

**Okte PTA Meeting – October 17, 2023**

Number of members present: 18

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

*A quorum was met.*

Call to order at 6:35 pm (M.Russom/J.Brown)

**Secretary's Report – Laura Zasada**

- See September 13, 2023 minutes
- The report was approved by motions from Allison Faul and seconded by Patrick DVDR.

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

- Mrs. Miller was not present today due to a board study session this evening.
  - Transportation presentation
  - Grants overview

**Principal's Report – Kathleen Strangis**

- Okte has hired a 0.5 AIS teacher Mrs. Olson. She will be here in the afternoons to help with AIS students
- Okte clubs have been solidified
  - Ski Club - still working on bussing due to the #'s enrolled
  - Student Council (lite)- managing Ocative bucks and food drives
  - Community Action Club - will work on things like letters to seniors
  - Drama Club
- Working on the climate and culture of the Okte community, through the second step SEL program, to help these young students to grow and develop into good people.
- There has been an Oktavia pop up shop to get the community excited about this new development.
- Agreements for cafeteria
- 4th grade is making infomercial, Theme- "We Are All In This Together"
- National Hispanic Month 9/15-10/15
- Running a campaign where the whole school gets a book
- December we are asking what days are meaningful to you? What are your favorite days as a community effort
- Looking out to see what parents are hoping for their students when they come home from school. The goal being to grow perspective as families in the Okte community evolve through the years.
- Mrs. Holland does a good job at looking for books with themes for the students, and has the students able to relate to the books through character and themes.
- Okte is looking to make a full day event of culture and family to present experiences. Looking to do this as a trimester event.
- Okte does have an Equity, Diversity Community Committee, looking to send out messages maybe weekly or monthly.

- Presentation on Parent Portal Accounts
  - Currently 15% of Okte's population is not connected to the Parent Portal. Okte is still using hard copies because of this but the district would like to get numbers up.
  - Patty still calls each family to get these families connected.
  - Can the PTA help get the word out and get families connected?
- Mrs. Strangis was able to go tour 5 Maxwell (New site for the K-program) at the last Principals meeting. They have been doing a good job of repurposing things from this building and the new door in the library is Okte's own piece of 5 Maxwell. Focus group has been created for this new development lead by Erica Ryan. Through focus group discussion, designs have been changed where K will be in the back more secluded. Also mention of need of blacktop area and playgrounds.
- Mrs. Strangis is all in for the "Rainbow wig" on Fridays Fun Run! Through the generosity of the community the school has reached their fundraising goal.
- Field trips have to be pre approved and Okte is blessed because of how the PTA budgets the funds for the schools trips and events.
- The district has hired a company called "Wild Goose Chase" where they come in to chase all the birds off the fields, hoping for some clean field for Friday Run.

#### **Faculty Report – Nancy Arthur**

- Ms Arthur reports that things are great and quiet at Okte right now. Everything/everyone is setting into routines. Classrooms are doing well. Everyone is excited for the Fun Run on Friday. Schedules are getting into place for all and everything else is pretty status quo.

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

- Presenting treasure report of September from last meeting.
- Cash on hand = \$42,858.83
- Lindsey Weinberg reviewed the expenses and income during the last month
  - Fun Run shirts were sponsored
  - Most expenses related to Fun Run
  - One field trip for ISD to Elm's Farm
- The report was approved by motions by Jody Brown and seconded by Amanda Dane.

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

- Randee Moore introduced herself as the Okte delegate. the first meeting was held in September with Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Turner. There was mention of 5 Maxwell but no new updates. BOE report spoke about some date changes and discussion around hiring more substitute teachers. They also re-introduced the PTA school board.
- The main focus for this school year is PTA safety; focusing on having guidelines and then following those guidelines. They will be having a meeting this Thursday to discuss and go over safety policies.
- Discussion transitioned to communication and sustainability. The PTA council is trying to increase their communication to the units within the Shen community.
- Council is putting together PTA playbooks for mostly the board but to help with sustainability.
- They also presented some financial information but mostly talked about communication at this meeting.

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

- Fun Run, Friday 10/20
  - It is this Friday and we are still in need of some volunteers.
  - Sending paper around the room for folks to sign up here tonight.
  - Also looking for a MC for the afternoon, lap markers and someone to take pictures for the yearbook.
  - 59% of the student population has registered this point and has raised \$32,000
  - Jody Brown was praised for her support in helping package up all the prizes and making sure the students get the prizes that they have earned.
- Table and Treat event, Saturday 10/28
  - This event is to give our kids experiences that are in a safe environment
  - Still need people to decorate tables. Mrs. Troy will be a table host, so maybe some other teachers want to join in on this fun event.
  - Another sign-up sheet is going around tonight to for folks to sign up
  - Also in contact with NHS and JNHS to get student volunteers for this event.
  - Currently there are two candy monsters out in the lobby for candy donations. Thank you to all who have already donated. Parents can drop off candy at any point or they can send it in with your student to feed the monsters.
  - Our Food Drive kick off is happening at the Table or Treat event and will carry though the week 10/28-11/3
- Okte will be having a Halloween parade this year on Halloween, Tuesday 10/31. So families can come and see the students. PM K & Grades 1-5 will happen at 1:30 pm and AM K will happen at 9am. Students are allowed to wear their costumes all day if they wish. \*No masks and nothing on faces, no weapons. If costume goes over clothes it is fine for later in the day changes. If it does not go over clothes, bathrooms get cluttered and it is too difficult to manage so discourage these changes. Also every student is encouraged to come to school, even those that do not want to participate there will be a space for them as well.
- Okte has earned the Early Bird Membership award for 2023-2024, 145 memberships was the goal.
- Flyers will go out for spirit wear sweatshirts/t shirts so things can be delivered before the holidays
- PTA Roller skating event will happen on Friday 11/10, there is no school that day. It is \$5 a person, the flyers are out and you can currently sign up for your ticket. Last year it was a good turn out with 350 participants at the event.
- This year's fall book fair will happen the week of parent/teacher conferences. We are currently working out the hours for this to be open. However it should be open for you to visit after you meet with your child's teacher. We will be looking for volunteers for this event.

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

- We were able to host a parent information session and it was a great turn out. Current we have 48 students participating and 16 parents as coaches, which gives us 8 teams from Okte. Our first meeting was last week on Wednesday and the teams enjoyed themselves. We have 4 rooms reserved for the sessions and so there are 2 teams in each room.

### Questions and Comments:

- Can we publicly thank people on something like FB to get others to see the helpers that are out there?
- Can we have a table or booth at events to make connections with families that attend these events to increase membership/engagement? (People tend to be afraid of the unknown).
- Clubs that we could have to bring back things from the past, advertising those things so people can see what is available to bring back?
- Teacher lunches at Christmas always include a gift to all teachers. Jody presents ideas for this because she can print items that are personalized (examples were coaster, bag and tumbler).
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Motion to adjourn at 7:54 pm. (A.Schuessler, R.Moore)

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

[wpagano26@gmail.com](mailto:wpagano26@gmail.com)

**Co-Vice President** Kerri Kennedy

[kschoen87@yahoo.com](mailto:kschoen87@yahoo.com)

### Members Present:

Laura Zasada

Amelia Rome

Lindsey Weinberg

Patrick DiVito-Della Rocca

Elizabeth Flynn

Melissa Russom

Nancy Arther

Katherine Strangis

Whitney Pagano

Erin Marshall

Randee Moore

Amanda Dane

Kerri Kennedy

Nicole DiVito-Della Rocca

Jamie Zamari

Anja Schuessler

Allison Faul

Jody Brown

Tammy Creagan