

Okte PTA Meeting - November 15, 2023

Number of members present: 16

Board members present: Erin Marshall, Whitney Pagano, Kerri Kennedy and Lindsey Weinberg
A quorum was met

Call to order at 6:35pm (Brandi Solomon/ Emily Simpson)

Secretary's Report- Kerri Kennedy covering for Laura Zasada

- See October 17, 2023 minutes
- the report was approved by motions from Robyn Zimmerman and seconded by Jennifer Jerome

Board of Education (BOE) Report- Gusta Miller

- Dr. Robinson said independent audit was approved with no issues
- budget talk coming up so stay tuned. It will become more regular conversation by February/March

Principal Report: Kathleen Strangis

- Thanked PTA for cider and donuts provided to staff and for suggesting that parents be allowed at school for the Halloween parade. The parade was a big hit with parents and lots of people showed up and they are already discussing how to work on it for next year to make it longer and allow the littles to see the bigs etc
- Mass evacuation drill went well; the kids did a great job and it went as planned. Some parents were brought in as "actors" and were coached to act so they could troubleshoot
 - Mrs. Strangis surveyed the upper grades (about 60-70 students) and they said they felt safe during the drill and that there was good communication.
 - kids walked well along the side of the road
 - want to aim to do the drill every 2 years going forward
- Okte had its safety audit and it went well. Some things that were noted is Okte needs more signage, more lighting and more cameras. Some of the suggestions made also need to make sure its reasonable for students etc
- Oktes current enrollment: 533 students as of September 30th. Makes Okte now the 4th largest elementary school in the district.
- A posting for a classroom aide as just been put up
- posting for Amanda Giunard (school psychologist) maternity leave has been up and have had quite a few candidates.
- posting for food service workers at Okte, need more help not just at Okte but other schools need more help in the lunchroom
- Fun Run: 4th graders had pizza party last week as reward for bringing in the most money. Jeffrey Brown and Lilliana got to be principal for the day.
- showed us the Octavia pop up shop and what it has: pencils, fidgets, bracelets etc plus a catalog of things you can shop for. Kids can shop every week.
- Student council is collecting ideas for experiences that you can use Oktavia bucks for. (I.e lunch with a teacher, lunch with principal etc)
- Donations to the pop up shop from PTA is a line in the budget going forward
- Report cards: conferences coming up Thursday 12/7 and Friday 12/8. Report card structure is changing this year for grades 3,4,5. Its going back to receiving either a 1,2,3 or 4 rather than a percentage. This is because of the new program they are using: " Socratic Seminar"

-Partnership Committee wants to offer open discussion on shared reading of *The Scaffold Effect: Raising Resilient, Self-Reliant, and Secure Kids in an Age of Anxiety*, by Harold S. Koplewicz, MD. Anyone can enjoy and receive a free copy of the book, paid for by the PTA. The book group will start meeting in January before the next virtual PTA meeting.

Faculty Representative Report: Nancy Arthur absent

Afterschool Enrichment Report: Emily Simpson

- bringing back after school enrichment- 6 weeks starting in January, meeting 1x a week after dismissal
- bowling will definitely be one the after school activities. Looking for anyone who has interest in doing a class for something else
- looking to have enrollment/ register before break
- intramural sports will be coming in January

Treasurers Report: Lindsey Weinberg

- lots of deposits from the Fun Run
- large bill for Arts & Education last year that was just paid
- we are showing more money than we actually have because of things we just paid but won't be showing until next months report
- want to do an interim balance for how to spend the money
- Fun Run brought in a lot of money: \$41,893.53
- fall spirit wear brought in \$550
- book fair is not a fundraiser since it goes back to scholastic
- Arts & Education have field trips coming up and bussing is a large portion of that expense is from bussing
- Book fair : PTA has decided every kid will get a book. They will get a \$10 voucher to spend on a book. Plus teachers will get money to spend on books
- Kids First Fund: Is a line in the budget for money that goes to Ms. Rock to help specific Okte families with assistance to pay for things and also regular items to have on hand for kids like toothpaste to brush their teeth at school etc
- We are expected to spend around 30k over the next few months

Cash on hand: \$70,813.80

-The report was approved by motions by Liz Flynn and Patrick DeVito-Della Rocca

- Quorum was approved by all in attendance: Rachel, Robyn, Randee, Danielle, Liz, Jennifer Jerome, Brandi, Amanda, Melissa, Stephanie, Jamie, Emily, Patrick, Tammy, Lindsey, Kerri, Erin, Whitney

PTA Council Report: Randee Moore

- safety was the biggest thing that was talked about during the last meeting. Discussed what goes on security wise before and after school- after hours at school is different but they really try to know who is in and out of the building. 4pm is the earliest when the building is open; there are cameras that are always on and alarms etc
- how to run a PTA event safely
- filling out a facility form ASAP is important

- security for big events. Including resource officers can be used at these events
- A 24/7 hotline exists that you can call to report anything you think could be a safety issue at the school

Co-Presidents Report: Erin Marshall & Whitney Pagano

- Fun Run: \$41,893.53 brought in. Thank you to community.
- Table & Treat: 17 tables were there; good turn out and kids really enjoyed. Food allergy buckets were used and appreciated
- 15 boxes of food was collected for Bountiful Backpack
- Halloween parade was successful for everyone.
- Rollerskating night- over 300 tickets, \$5 a ticket and 100% net profit to Okte since Nuptials completely donates the skate time. The money earned will go toward something for STEM.
 - planning a spring roller-skate night either on saturday/ sunday afternoon or a friday evening
- planning an iceskating night in January/ February
- Okte received the Trailblazer Award for 149 PTA members. Goal is 180.
- Spirit Wear- items will arrive week of December 11th. Made \$550 which will be earmarked.
- Planning a winter theme craft night with Home Depot. It will be located in the cafeteria, home depot will provide everything free of charge.
 - thinking older kids and younger kids will be during different time slots
 - don't want any lingering after craft is finished

Book Fair- will definitely need volunteers, especially Thursday/ Friday of the week when parent teacher conferences will be going on

First Lego League: Patrick Devito Della Rocca

- Thanked everyone, kids are loving it and he loves it.
- end of january will the First Lego League festival to show off their work. Going to think of a way they can show off to Okte community

Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm (Robyn Zimmerman & Jen Jerome)

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 (Virtual)

Okte PTA Board

Co- President Erin Marshall
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Co-Vice President Allison Faul

Secretary Laura Zasada laurazasada.lcsw@gmail.com

Treasurer Lindsey Weinberg lweinberg1018@gmail.com

Co-President Whitney Pagano
wpagano26@gmail.com

Co-Vice President Kerri Kennedy

Members Present:

Kerri Kennedy
 Erin Marshall
 Whitney Pagano
 Lindsey Weinberg
 Rachel Rhodes
 Robyn Zimmerman
 Randee Moore
 Danielle Kass
 Elizabeth Flynn

Jennifer Jerome
Brandi Solomon
Amanda Dare
Melissa Russom
Stephanie Wood
Jamie Zamani
Emily Simpson
Patrick DeVito-Della Rocca
Tammy Creagan
Kathleen Strangis
Gusta Miller