

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**11/07/2018**

- I. The PTO meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 9:02 am in the Elementary PD Room at Oak Grove School.

**Attendees:** Liz Howard, Christine Merrill, Ashley Wilson, Julie Kovach, Lonny Lemon, Andrew Fenton, Jina Rappaport, Ken LaCrosse, Katrina Treutelaar, Lynsey Wolfe, Cathie DeMoon

- II. October 3, 2018 minutes were approved as distributed.

III. **Reports of the Officers**

A. **President's report -**

1. Liz reported that she and Christine met with Marla on the hot lunch program to see if any changes were needed. Negative feedback was received on McDonalds as a vendor so Marla's has dropped McDonalds, but there will still be a brunch day with Marla's own line with organic options. The PTO also added some more gluten free options as well. We are going to reach out to some more local businesses for a pasta day from a local vendor as well.
2. Something fun being added is a teacher/administrator lunch option. When ordering your lunches, there will be a drop-down menu to order your teacher a lunch. The teacher will then get an email that a student ordered them a lunch and they can go in and choose what lunch. There will also be some more teacher-friendly options as well.

- A. **Vice-President:** Agata Karpowicz emailed a summary of the BOE Notes in advance from the meeting on 10/23/2018:

**Superintendent's Report**

- "Those Who Excel" banquet, Judy Klosterman, Kathy Mahoney and Julie Piazzi were the winners and
- attended the banquet with Dr. Lemon
- Election Day @ Oak Grove November 6th
- School Report Cards issued next week. Dr. Lemon and Dr. Cacciatore discussed the struggle
- regarding ISBE's 'grading' system

**New Business/Information**

- Mr. John Mehnert gave a presentation to the Board regarding Google Expeditions
- Dr. Valentin presented the tentative levy calculations
- Ms. Waehner gave a presentation on the newly created District Dashboard
- Snow removal bids were discussed
- Dr. Lemon updated the Board regarding evidence of goals met on the Strategic Plan
- Committee reports are attached to BoardBook

**Approvals**

- The Consent Agenda was approved
- Personnel Action was approved
- The vote for the District Title I Plan was tabled until next month

- The Board did not approve the snow removal bid and will revisit this next month
- The FY18 Audit report was approved

**Next Meeting is November 20, 2018**

- B. Treasurer:** Ashley Wilson reviewed the October PTO expenses and reported that the PTO got a new computer to replace the broken computer. The numbers came in for hot lunch and donations were received from AbbVie and Amazon Smile. Ashley suggested putting a reminder for Amazon Smile in the OGS News before the holidays.
- C. Registrar:** Nothing new to report.
- D. Report from Administrative:** Dr. Lemon reported:
- a. Veteran's Day was scheduled to be celebrated Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and a big crowd is expected.
  - b. OGS was an election site for Election Day. We had over 900 that voted.
  - c. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-8:30pm and November 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00. Dave Huber sends an email to all parents with instructions. This goes live on Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Currently there are two candidates the administration is aware of for the School Board Election. There are three potential vacancies.
  - e. OGS received a couple of bids for snow removal, so they are going to try and negotiate.
  - f. The "Those that Excel" banquet was fantastic. It was a really big deal with 1000 in attendance and honored. Julie Piazzzi, Nurse Judy Klosterman, and Kathy Mahoney all received awards, and their families were also in attendance. A special award was created for Mrs. Mahoney with a presentation for her just before teacher of the year.

**IV. Report from Standing Committees:**

**A. Teachers Liaison:**

1. Jina Rappaport asked about where dinner would be brought in from during conferences. Christine and Liz responded BBQ Productions.
2. The Junior High Bookfair was currently underway. The elementary bookfair this year will not be available during conferences due to not enough volunteers. Kid's typically make wishlists, so Mrs. Rappaport suggested making sure kids or parents knew about this change.
3. Books for the Battle of the Books were purchased and would be distributed the week of November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Junior High Book Fair** - Liz reported Raabia was running the bookfair during this PTO meeting. Shopping can be done during school hours except for Friday, it is only open until 11:30.

**C. Elementary Book Fair** - The Elementary Bookfair starts the week of November 11<sup>th</sup> for grades K-4. Family night will be Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Holiday Halls/Pancake Breakfast** - Christine reported the Pancake Breakfast and Holiday Halls would take place Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-12 in the Junior High gym and hallways. Tracy Schultze pulled together great group of

vendors. Last year we had a great turnout for the breakfast and Susan Kurland is doing a great job getting options for the kid's to purchase for the secret shopping village. A link for volunteer sign-up will go out shortly. Katrina suggested getting more wrappers for this year. Liz noted there will also be an OGS Spiritwear Table with items for \$15 or less.

- E. **Snowflake** - Susan Pinsel emailed an update that this year parent feedback was good. The parents really enjoyed the speaker that spoke for the parent portion of the evening. The other speaker was good, a little too long. Attendance was down, but we think class size also had something to do with it. It is difficult to find speakers, and equally as hard to find someone captivating. Next year we are planning on modifying the evening somewhat. We will try to start is earlier for the kids (right after school). The speakers will be limited to 45 minutes - 1 hour, possibly adding a Q&A for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a panel from the High Schools. We may also shorten the dance time. We are hoping to have the evening end earlier (9:15ish). We have not decided where Snowflake will be hosted. Having it at Oak Grove has always been a challenge because of the size, layout and parking. There was also some discussion at the meeting on how to increase participation.
  - F. **Spiritwear** - The PTO is doing a holiday sale with some new spiritwear items through Heads Up Apparel. The online link will be open through November 16<sup>th</sup> and there will be no extension. There needs to be a quick turnaround so items can be delivered before the holidays.
  - G. **Classroom Volunteers** - Beth couldn't be at the meeting, but she met with Mr. Fenton and reviewed that too many volunteers were at the Halloween parties. Mr. Fenton noted there is a delicate balance that we want people to volunteer, but can't have too many. Teachers don't want to turn people away, but too many volunteers or parents just coming to watch is a concern. Beth also created a google docs so labels could be printed in advance with volunteer names. Going forward, we are going to cap volunteers at 8 per classroom. It is a work in progress and some decisions may be on a case by case basis per classroom (some classrooms don't have enough volunteers so parents are able to volunteer more than once, other classrooms may have to rotate so those interested can volunteer at least once.) Mr. Fenton noted the primary contract for parties should be the room parents, not the teachers. Mr. Fenton added that in the future we need to do something for grades 6-8 on days of parties; and try at least once this year to bring in a DJ or something special for them in lieu of parties.
  - H. **Report from OGSEF** – Katrina reported that Oak Grove Rocks has been scheduled for Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at Post Time. Bands will include Henneberry, OTR, and the Bradberry's. OGS Dining Night at Culver's will take place in December. They are also bringing back the business sponsor program for 2019, and have approved a couple grants with more starting to come in to the Foundation.
- V. **Old Business** -
- A. Ashleigh Grambo gave presentation on her trip to France sponsored by the PTO and OGSEF this past summer. French teachers from all over the world were in attendance. Mrs. Grambo talked about what she learned and how she was

implementing that in the classroom. She also has been sharing some new language learning techniques with other teachers. She thanked the PTO for assisting with this professional development.

**VI. New Business - None**

**VII. Announcements –**

- A. Ken shared the OGS Night at Feed my Starving Children was scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. It was already half-full and the announcement just went out.
- B. Katrina suggested watching Amazon Smile over the next couple weeks, there is always one random day between November 1<sup>st</sup> and late December they give 5x the amount back to your organization. If we see it, OGS can send an email out to families and/or do a social media post.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 am. The next meeting will be on December 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Elementary PD Room.