

Oak Park Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 / 7:00 pm

I. Approved 12/06/05 Minutes

II. Board Reports

- Jeanette (President) – Ready to create a Nominating Committee made up of seven people. Each person from the PTA Board will be responsible for nominating one person for the Nominating Committee. This committee will meet and be able to present a slate at the March '06 PTA meeting. The nominations will be posted for 30 days and we'll vote on the new board in April '06.
- Patty Jo (Program) – she has scheduled a “Food Choices” program for Tuesday, March 7th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm (right before PTA meeting). However, due to the South Band Festival that evening, this and the PTA will need to be rescheduled. Patty Jo is checking on available dates for the Food Program.
- Kay (Fundraising) – Trash bags still on sale. We have approximately 280 bags left. The trash bag signage was removed from the Oak Pak marquee...will have this added back on the marquee.
- Ken (Treasurer) – handed out year-to-date budget
 - Opened a new money market account with a 3.74% interest rate. We will be notified if we go below \$10,000.
 - 990 tax form has be mailed in
 - KS Sales tax form – has some questions for Tracy Reynolds
 - Heard that the corporate rebate check has come in but he hasn't seen it yet.
 - The budget shows the net donations are under goal but this isn't the case due to the membership numbers...just need to be reallocated.
 - Recycling – We received approximately \$1,300 compared to our budget of \$1,000.
 - Had a great family fun night...made some good money.
 - PTA Board needs to decide how they want to spend for the Wish List.
 - Credit Card Program at local Target – need to get Oak Park's school name added to the list of participating schools
 - Couple of bad checks – collection is in process
- Tracy (Parliamentarian) – Tracy handed out the Oak Park Elementary School Kansas PTA Local Unit Bylaws. We will discuss the bylaws at February's PTA meeting, vote on them at March's meeting and then post them to the Oak Park website.

- Peggy (Teacher Rep) –
 - First Grade – The Villa Garden’s residents and staff were quite impressed with the musical talents of the Oak Park first graders. They are looking forward to the May visit.
 - First Grade Musical – Mrs. Chavez’s wheels are already turning for the musical. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th.
 - DOG – Ken Neiderhiser will be helping in the First Grade on Tuesday, Feb 7th as part of the DOG’s program.
 - Fourth Grade – just returned from EarthWorks and had great fun as “scientist”. They’re practicing for the Kansas Assessments.
 - Fifth Grade – Hero report presentations at Oak Park will be January 18th. One participant will be selected to represent Oak Park at the District’s Hero’s Presentation in February.
 - Art – Mrs. Gray reported that the Sixth Graders are creating clay bowls that will be part of the “Empty Bowls” event at SW West on Feb 13th. The sale of tickets to the event will be \$15.00 for a Panera dinner of soup, bread, cookie and drink. The proceeds go to the City Union Mission. Each ticket holder will go home with a bowl. There will be an auction of larger bowls on the bridge at West during the event. There will also be an art exhibit of student work of other media on display all day and into the evening. This replaces our District show at the Mission Mall as the mall is closing and unavailable. Tickets will be sold in advance at each school. The bowls being auctioned off are being done by teachers, high school students, and guest artists. - - It will be a great night of fun and we hope our patrons will support this event. This students, teachers and guests are making over 2000 bowls! See Mrs. Gray for more details.

III. Principal’s Report (Jennifer Gill)

- Dad’s Luncheon – brought in over 75 dads and parents as visitors for lunch. This is a great opportunity for children to experience a positive male role model who is involved and who cares about children and education. Our thought was to have one Dad’s luncheon week in the fall and one during the spring (right before spring break).
- Winter Parties – Thanks to everyone who helped with the winter parties. They were well organized and fun for everyone. We had a short all school assembly before to bring the semester to a close and present our crossing guard with homemade cards and a Target gift certificate. He was very appreciative.
- January 13th – All South area elementary schools were given the option of having an in-service day on January 13th. We decided it was in the best interest of our staff and students to be in school that day.
- Martin Luther King Day – There will be no school on Monday, January 16, 2006 to acknowledge MLK day. All classes will be participating in a

lesson or activity that discusses the significance of this day and what impact his work has had on our country.

- Concert – There will be a band and strings concert on Tuesday, Jan 17th.
- Preschool Fun Time – The next scheduled one will be on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 10:30 am. Mrs. Chen will have a short session on music for the children.
- Math Basic Skills – 2nd round of Math Basic Skills test are finished and our results were outstanding. Oak Park was above the District average with the following averages:
 - 3rd Grade – 91%
 - 4th Grade – 93%
 - 5th Grade – 89%
 - 6th Grade – 83%
- DIBELS Testing – 2nd round of DIBELS testing will be done K-3 on Wednesday. This test assesses letter and sound recognition and an awareness of how letters work together to create different sounds.
- KS Assessment Test – 3-6 graders are preparing for the KS Assessment Test. Please don't schedule appointments or trips in the month of March or the first two weeks in April. This is the testing window. We will send home specific test dates as the time approaches.
- Grade Cards – I will be having grade card visits with many students for various reasons. Grade cards are a time to see how successful the quarter was or to see what adjustments can be made for the next semester.
- Musical – 2nd and 3rd Grade musical is scheduled for Thursday, Jan 26th.
- SUN Article – There was an Oak Park article in the Sun Newspaper entitled "What was your favorite holiday memory".

IV. Committee Reports

- Art Smart – Kevin Bailey
Kevin will be taking Art Smart into literature. He will briefly expose the kids to William Allen White, Newbery and Caldecott awards and the Association for Library Service to Children. His goal is to let the kids know that art is not just drawing, painting or making sculptures. Art is about imagination and expressing emotions and feelings and allowing others to "come aboard into your mental journey". My goal is to spark an interest in reading and writing and to let the kids learn to enjoy both aspects of literature. I'm working with Beth Markley, the librarian, and it looks like I will present Art Smart in the library with her assistance. After a little more research and determining how to present the information to the different grade levels, I'll have something for the kids in Feb/March.
- Carnival – Kay Erickson
The carnival is scheduled for Friday, April 27th. She mentioned to Mrs. Gill it would be great if grades K-4 were on field trips that day so they could get set up with the 5th and 6th graders. Need many volunteers.

- Chat `n` Chew – Debbie Landes
Books have been handed out and groups have been formed. Students and parents should be hearing about their groups and what books to read through backpack mail.
- Family Fun Day – Krista Hall
We had a fabulous turnout at our last Family Fun night. The next one is scheduled for Friday, Feb 3rd at 7:00 pm. Krista is still deciding what movie to show.
- Legislative – Royceann Mather
Some good news to start the year was brought to us by the State Board of Education. The voucher proposals being discussed have been tabled for now. The board said it realizes that this issue requires a great deal of discussion statewide. Coincidentally, the Florida Supreme Court just ruled this past week that vouchers are unconstitutional.

However, rest assured that there will still be a legislative proposal brought forward by some legislators for vouchers in some form or fashion. Our hope is that the education committees focus on the more important issues such as adequate and equitable funding for ALL schools.

Monday, January 9th, the Legislative Post-Audit report was released that had been much anticipated. I'm sure this new audit report will be the first of many interesting discussions regarding school finance when the state legislative session begins in the new year.

- Preschool Fun Time – Jessica VanTasell
The next Preschool Fun Time will be held on Thursday, Jan 19th from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ms. Chen is planning an activity in the music room for the kids. I have emailed 25 families to remind them of this event. Jane Dimmell is taking the RSVP's.

I have talked w/ the PTA president at Katherine Carpenter about combing an event towards the end of the year. Her son is in Jane's preschool class. They have not been doing Preschool Fun Time this year, but she would like to try and do something together at some point. I will try and get this on the calendar for April or May.

The next Preschool Fun Time will be February 10, 1006 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

- Recycling – Dad's Group – Ken Neaderhiser
 - Dad's Group - The Dad's luncheon was a huge success with over 83 visitors, including some moms and Grandmothers. I am going to be changing the Dad's Group meeting day away from a

Wednesday since many people cannot attend due to church. The Oak Park marquee states the next meeting is Wed, Feb 1st. I'll see about getting that changed. I'm also looking into renting an indoor pool somewhere for a propeller-driven boat race for the students and dad's. I'll give more details at the next meeting.

- Reflections – Amy Stillwell
There were 11 entries at Oak Park. We held a reception this evening before the PTA meeting for all the students who participated and their families. Five will advanced to the next level. On Thursday, Mrs. Gill will announce that five that will advance and give them a medal. At the end of the year, each student that participated in the Reflections contest will receive a certificate. Mrs. Gill is also planning a luncheon with all the Reflections participants. She'll be decorating the bulletin board with the various entries. - - - Amy is hoping that with more recognition of the Reflections program that more students will participate in the future.
- Safety – Tina Walkowaik
She is putting together a Bike Safety Program. There is no date scheduled yet.
- Skating Parties – Janet Maxey
Skating is going well. Next surprises are slinkees and CD holders. The next Skating event is February 7th at 4:00 pm.
- Staff Appreciation – Paula Schwabauer
The next staff appreciation day will be next Wednesday, January 18th, with a luncheon of soups and chilies.
- Welcoming – Paula Schwabauer
There has been one new returning family at Oak Park.

