

Oak Grove School Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on February 3, 2021 at 11:30am CT virtually via Zoom. Attendees included:

Julie Kovach	Laura Reutzell	Beth Zender	Donna Griffin
Lynsey Wolfe	Kate Byers	Allison Sherman	Liz Webb
Sarah Cacciatore	Jina Rappaport	Hillary Bolke	Christine Merrild
Haeli Byrnes	Jason Ehrick	Corinne Harrington	Mary Haas
Kevin Gas	Jennifer Liu		

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 2, 2021 were reviewed. Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Report of Officers

a. President (Julie Kovach)

- i. Meet the Candidate Night – The PTO will host a “Meet the Candidate” night for the upcoming Board of Education elections on Thursday, March 11th at 7pm via Zoom. More information will follow including details on how to submit questions for the candidates.
- ii. 2021-2022 PTO Executive Board – There are 5 people interested in filling the 6 open positions and anyone interested in serving as PTO leadership should reach out to Julie & Laura. Kate Byers and Beth Zender are interested in serving as co-presidents, Haeli Byrnes is interested in serving as treasurer and there are two other candidates who have expressed interest in the other open roles, but haven’t committed a specific role. Executive Board positions will be confirmed by vote at the May.
- iii. Marla’s Lunch Update – Marla is adding an option to the system to purchase teacher gift meals. Watch for an e-mail from Marla’s with additional information on this option.
- iv. Update on Spring Activities – PTO leaders met with school administration on January 19th to discuss plans for spring activities including:
 1. Meet the BOE Candidate – see details above
 2. 5th Grade Tea & Boys Night and 6th Grade Tea – These programs will all be held virtually. Additional details follow in the Standing Committee section.
 3. Variety Show – Unfortunately the Variety Show will not happen this year. It would need to be a virtual event and, after discussion, it was decided that interest would be low in yet another virtual event.
 4. Field Day – Traditional Field Day is not possible this year due to Covid restrictions. Fine Arts Day and Field Day typically rotate from year-to-year, so this year the PTO and admin agreed to have Fine Arts Day and Field Day will take place next year. Administration is reviewing with the Fine Arts Committee and the PTO has been in communication with chairperson Dana Huennekens.
 5. 8th Grade Graduation & Dance – The PTO does not lead the planning of these events, but does provide financial support and is working with admin to advocate for parent involvement. Admin is actively working on plans for these events recognizing that accommodations will need to be made to comply with Covid restrictions and a dance is not likely. Watch for updates from administration in OG News as well as a survey to 8th graders to get input on celebration ideas. If the dance cannot happen, the PTO recommends seeking feedback on how the \$5k dance PTO funds can be used to honor the 8th graders appropriately.

- b. Vice President (Beth Zender) - Report from the January 19, 2021 BOE meeting:
 - i. School Nurses Jen Liu and Callie Johnson gave a presentation regarding undesignated Glucagon and Narcan medications for emergency use at the school. There will be vote at the next BOE meeting regarding whether or not the school will have these medications on hand for emergency needs.
 - ii. The necessary outdoor survey work was completed to install a sidewalk across the front of the school property along the grassy area that will connect to the new existing sidewalk.
 - iii. OWL cameras have been purchased using donated funds from OGSEF. These cameras zoom in on the teacher and follows them as they move about the room making remote synchronous learning easier.
 - iv. The proposed calendar for '21-'22 is available online and will be voted upon at the next BOE meeting. School would begin on 8/18/21, winter break would begin 12/23/21 and end 1/10/22. Spring break would be 3/28/22-4/1/22.
 - v. ISBE is moving to require schools to embed learning standards on multicultural education. The OGS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committee is already working on this so Oak Grove is ahead of the game.
 - vi. There will likely be a slight increase in school fees next year due to increased milk prices.
 - vii. A plan to safely accommodate all students for state testing has been proposed. The week after spring break Eagles@Home and Eagles@School will flip places. Eagles@School will remote learn at home and Eagles@School will come to OGS to take state tests spread out throughout the building.
- c. Treasurer (Donna Griffin)
 - i. Revenue: \$118 from the Box Top program from March-November '20, no revenue from Marla's because there were no lunches in December and the revenue from the dinners was paid last month
 - ii. Expenses: Reimbursed approximately \$1,800 for grade level parties, lower elementary magic show fee, teacher reimbursements
- d. Registrar (Lynsey Wolfe)
 - i. Researching options for a new PTO laptop in coordination with the OGS business dept.

4. Report of Administration

Health Updates (Allison Sherman)

- a. Staff can now get Covid vaccines as part of a closed pod for educators across Lake County. Vaccines will be administered by private nurses at two area high schools. Continue to wait for updates from health officials regarding pediatric vaccines.
- b. There has been a small, but noticeable, increase in student cases. The health department has been tracking sources and has noted that basketball, travel sports and cheerleading are contributing to cases.
- c. Lake County is very close to transitioning to phase 4 based on the continued decline in cases and incidence rates.

Standards-Based Grading (SBG) Report (Allison Sherman & Sarah Cacciatore)

- d. Presentation link: [SBG PTO update 2.3.21.pdf \(campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/SBG_PTO_update_2.3.21.pdf)
- e. The intent of SBG is to provide more robust feedback about the skills needed to demonstrate proficiency at grade-level competencies. Historically speaking, letter grades alone do not provide context regarding mastered vs. in-progress competencies. SBG is more about growth over time, as opposed to an average of all of work completed in a span of time.
- f. Six Principles of Grading Practices: 1) feedback is specific, 2) feedback is evidence-based, 3) feedback is based on clear criteria, 4) given feedback in a timely manner, 5) grade should be based on most current work, 6) keep grades academic only (no extra credit for non-academic "rewards").

- g. A SBG pilot program began for the 6th grade in the fall of 2020. The pilot program is for 1 year. Following winter break, 6th grade teachers reported that the pilot is going well, but that using PowerSchool in SBG format is more challenging. The original plan was to re-evaluate the program at the end of the '20-'21 school year to determine if SBG will remain in the 6th grade or if they will return to traditional letter grades. The teachers suggested extending the pilot an additional year since this year has not been usual/normal. Discussions regarding the timeline will continue this spring so the grading plan for 6th grade next year is not set.
- h. At this time there is no plan to pilot or implement SBG in 7th or 8th grade. Parent feedback has been largely opposed to SBG in grades 7 & 8 due to the transition to letter grades in high school.
- i. SBG Discussion:
 - i. *Question:* Why are SBG needed in 6th grade? Students only have grades 7 & 8 to get used to letter grades and this makes the transition to high school more difficult. *Answer:* High school counterparts have been a part of the SBG committee and they recognize the value of specific feedback versus letter grades alone. Several HS programs at LHS use SBG. Students focused on skills needed versus letter grades is an asset. LHS does not look at OGS transcripts or letter grades when making class placement recommendations. They use standardized test scores, IAR, iReady, STAR data and teacher recommendations.
 - ii. *Question:* Do the teachers get training on completing the SBG feedback? *Answer:* There was teacher training regarding grading rubrics. Admin will make sure teachers are using grading rubrics and also share grading rubrics with families.
 - iii. *Suggestions from PTO members:*
 1. Targeted evaluation to all 6th grade families to get feedback on how SBG is going.
 2. Ask the kids in 6th, 7th & 8th as well as OGS grads at LHS about getting SBG versus letter grades and their preparedness for high school.
 3. Consider hybrid grading in 6th grade of letter grades along with SBG-type qualitative feedback rather than just one or the other since there are benefits to both grading systems at the JH level and a hybrid could help students transition between the two grading systems. It was noted that Deerfield Middle School appears to have a similar hybrid grading system in place.
 4. Student models demonstrating the example of a "4", "3", "2", etc., so teachers, parents and students know what a demonstration of success looks like.

Other Admin Updates (Liz Webb)

- j. Picture retake day Feb. 11. Eagles@School can participate during the day. Eagles@Home can come during materials pick-up or submit a picture taken at home following the guidelines in OG News.
- k. February 26th PTO-sponsored assembly for all students by City Love. Will be conducted virtually by a live link.
- l. 8th Grade Graduation discussions are starting. Will begin with a teacher meeting followed by a student survey and then form a small planning committee. There may be a parent survey that mirrors the student survey so 8th grade parents have the opportunity to provide feedback as well.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Teachers Liaison (Jina Rappaport) – Need to verify the date of Fine Arts Day
- b. Class Parties (Beth Zender & Christine Merrild) – Valentine's Day parties for K-4 will be on Friday, February 12th. Party packs for individual students will be delivered to the school on Monday. Leftover party funds from '19-'20 are being used for a virtual magic show for K-4. Additional leftover party funds will be used for a DJ-hosted Name-that-Tune Bingo Night for families. This will take place outside of school hours, but will be free to families who register. Grades 5-8 are focusing on service projects this year. 5th Grade theme is "Spread the Love" and they are

collecting items through February for the food pantry. On the 26th they are decorating placemats and bookmarks to take to a local nursing home. 6th Graders are collecting items for Fill-A-Heart for Kids. 7th Grade is working on their Linus project blanket as they've done in the past. 8th grade Lambs Farm project was completed in December. Notify Mrs. Webb when grade-level e-mails need to be sent and she will distribute through Bright Arrow.

- c. 5th Grade Boys Night (Laura Reutzal) – Taking place virtually on March 9th from 6:30-8:00pm. There will be a live virtual presentation and a goodie bag will be dropped off at student homes prior to the event.
- d. 5th & 6th Grade Tea (Laura Reutzal on behalf of Shannon Bilcox, Melissa Sallmann & Adrienne Castro) – 5th grade will be March 3 from 6:30-8:00pm and 6th grade will be March 15 from 6:30-8:00pm and both will be virtual. The content for the 5th and 6th grade presentations are currently under discussion and the 6th grade presentation may be different content than what they would have heard had they been able to complete the event last year.
- e. Family Scavenger Hunt (Julie Kovach on behalf of Keli Likosar) – More details will come, but this will be scheduled in late February or early March.
- f. Family Socials (Julie Kovach) – Trying to think outside the box to provide exciting options to bring families together in a socially-distanced manner. One idea is a drive-in movie night at the McHenry drive-in. Looking for a volunteer to investigate this opportunity. Contact PTO leadership if you are interested.

6. Report from OGSEF (Hilary Bolke)

Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

No old business.

8. New Business

No new business.

9. Announcements & Questions

None.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:52pm CT. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 3rd at 11:30am CT via Zoom.