

**Okte PTA Meeting – January 9, 2024**

Number of members present: 23

Board members present: Erin Marshall, Whitney Pagano, Allison Faul, Kerri Kennedy, Laura Zasada, Lindsey Weinberg

*A quorum was met.*

Zoom call

**Secretary's Report – Laura Zasada**

- See November 2023 minutes
- The report was approved (Allison F/Patrick DDR)

**Board of Education (BOE) Report –Gusta Miller was not present**

- Mrs. Miller was not present today due to a board study session this evening.
  - Gov. will make budget recommendations

**Principal's Report – Kathleen Strangis**

- Staffing update:
  - Class Aid to retire in Feb. and will be replaced, leave position was filled but the retracted, 2.5 caf/recess position available, cleaner.
  - Looking for captain volunteers as they will be working with Okte on a homework helper club (details to follow)
- Current student body, 535 students with more 2nd lang families and an increase of Portuguese families.
- Upcoming STEM program for grades 4/5
- Looking for parallel services for all Els
- Holiday extravaganza, want to thank the PTA for all you provided to the faculty and staff.
- Thank you to Mrs. Holland for being here tonight, thinking it would be a good change to have teachers on rotation in order for the PTA members to get more exposure to the teachers of Okte.

**Faculty Report – Mrs. Holland**

- Thank you to the PTA for the recent book fair and allowing every student to get a book.
- Author visit for the 2nd grade-Bad Kitty. Another author visit in May - Peter Raynolds the author of “The Dot” for grades 1-5.
- Thank you to the PTA for the book sales for these visits, Okte would not be able to offer this without your help.
- March 7th will be the Battle of the Books event.
- Literacy Night is approaching on January 25th
- Check out the library website, as it changes every month. This website has Ebooks and audiobooks through SORA (the password is the child's whole email address). Any questions email Mrs. Holland.
- “The Dot” musical is coming to Okte on April 8th for grades 3/4/5.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: For the month of January, the focus is on Asian heritage month. February the focus is on Black history month. March the focus is on all immigrants.

### **Treasurer Report – Lindsey Weinberg**

- Presenting budget; voted on budget with 16 votes to approve, met quorum
- Lindsey Weinberg reviewed the expenses and income during the last month (The report was approved, Emily S/ Tammy C)

### **PTA Council Report – Randee Moore**

- Not a lot of new things presented.
- Free School lunches/breakfast and Okte has qualified.
- Founders Day Reward will take place on 2/12
- Honorary Life Nominations are due soon
- Council to increase communications to units and are handing out the “play book”
- SEPTA meeting is coming up this week or next week and they are trying to get more people involved.

### **Co-Presidents Report – Erin Marshall & Whitney Pagano**

- Talked about free breakfast/lunches and how setting up breakfast to go carts upstairs to help get this meal to the upper levels.
- The facebook fair was amazing, to see every student walk out with a book. Allison spearheaded the book fair for the last 6 sales and we appreciate the time you have put into it. Also all the volunteers who came in to help out. It was a great experience all around. (Mrs. Holland put out a thanks for the teacher coupons)
- There was a lot of money raised during the fun run this year and the PTA is appreciative of the Okte community for all the support.
- A big thank you to Emily Simpson for single handedly taking on the After school enrichment program. She is an amazing coordinator to get this up and running and creating a positive partnership with Beta

### **After School Enrichment Program – Emily Simpson**

- The programs started last week. There are 9 class offerings, 160 students enrolled in the program, easy registration process, PTA was able to work with Ms. Rock and provide 2 scholarships for students, currently there are 8 parents signed up to help out with classes.

### **First Lego League – Patrick and Nicole Devito-Della Rocca**

- There are only 3 sessions away from the ending of the 1st Okte lego league. Focusing on lego builds for the festival and still waiting to hear when/what time Okte will be presented. VErY thankful for the support from the PTA and parent volunteers. Would like to bring in final builds to showcase.

### **Events Coming Up –**

- January 16th craft night; partnering with Home Depot, kids can pick from different crafts and have some snacks. Please RSVP through the link provided.
- January 25th Literacy Night; two options of in person or virtual. Students wear their pj's, will have a snack, and all can leave with a book. Please be advised you can donate to the books through donations of gently used books and the drop off for books started today. Sign ups through the link provided for snack donations. Students are encouraged to create a tri-fold of their favorite book.
- February 21st Ice Skating Event; To take place at the Capital Arena in Clifton Park. It is \$5 a person which includes skating and skate rentals. This is a 2 hour event from 11:50-1:50. Arrive around 11:30 to get your skate rental, and this way you'll be ready for when the event starts. Please RSVP through the link provided by 2/12.

- Collection of Valentines Day cards between 2/1 - 2/9. We distribute to 5 different facilities in the area, the students are asked to make valentines for seniors, which is a fun little thing for people to do. There will be a collection box in the lobby of the school.
- January 21st our Honorary Life nominations are due, with the dinner to take place on February 12th.
- Senior Scholarship awards are coming up and we are looking for volunteers to review applications.
- The “Scaffold Parenting” Book club will have its first meeting before the next PTA meeting in February.

**Questions and Comments:**

- Is the Oktavia Bucks a PBIS model in the school? Answer: Fashioned after PBIS but not an actual system, since it is just a work in progress to support school wide agreement of working on community. The bucks are used to reward non academic behaviors, or small acts of kindness. Can we publicly thank people on something like FB to get others to see the helpers that are out there?

Motion to adjourn (Melissa R., E.Marshall)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm at Okte Library

**Okte PTA Board**

**Co-President** Erin Marshall

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**Co-Vice President** Allison Faul

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**Secretary** Laura Zasada [laurazasada.lcsw@gmail.com](mailto:laurazasada.lcsw@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** Lindsey Weinberg [lweinberg1018@gmail.com](mailto:lweinberg1018@gmail.com)

**Co-President** Whitney Pagano

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**Co-Vice President** Kerri Kennedy

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**Members Present:**

Kelani Cummings

Laura Zasada

Amelia Rome

Lindsey Weinberg

Patrick DiVito-Della Rocca

Jamie Zamari

Melissa Russom

Casey Creagan

Katherine Strangis

Whitney Pagano

Erin Marshall

Jessica Simmons

Rebecca Morris

Randee Moore

Liz Flynn

Kerri Kennedy

Emily Simpson

Danielle Kass

Christine Borgman

Allison Faul

Jody Brown

Tammy Creagan

Mindy Holland