

# Oak Park Elementary

## PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, October 4, 2005 / 8:00 pm

### I. Approved 09/06/05 Minutes

### II. Approved proposed Budget for 2005/2006 school year.

### III. Board Reports

- Patty Jo (1<sup>st</sup> VP) – Twenty-two people attended the Love and Logic special meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on 10/04/05. It was well received and very informative.
- Melisa (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) – 89% of Oak Park families are members of the PTA which calculates to 318 members.
- Kay (Fundraising) – We have received 113 donations for a total of \$5,300.  
Trash Bags - Sale has ended and trash bags picked up. 1,500 trash bags were sold. 2,000 rolls were purchased so there is an additional 500 to sell. They can be purchased through the front office. Our goal was to sell \$4,000 worth. Once we sell them all we will have made \$5,000. There are approximately 300 yellow rolls, 150 white rolls and 50 blue rolls left to sell.
- Ken (Treasurer) – He has deposited all the trash bag checks.
- Peggy (Teacher Rep) –
  - Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – On Thursday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, going to the Weston Red Barn Farm. Thank you PTA for paying for the buses.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Mrs. Plummer wants everyone to know how much she loves it here at Oak Park Elementary.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Jane Croskey wanted to thank PTA for purchasing our social studies materials last year. They've had fun completing the first unit and the kids have learned so much.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is practicing for the first district math basic skills test. They are also studying nutrition through the food pyramid and studying the northeastern states in social studies.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Combo – Peggy Bales would like to thank her parent helpers, Amy Lutz and Jeannine Sutcliffe, for helping my combo class on Friday mornings. - - The kids are busy reviewing the scientific process and investigating science questions. Geography and the Elements of a Culture are beginning the year before we study the content of American History and Ancient Civilization. - - Writing and Math has been fun using our “shoes for support!” Perseverance and

cooperation have been the themes in Reading. We are also enjoying working with our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade buddies.

- Entire Staff – The entire staff would like to thank the PTA again for the wonderful luncheon on conference day. It was magnificent; hard to decide which we enjoyed the most...the food or the decorations. - - Also, a BIG THANKS to the PTA for the \$50 vouchers.
- Claire Fales (Ambassador Rep)U – Last week in the middle of our collection drive for hurricane relief, we were made aware of Oak Park Elementary in Ocean Springs, Mississippi that had lost everything in the hurricane. Learning about the school and seeing the pictures, our students immediately decided that our project and supplies were destined for Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Mrs. Gill contacted the school district and have found that this school had an enrollment of 515 students grades K-4. Their demographics are very similar to our community, and have found that since their need is not as great as other places, relief and supplies are not making it to their region very quickly. Their community is determined to get the students back in school on September 26<sup>th</sup> using the parts of the building that they can.

As it turns out getting supplies to the region was no easy task. Truckloads of supplies were being rerouted from their original destinations to areas where they felt need was greater. This being said we had to heavily rely on faith that someone would be able to see our goal to completion. We contacted every agency and individual we knew, including Pizza Hut and Wal-Mart who had businesses in Ocean Springs hoping our little paper and pencils could hitch hike a ride, but logistics weren't on our side. It looked as if good enough was going to have to be good enough this time. The funny thing about faith is you never know whom, when, or where it might come from. You just have to know it will come, and it did through Yellow Transportation. They had heard of our situation and couldn't wait to be a part of our team. Their truck pulled up in front of our school on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to load the boxes of supplies as all the students looked on and were able to experience what teamwork can accomplish.

Yellow Roadway will drive the supplies across country, through the roadblocks, and right to the front door of Oak Park Elementary in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The supplies were scheduled to arrive on Monday the same day the students come

back. Mrs. Gill received a call Friday afternoon from the Principal of Oak Park in Ocean Springs. She said the truck just pulled up and the teachers were hurriedly unloading the supplies so students will have a bag of new supplies on their desks as a surprise when they arrive Monday morning. They couldn't begin to tell us how much it meant to them to know people are out there cared.

#### IV. **Principal's Report (Jennifer Gill)**

- **Rescue Room** – This is a room for those items that were left at home or your child has called in a panic needing something. If you choose to bring it to school, this is what we would like you to do.
  - Put the item(s), with your child's name on it, in the room right across the hall from our front office.
  - Your child will come pick it up when it is convenient.The purposes for the rescue room is to limit interruptions in the classroom, keep students from missing learning time, and, most importantly, letting the student practice responsibility. The teachers have talked to the students about the rescue room to make sure they understand how it works. We monitor its success and, if necessary, will make adjustments that will benefit all students.
- **Dad's Club** – Encourage the men (Dads, Grandfathers, Step-Dads, Uncles) to attend on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great time for everyone.
- **Academic Goals** – The first quarter is well under way and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students have been given an opportunity to practice goal setting and planning. I visited with the student and spoke to them about the importance of goal setting, as well as planning, monitoring and adjusting to achieve a goal. Every student set a short-term academic goal and made a plan for achievement. Of course, the most important part of this process is to acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of the goal. As goals are accomplished, student will meet with me and have their name read on the announcements.
- **Preschool Fun Time** – We had 22 preschoolers and their families. They toured the building, heard a story read by Mrs. Palmer, and ate pizza. It was a great time for everyone.
- **Conferences** – Everything at Oak Park is a learning opportunity and conferences are no exception. We, parents and teachers, learn about the students and make plans as to how we can work together to assist every child to be successful. Thank you for your dedication to success and education.
- **Halloween Parties** – Costumes will be brought to school and put on before each party. No violent, gory or promiscuous themes. If you are in charge of the party, please make sure to contact the teacher to discuss content and start time.

- A big Thanks – Thank you to everyone who volunteers and gets their child to school everyday ready to learn. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies for the hurricane relief effort and for helping to put the supplies together. Thanks to everyone who assisted in making Preschool Fun Night a success. Thanks to everyone who brought snacks for conference day and assisted with the staff luncheon.
- United Way Donation – There will be a new United Way fundraising event initiated here at Oak Park. Mrs. Gill will be setting out glass jars for each classroom. Each penny will count as one point. Each nickel etc. will count as negative 1 pt. (ie: If Mrs. Andra’s class is leading with 100 pts then other classes can drop there larger coins in her jar and subtract pts.) The class w/ the most points at the end of the event will be recognized.
- Spirit Day – The first Spirit Day will be Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme is western wear. The school will work throughout the day to promote the western wear theme (i.e. picnic lunch on blankets, etc.)

V. **Committee Reports**

Asked for reports from committee chairmans

**Clothing Drive**

**Emergency Calling Tree**

Laura Bauer mentioned that the list should be finished and distributed within the next week.

**Family Fun Night**

Our first family fun night is Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The movie possibilities are ‘Robots’ (if it’s added to the approved movie list) or ‘Kicking and Screaming’.

**Legislative**

The Johnson County Sales Tax Renewal PASSED! This renewal was for the 3-year, ¼ cent sales tax that provides funding to Johnson County school districts for use in maintaining educational opportunities, technology, special education needs, and other authorized purposes. A big thanks for everyone who voted.

**Pre-School Fun Time**

Our first Preschool Fun Time was held on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Oak Park Elementary from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. We had a pizza party for the preschoolers and their families. Mrs. Gill welcomed everyone and gave them a tour of the school. Kirsten Palmer showed the children and their families the Kindergarten classroom and read them a story. We had a total of 65 people, including 22 preschoolers.

The next Preschool Fun Time will be on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Jeff Stanley will be doing a short activity with the kids in the gym.

### **Publicity**

- The girl scouts made dolls for the victims of Hurricane Katrina that had been brought to Children's Mercy. There was a picture of the girls in the Sun.
- Channel 41 came out and covered the students/teachers loading the school supplies into the Yellow Freight truck bound for Oak Park Elementary in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. There was also an article and picture in the Sun.

### **Safety**

- Bus safety training for all students will take place on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (all day) and Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> (1/2 day). Tina is still waiting to get more specific training information from the safety chairperson, Terra Hasker.
- Also planning a Bike Rodeo for the spring. Tina has contacted Patti Tamisier, Safety chairperson at Katherine Carpenter Elementary, for some information on how they've done it in the past. Will have more information at the next PTA meeting.

### **School Directory**

Project complete. Went out in backpack mail.

### **School Picture Day**

Picture day is on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Look for more details in backpack mail this next week.

### **Skating Party**

Next skating party is Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be another combined skate party for both Oak Park and Katherine Carpenter. There will be a drawing for 10 desk lights.

### **Teacher Luncheons**

The first luncheon of the year took place on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> with great success! The committee volunteers really outdid themselves on preparing lots of yummy food. The theme was "Back to School." We decorated the library tables w/ brown Kraft paper and long pencil shaped runners. The table centerpieces were old milk bottles filled w/ apple slices and flowers, old lunch boxes and Hershey candy bars that said "Unsung Heroes." Each teacher got a gift. The rest of the staff took home the Hershey bars. Janet Maxey and Shelly Minton are sending out a survey to the entire staff to get an idea of their likes and dislikes (similar to the wish list sheets the

teachers fill out) so that I and anyone else who is interested can purchase something more substantial in the future – thanks to Janet and Shelly!

Also a BIG thanks to Royceann Mather, Cynthia Turner, Susie Bebow, Stephanie Coleman, Patty Jo Carter, Janet Maxey, Katie Searl, Terra Hasker and Kim Darnaby for all of their help!

The next luncheon is scheduled for March 31, 2006.

### **Website**

Mark Vick has finally got a working password for the calendar and website. There is on-going discussions in regards to how we want to handle emailing information for events along with continuing the backpack mailings. It has been suggested to have a survey among all Oak Park parents as to who would rather have an email versus a flyer in backpack mail. This would help us determine what avenue would be most cost effective. If the email option is considered to be a viable addition to backpack mail, it has been suggested by Brad Jordan go with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party on-line vendor to manage this for Oak Park. Everything is still in preliminary discussions at this point.

### **Yearbook**

When you think about picture day...I hope you think about yearbook. Yearbook order sheets have gone out in backpack mail with another coming out next week with the picture order forms. Yearbooks are \$13.00. The *tentative* deadline for yearbook orders are Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Shawn will also do class pictures but not on the 13<sup>th</sup>. She will advertise the date in the Eaglegram. If you'd like to purchase the class pictures you can go to timestampmedia website to order (just like last year).

The committee is making a few adjustments this year:

1. Selling yearbooks in the fall. This will give more time to adjust the layout should our sales be short.
2. We are able to drop the price because we will start out with a balance from the previous years spring portraits.
3. Shawn would like to be able to add 1 or 2 more pages to the yearbook so every classroom could have their own class collage of pictures.

Since Shawn is extra busy right now, please RSVP all information to Laura Bauer.

### **Haunted House – Fundraiser for Wildwood**

Shawn Fowler gave the report on the Haunted House.

The Haunted House is on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. There will be:

- 5 haunted house rooms
- 2 inflatables

- 20 games
- Silent Auction
- Dinner – Hamburgers/hot dogs, chips and pop

Game tickets - 3 for \$1.00 up through Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. After that tickets will be 2 for \$1.00.

Haunted house rooms - \$3.00

Inflatables - \$5.00 for an all night pass or can use game tickets

There is still a need for a few more volunteers to work games. You would only need to work one shift. If you can help, please sign the attached form that is being passed around the PTA meeting.