. The District will also utilize a 10:00 am late start option.
- 19/20 school registration fees were approved
- The Board approved the bathroom floor replacement in the '97 wing for \$44,300
- The upgrade to Security Camera NVR was approved for \$61,010.
- The Board approved suggested PRESS update to policy 5:60
- The boiler replacement bid was approved for \$372,338.
- No action was taken on PRESS update policy 2:80
- No action was taken on the updated TAG admission requirements

### **Next Meeting is March 19, 2019**

C. **Treasurer:** Ashley Wilson reviewed the February PTO financial report.

D. **Registrar:** Becky Rynes was not in attendance, but had nothing new to report.

#### **IV. Report from Administrative:** Dr. Lemon reported:

A. The Board had been contacted on the recent news on the amount of ethylene oxide coming from local plants involving the Villages of Gurnee and Waukegan and the Board was asked to share information with OGS families. The Board cannot take a political position on this since it is not a political entity. It was therefore suggested that the Village of Green Oaks could possibly send out some information instead. People can also contact their local legislators with concerns.

B. Parent/Teacher Conferences are February 27th.

C. Ken LaCrosse asked how standards-based grading will be measured. Dr. Lemon responded in May 2020 there will be a decision whether to go through the pilot. Cathie DeMoon added that teachers are already implementing some of the assessments in standards-based grading, so next year conferences would be more standards based, but there will not be an overall implementation of SBG yet for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. They are still in the education and exploration stage for next year.

#### **V. Report from Standing Committees:**

A. **Teachers Liaison:** Jina Rappaport had nothing new to report.

B. **Mother Son Dance** - Lynsey Wolfe shared the dance, held a couple weeks prior, went great. They also made over \$5,000 with approximately \$3,000 in expenses. They had 276 in attendees which is in line with past years. Since next year is a Gala year, they will need to look at a different date/time frame. The PTO

suggested looking at this year's calendar and submitting a couple possibilities for the 2019-2020 school year.

- C. **Variety Show** - Christine Merrild noted the Variety Show will take place on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> with two shows at 4:00 and 7:00. Sign-ups were on March 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> during the lunch hour. Tryouts are April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with MC tryouts on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Additional dates regarding mandatory practices were included in the OGS News.
- D. **Fannie May** - Order forms are due March 8th. Fannie May no longer delivers to homes, pick-up will be on April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Junior High cafeteria after school.
- E. **Daddy Daughter Dance** - Liz Howard got the formal pictures back from the photographer and those will be delivered to classrooms the following week. There is also a website with candid photos and that link will be shared in an upcoming OGS News.
- F. **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mother Daughter Tea** - This took place last month and Raabia Khan provided an overview. There were 43 of 47 girls in attendance. The event went well, the speaker was good, and the girls had a lot of questions. Leah Parr took pictures.
- G. **Report from OGSEF** – Dr. Lemon provided an update:
  - 1. They are working on the scholarship for LHS Seniors that are OGS alumni. This is a \$1,000 college scholarship and students apply anonymously. They received 25 applications. Pre-screening is currently underway and they will vote next month. They will announce the recipient at the LHS awards banquet.
  - 2. Dan Wells is working on a directory of local businesses and services. They are hoping to try and do at no cost, and are working on how to distribute.
  - 3. A date has been set for the 2020 OGS Gala. It will take place on February 29, 2020 (Leap Day!) at Independence Grove.
  - 4. OGSEF is working on the next round of mini-grants for teachers.
  - 5. They are looking for new members.

#### VI. Old Business -

- A. **Request for funds from Rebecca Sims for approximately \$1500 for the Improv Playhouse performance of the Giver for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.** The Giver is a book the 7<sup>th</sup> graders read each year. Improv worked with the PTO to get the cost down, and this can now be covered under the PTO's Programs and Assemblies for Grades 6-8. The performance will take place on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:15.

#### VII. New Business -

- A. **Request for funds up to \$999 for lunch for the performers at Fine Arts Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>.** Jina noted the performers are coming in for the day this year so they want to provide lunch. Since they are doing a full day versus a half day this year, the performers are more expensive and there are no more funds in the fine arts day budget. Liz added the PTO reached out to Marla's Lunch and Marla's can provide lunch for \$3.50-\$4.00 per person. It is estimated there will be 35-40 people for lunch. It was suggested to vote on funds up to \$200 based on the lunch estimate from Marla's. Motion was approved for up to \$200.

- B. **Request for funds of \$50 from Mrs. Tazzioli for donuts for the homeroom who collects the most money or canned goods for the honor society collection** - Grades 5-8 participate in this program. It was noted that any food brought in is coordinated with the School Nurse and a note is sent home to parents in advance with ingredients. An alternative can be provided if there are allergies. They will eat in the lunch room. Motion was approved.
- C. **Request for funds of \$200 from Multi-Cultural Committee for henna for the Multi-Cultural fair on April 11<sup>th</sup>**- Raabia Khan explained last year there was one booth with henna with 2 people doing the henna art and it was very popular. This year they would like to create an opportunity for more kids and hire two additional artists in addition to the two volunteers from the community for a total of four. Motion was approved.
- D. **Request for funds for \$1600 from Mr. Jones for Symphonic and Jazz Band Students to see West Side Story Wed May 8<sup>th</sup> in Chicago** - Christine Merrild explained there are 80 kids from grades 6-8 and Mr. Jones is asking for \$20/child from the PTO to help cover the ticket cost. Parents will be paying for the rest of the ticket cost. The cost to parents was unknown at the time of this meeting. The PTO will ask Mr. Jones to come to the next meeting. Based on the amount requested, the vote for funds will be at next month's meeting.

**VIII. Announcements –**

- A. Dr. Lemon asked for the PTO to send him what was needed for the Meet the Candidate Night. Christine and Liz noted it would just be a couple tables and microphones.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 am. The next meeting will be on April 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Elementary PD Room.