

**Okte PTA Meeting – September 13, 2023**

Number of members present: 32

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

Welcome and Introductions

**Secretary's Report – Laura Zasada**

- See May 17, 2023 minutes
- The report was approved by motions from Emily Simpson and seconded by Tammy C.

**Board of Education (BOE) Report –Gusta Miller**

- Mrs. Miller introduced herself to the Okte PTA community and states that she has started her 3rd term as member of the Board of Education and is the Liaison/BOE Rep.
- Mrs. Miller shared the departure of Dr. Wood who was the assistant superintendent and that she will be replaced by Dr. Turner.
- Within the district there have been 114 new hires for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The district continues to work on the full day kindergarten program. This is a long process and steps have been made to get the program up and running, however no date has been determined of when this will occur.

**Principal's Report – Kathleen Strangis**

- It has been an amazing start to this new school year. Kids are happy to be back at Okte. Focusing on skills like saying good morning, good afternoon and making eye contact.
- There have been two new hires for this school year, in the 5th grade (Ms. Bernard and Mrs. Fenzel). Today a post went out for a 0.5 AIS teacher. Jen Brown is the new attendance clerk. Kerry Downs has been hired as the new Principal Aide. She will be starting a safety patrol program with the 5th grade students this year. Literary Intern and School Psych intern are also new to the staff this year.
- There will be a large evacuation drill happening this fall, be on the lookout for more information around this drill. 20 Faculty/staff are in roles to make sure for a smooth drill.
- Okte community has grown to 536 students and is still growing with new development and families moving into the area.
- The first fire drill will be more casual, as the teachers/staff will be talking the students through this drill. Students are expected to become more independent through these drills as the year goes on.
- Looking for any feedback in trying to figure out the best process for the walkers (arrival/dismissal). Bussing has been going well at arrival and dismissal.
- Looking forward to the back to school event this Friday.
- Morning program to start next Monday-Theme for this year, 7 Wonders of the World and learning more about what creates a wonder. Building wide, this first month reading the book "Mindfulness Matters" learning how to care for self, practicing Mindful Mondays.

- Mrs Strangis announced the retirements of Mrs. McQuade, Mrs. Moran and Mrs LaPan at the end of the school year. The district is trying to coordinate hiring staff and teachers for all eight elementary schools.
- This school year, there has been so much work that has been going into curriculum building, in ELA-Wit and Wisdom, Science/Social Studies, 2nd Step for social emotional learning
- Students assessed through the Star assessments; some 1:1, some reading and computer work, other tests to offer data.
- Open House is scheduled for September 21, 2023, be on the lookout for more information.
- Okte is a title one school, this helps with resources to both students and families.
- Mrs. Holland has written a grant for the library “Future Reader”- offered for students on Mondays. There was new construction in the library over the summer, they were able to put a permanent wall up. They replaced all the old furniture and donated the old tables and chairs to the new Kindergarten building.
- \*Question asked: with an increased population of 2 new neighborhoods in the Okte area, is zoning going to change? A: There is thought that once 5 Maxwell opens there will be some redistricting for the elementary schools but not sure what that will look like.

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

- Ms Arthur introduces herself to the community, she is a 2nd grade teacher and acts at the teacher liaison by collecting thoughts and ideas from teachers and reporting them back to the PTA. Same when PTA needs to communicate back to teachers.
- Mrs. Sansone works hard to make sure everyone has their materials, as they all return back to school. Gold folders are provided by the PTA and they thank the PTA for those supplies
- Welcome breakfast provided by the PTA at the start of the school year, all the teachers and staff are very thankful for this event.

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

- Presenting treasure report of May/June from last meeting, as well as July/August.
- Cash on hand = \$41,514.81
- Lindsey Weinberg reviewed the expenses and income during the summer months while school was not in session. .
- The report was approved by motions by Kerri M and seconded by Jennifer J.
- Interim budget was presented (Arts/Ed is budgeted for the whole school year at \$3,100). Looking to spend \$16,500 through November. Interim Budget approved with #24 votes.
- Fun Run in October is the big fundraiser for this school year.

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

- First Lego League – Introduced Patrick and Nicole Devito-Della Rocca who are chairing the FLL. They are looking to get this club started, the first week of October. The biggest thing they need are coaches, to support teams of six students each. This is a 12 week program, and the theme this year is Masterpiece. There is an Expo that occurs in the winter. FLL is geared toward 2-5th graders and each team needs 2 coaches. The commitment is weekly 90 minute meetings for 12 weeks, ending with the expo. There are kits that will be purchased @\$300. Registration per team is \$135. Flyers will be sent

out soon with more information to follow, (parent meeting). Currently \$1,000 on the club's budget line.

- Halloween is a big event at Okte. A lot of different chances to get involved. Candy Monster will be set up for kids to drop off candy donations. Options to help set up for this event, as well as take down. Currently looking for chairperson for this event.
- Our Facebook page, please follow us because that is very up to date information on PTA.
- Library helpers are needed. Mrs. Holland is looking for 1-2 people to help shelve books on Mondays and/or Wednesdays from 1-3. This would be a year long commitment.
- Looking for 2 PTA delegates to attend the Shen PTA council monthly meetings. (Randy Moore has offered to volunteer for this opening).
- Volunteer interest form handed out tonight, QR codes to both membership and volunteer options for the school year.

### **Committee Reports**

- School pictures are scheduled for Friday 9/15, flyers went home already with students. The weather looks good, these pictures will be taken outside. There is a great group of parent volunteers to make sure the kids look great for their pictures.
- Back to School Picnic is scheduled for this Friday. We have 676 RSVP's for this event. Kona ice and food truck will be there, DJ will be on the playground side of the school and there will be a photobooth again.
- Fun Run is set for October 20th with the kick off to happen on October 10th. Shirt just ordered and we will be needing volunteers when it is time for the event. We received 15 sponsors this year to sponsor the shirts. Theme this year "Dude Perfect" which is a part of all the videos.

### **Membership vote on Okte PTA Bylaw changes**

- Change #1 Article VIII: Vice presidents shall be elected **at large with their order and duties determined in accordance with the unit procedures.**
- Change #2 Article XIII: The association shall be represented at meeting of the 12-703 Shenendehowa Council, Council of Parent Teacher Association by the president/alternate and by 2 council delegates.
- Change #3 Article XIII: **Elected by the executive board.**
- Change #4 Article XI: 12 members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of the association.
- Motion to approve and voted to approve by #24 votes.

Motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm at Okte Library

### **Okte PTA Board**

**Co-President** Erin Marshall

[erinmarshall26@gmail.com](mailto:erinmarshall26@gmail.com)

**Co-Vice President** Allison Faul

[allison.faul@gmail.com](mailto:allison.faul@gmail.com)

**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	Randee Moore
Marisa Sutliff	Amanda Dane
Lindsey Weinberg	Kerri Kennedy
Patrick DiVito-Della Rocca	Caroline Reis
Jennifer Jerome	Marjorie Forget
Elizabeth Flynn	Danielle Kass
Melissa Russom	Amelia Rome
Susan Paul	Jamie Zamari
Nancy Arther	Xiou Fang Coa
Simme Lowis	Stephanie Wood
Gusta Miller	Corinne Berndt
Emily Simpson	Kerri Meister
Katherine Strangis	Allison Faul
Brandi Solomon	Tammy Creagan
Robin	Whitney Pagano
Erin Marshall	