

Oak Grove School Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on October 7, 2020 at 11:30am CT virtually via Zoom. Attendees included: (24)

Julie Kovach	Laura Reutzel	Beth Zender	Donna Griffin
Lynsey Wolfe	Kate Byers	Nick Heckel	Ken LaCrosse
Jason Ehrick	Allison Sherman	Christine Merrild	Elizabeth O'Neill
Hillary Bolke	Jen Liu	Karin Pawlowski	Shellie Fahy
Raabia Khan	Jina Rappaport	Talitha Hayburn	Cathie DeMoon
Corinne Harrington	Gretchen Schuerman	Rachel Margelos	Jen Tippett

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 4, 2020 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Report of Officers

a. President

- i. Thank you card from Cathie Saia was reviewed
- ii. Revenue from Marla's lunch program is down because overall orders/usage is down. Feedback has been good so far with only a few comments regarding temperature of food received. The feedback was addressed and the situation seems to be resolved.
- iii. Due to the nature of this school year and the continued restrictions regarding Covid-19, PTO programs and activities look vastly different this year compared to other years. Where possible the PTO is creatively reimagining the format of some activities, but some events like the multiple-part Holiday Halls shopping and dining experience will not happen this year.

b. Vice President (Beth Zender)

- i. Facilities: Scott Blumberg, Allison Sherman and Ozzie Suarez will meet twice a month to look at the 5- and 10-year maintenance of the building, listing priorities and providing a monthly report to the BOE. OGS spent over \$500,000 to reopen during the COVID pandemic-- which was not in a projected spending budget. A roof ladder needs to be ordered.
- ii. Technology Report: Google Meet has not delivered features that were expected by the start of the school year including Breakout Rooms and JamBoard. Some teachers have the ability to pilot these features and they will be made available to all as soon as possible. School Messenger is not working effectively and OGS is looking for a new system to use when the contract ends. Due to increased reliance on technology OGS may need to upgrade from 1G to 2G in the future.
- iii. Re-Entry During COVID-19: Green Oaks positivity rate is lower than Region 9 and Lake County's rate. If the whole school needed to switch to remote learning it would not be a sudden closure of the school like happened in March. ILPH testing and reporting methods give the school advance notice of rates and time to prepare for a transition to remote. The IDPH released new protocols that allow school nurses to make case-by-case judgement calls with health screenings such as differentiating COVID-19 symptoms from seasonal allergies. Training for substitute teachers has increased to include COVID training and tech training.
- iv. Curriculum Update: 70% of parents attended Curriculum Nights. Dr. Cacciatore received 135 survey responses about iReady and the test will be repeated in December. There was discussion about a training webinar to help parents supervise the test and a suggestion was made to split the ELA and math tests over two days. There was also discussion regarding the ability to compare STAR test results with iReady results to track progress over time.

- v. Superintendent's Report: Huge praise was given to the teachers and staff for all they've done. Ms. Sherman also thanked the PTO and Foundation for all their support and financial help.
- c. Treasurer (Donna Griffin)
 - i. Revenue: Soaring Eagles 5k registrations have been collected as well as orders for the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory fund raiser.
 - ii. Expenses: Calendar printing paid. Invoice processed for the virtual BMX stunt show for programs and assemblies. Expenses also paid for the Welcome Back Lunch including Suzy's Swirl. 6 teacher fund reimbursement requests have been paid.
 - iii. Working with Scott Blumberg to pay the school for the PTO contribution to the library renovation and other approved requests to support Covid-19 learning.
- d. Registrar (Lynsey Wolfe)
 - i. Collection of RevTrack payments continues.
 - ii. Reaching out to committee heads and sending volunteer lists for events that are taking place.

4. Report of Administration (Allison Sherman and Nick Heckel)

Ms. Sherman reports that we continue to celebrate all that this school year has become for Eagles @School and @Home. She meeting with the health department for at least 2 hours per week to keep up to date on cases and positivity rates as well as protocols. Real time metrics allows administration to see a potential closure in advance. The overarching reminder is that the decision doesn't come down to one number – it is the story of our community with all the numbers in mind.

Mr. Heckel discussed the request for headphones with microphones that has been discussed at prior meetings. Administration is working to assess the true need to have headphones with microphones in every classroom via a teacher survey that is currently open. Results will be shared when the survey closes. Plans are in the work for Red Ribbon week including spirit days that all students can participate in.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Teachers Liaison (Jina Rappaport): The teachers thank the PTO for the Welcome Back lunch and Suzy's Swirl dessert.
- b. Boy Scouts Pack #194 (Ken LaCrosse): Pack #194 thanks the PTO for being their sponsoring organization. Ken LaCrosse is transitioning out of the role of liaison between the PTO and the Pack and Jason Ehrick will take over.
- c. Spirit Wear (Julie Kovach on behalf of Courtney Johnston): Sports11 is contacting families once spirit wear orders are ready for pick-up. There is no need to go to Sports11 until you receive the call that your order is ready.
- d. Calendar (Julie Kovach): Calendars were printed and were sent home via Eagles@School or included with supply pickups for Eagles@Home.
- e. Directory (Julie Kovach on behalf of Dana Huennekens): Printing estimate obtained and under review. This year we are moving forward with a print directory, but discussions continue regarding an online directory. The PTO cannot make the final decision regarding an online directory because the data is held/coordinated by the school.
- f. Programs & Assemblies (Elizabeth O'Neill): Later in October the students will see a virtual performance by professional BMX rider Matt Wilhelm. In addition to his impressive riding skills and tricks, he shares a strong anti-bullying message and shares his story of grit and hard work. He is putting together a pre-recorded custom show for OGS and taped questions from Eagles@Home and Eagles@School will be included as part of the show.

- g. Snowflake & Red Ribbon (Julie Kovach): Red Ribbon week will be at the end of October. Red Ribbon week theme is Be Happy. Be Brave & Be Drug Free. Snowflake will be canceled for this year. Oak Grove was slated to host this year, so we will host next year.
- h. K-8 Bookfairs (Jen Tippett): The only option for a book fair this year is a virtual book fair because the logistics of an outdoor sale are too unpredictable. The online book fair would be “open” for 2 weeks and the PTO would only keep 25% of sales instead of 40-50% as usual. Additionally, the 25% of sales is returned to the PTO as Scholastic credit rather than cash profit. The committee is still assessing options, but the book fair will be in mid-November for two weeks if it happens.
- i. Holiday Halls/Hot Cocoa Story Time (Julie Kovach): Holiday Halls will be canceled as an in person event this year. The executive board and committee explored options, but online sales are not an option for many of the vendors and the shipping costs for the types of items from the Secret Shopping Village would be exorbitant compared to the types of items the children purchase. The PTO is exploring the idea of a Hot Cocoa Story Time event where teachers would read to a grade level in the evening and families could purchase hot cocoa packs for the event. Shellie Fahy also suggested creating a shopping list to support local businesses.
- j. Fundraising
 - i. Soaring Eagles 5k (Kate Byers) – 362 participants have registered. T-shirts and medals have been ordered and will be delivered to doorsteps by volunteers once they are in. Elan Landscaping is sponsoring a portion of the event. Families are encouraged to decorate driveways & mailboxes to show support for participants the weekend of the event.
 - ii. Rocky Mountain Taffy Apples - All payments were received by Sunday and order pickup is 10/16 and 10/17.
- k. Virtual “Tik Tok” Dance Off (Julie Kovach on behalf of Emily Savino): A community-building idea is in the works for all students to have access to a pre-recorded Tik-Tok-style dance (not on a social media platform). All students could learning the same dance and post videos or share them.
- l. Class Parties (Beth Zender): Grade level coordinators for K-4 are coming up with creative ideas for kids to celebrate and have fun during classroom parties. The Halloween parade is going to happen virtually and grades 5-8 will join be able to join the Halloween parade this year.
- m. Kindness Rocks (Beth Zender): Painted rock scavenger hunt started with the theme “Our Community Rocks”. This is an opportunity for the whole community to connect and for kids to have a simple project to create and then a reason to get out and explore the community looking for rocks by others.

6. Report from OGSEF (Hilary Bolke)

OGSEF does not have many activities to report at this time. The idea of a PTO McDonalds Drive-Thru fundraiser was discussed because we want to be mindful of an upcoming OGSEF restaurant night fundraiser so they don't conflict or overlap.

7. Old Business

- a. A motion was made by Christine Merrild and seconded by Elizabeth O'Neill to discuss a request for funds from Rebecca Sims for Logitech Headsets with microphones for all @School 7th grade students. The total amount requested is \$1,874.25. OGSEF was also asked to partially fund. This item was discussed during the September PTO meeting, but not voted on due to the amount. During the summer, the PTO approved a request for 50 headsets and a portion of the cost could be covered by that. There was discussion about the teacher survey regarding needs for headsets at all grade levels. There was a vote to cover up to \$1,874 to purchases headsets for 7th grade @School students. The motion passed with 10 “yes” votes and 3 “no” votes.

8. New Business

- a. A motion was made by Cathie DeMoon and seconded by Hillary Bolke to discuss a request from the PTO for \$1392.00 to cover the difference of funds collected versus funds due for class parties K-8 during the 2020-2021 school year. Further discussion by the PTO executive board resulted in the motion being withdrawn. More registration fees may still be coming in (20% of families who registered for school did not pay PTO fees) and the "Parents-on-the-Go" donations contribution is more this year compared to the past so these funds can help make up the difference.

9. Announcements & Questions

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:36pm CT. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th at 11:30am CT via Zoom.