

**Oak Grove School Parent Teacher Organization**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order on January 6, 2021 at 11:33am CT virtually via Zoom. Attendees included:

Julie Kovach	Laura Reutzel	Beth Zender	Donna Griffin
Lynsey Wolfe	Kate Byers	Allison Sherman	Liz Webb
Lilli Melamed	Jina Rappaport	Jill Procop	Jen Liu
Cathie DeMoon	Raabia Khan	Jason Ehrick	

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from December 2, 2020 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as distributed.

**3. Report of Officers**

- a. President (Laura Reutzel)
  - i. Submissions close at the end of January for the OGS Family Favorite Recipe Book. Currently have 17 recipes submitted by 8 families. The form to submit is on the PTO website and in OG News. Would love to have staff submit recipes too.
  - ii. The PTO is planning a “Meet the Candidate” night for the upcoming Board of Education vote on April 6, 2021. Date and format are TBD. Stay tuned for more details.
- b. Vice President (Beth Zender) - Report from the December 15, 2020 BOE meeting:
  - i. Architect, Building & Maintenance Report: Projects are divided into 4 categories: Health/Life Safety, Ongoing maintenance, Enhancements, Renovation for extra space. Once in a category, the projects are categorized as a “need” or “want”. Starting in 2025, there will not be enough funds in reserves to cover necessary projects and may need to seek loans/bonds. For further information, look on the BOE website for the “Master Facility Project Planner”. By the end of this school year \$700k will have been spend on Covid-related costs. Outdoor tents are down for the season, but will return in the spring.
  - ii. Covid/Re-entry Report – Sign up on the Lake County AllVax website to register for the vaccine. The vaccine is not mandatory for staff, but hoping to achieve 80% distribution. The evolving guidelines from IL Dept of Public Health give more in-house decision power regarding remote learning and closures.
  - iii. E-learning usage for snow days passed.
  - iv. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee has formed and grew out of the formerly named Multicultural Committee. OGS is looking to bring issues such as women’s history and Civil Rights into the curriculum rather than add-ons throughout the year.
  - v. OGS is not adopting procedures to have undesignated prescriptions for an opioid antagonist or glucagon on school grounds. Although there are benefits in an emergency situation, the logistics to be trained to deliver the medications and other procedures related to the medicines themselves are extenuating for the OGS population. Students who need glucose have a prescription and bring it with them.
- c. Treasurer (Donna Griffin)
  - i. Revenue: Received \$1,600 from Marla’s in November and there was also revenue in December from Take & Go sales of spiritwear.
  - ii. Expenses: \$400 was spent on prizes and renting a U-Haul for the 20 Days of Giving food drive. \$488 was spent on t-shirts for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Kindness Week. Winter party expense reimbursements are also coming in.

- iii. Overall, although we haven't met our projected revenue year-to-date, we also haven't spent our projected expenses due to cancelled or reimagined events.
- d. Registrar (Lynsey Wolfe)
  - i. No report.

#### **4. Report of Administration (Allison Sherman)**

- a. Introduced Interim Principal Liz Webb. She will be working 3 days a week at OGS through the end of the school year.
- b. COVID update: Re-entry procedures are based on science & guidance. OGS has more autonomy to make re-entry decisions based on a combination of county metrics as well as OGS mitigation strategies. OGS has implemented all recommended mitigation strategies and is in the lowest risk category. The vaccine could be available to teachers by the end of January or in early February. Vaccine shipments haven't been as big as hoped, but Lake County is very coordinated compared to other counties. Some Eagles@Home who want to transition to Eagles@School may be able to enter OGS, but not many due to space limitations. Although everyone values outdoor time, traditional snow play is difficult this year due to crowded hallways while putting on snow gear and "up close" adult assistance required for younger students. Students will have outdoor time, but will remain on the blacktop throughout the winter.
- c. ISBE has delayed all testing until March. All children need to complete state testing in the school building. The admin team is working together to come up with solutions to bring Eagles@Home into the building for state testing. One option is to send home Eagles@School for 1-2 remote learning days and bring in Eagles@Home and have the ability to spread out in the building.
- d. End-of-year planning with PTO leadership including 8th grade play & graduation. Many options being explore and trying to be as creative as possible within guidelines.
- e. There was discussion about standards-based grading regarding the plan for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and any future plans for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This year is a pilot year for standards-based grades in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and at the end of the year it will be determined if it will be implemented moving forward. A request was made for more information about what evaluation steps are being taken and how can parents get involved.

#### **5. Reports from Standing Committees**

- a. Teachers Liaison (Jina Rappaport) – Please return all books this week.
- b. 20 Days of Giving (Julie Kovach) – Thank you to everyone who helped make the project a success including 8<sup>th</sup> grader volunteers and families who donated. Twelve 8<sup>th</sup> grade student volunteers helped with the project that collected 1,908 items and \$100 monetary donation. Area families utilizing the food pantry have doubled since the pandemic started. Julie recommends continuing activities like this in the future.
- c. Fannie May Candy Sale (Laura Reutzel on behalf of Carlene Lichter) – PTO made \$212. Fewer people order compared to last year. Carlene suggests we "pass" on the spring Fannie May fundraiser and resume in the fall. Carlene is also looking for a volunteer to share the job next year and take over the year after that. She also recommends that the PTO evaluate if we move forward with Fannie May in the future or pursue other opportunities.
- d. Daddy Daughter Dance (Laura Reutzel) – Current circumstances require that the dance is cancelled for the '20-'21 school year.
- e. Mother Son Night (Laura Reutzel on behalf of Keli Likosar) – Keli is investigating options to put together baskets of items/activities that mothers and sons could do together at home. Discussion was had about how this idea could evolve into a themed family night basket. Ideas included cooking night, balloon tying, Among Us, Minecraft, TikTok style dances.

**6. Report from OGSEF (Raabia Khan)**

The last OGSEF meeting focused on new ways to fund raise and plans for building an OGS alumni association web page.

**7. Old Business**

No old business

**8. New Business**

No new business

**9. Announcements & Questions**

Lilli Melamed thanked the PTO for coordinating the winter party activities and helping reimagine celebratory events that have to be different this year.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:21pm CT. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 3rd at 11:30am CT via Zoom.