

Oak Park Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, April 4, 2006 / 7:00 pm

I. Approved 03/08/06 Minutes

II. Board Reports

- Kelley (President) – Expressed the desire to move through the PTA agenda quickly so we could move forward with the discussion of the naming of the new school building. She mentioned that in attendance at this evening's PTA meeting was Ms. Gerry Ray, a Shawnee Mission School District Board Member who represents the South District.
- Tracy (Parliamentarian) –
 - She presented the Oak Park Elementary School PTA Standing Rules. She noted that Rule #20 was added stating "Checks or vouchers under the amount of \$50.00 may be signed solely by the Treasurer in accordance with all PTA bylaws." The changes to the Bylaws were approved.
 - She also suggested a motion be made to open up the Wish List to ALL Oak Park teachers. A motion was opened and approved.
- Ken (Treasurer) – as it stands tonight, the PTA budget will come in around \$2,500 under budget. He handed out the year-to-date PTA budget.
- Kay (Fundraising) – There is still 150 rolls of trash bags left. She is confident they will all be sold by year-end.
- Peggy (Teacher Rep) –
 - 2nd Grade – They are looking forward to their upcoming "Dino Dig" and field trip to the Natural History Museum in Lawrence, on the KU Campus. They will soon begin studying the continent of Africa.
 - 4th Grade – They are busy preparing, preparing and preparing for the KS reading assessment. The students are working on a Kansas poster. They are working in groups and doing different research.
 - 5th Grade – they are going to be making marble mazes in their study of forces, friction and laws of motion. They are looking forward to their field trip on April 25th to JCCC to see Lava and Bones. The Kansas Math Assessment is the first week of April with the Reading Assessment to be over by the middle of April.
 - 6th Grade – They are working on their research of their country and its culture.
 - 5th Grade and 6th Grade – They have been learning about figurative language like idioms, hyperboles, personification, metaphors and similes, not to mention ONOMATOPIA!
 - Teacher Luncheon – The staff was spoiled by Andrea Carter's luncheon committee in grand style on Friday, March 31st. The spring-time theme was refreshing and the food was scrum-dilli-umptious! We looked forward to the fellowship and food. Thank you!!

III. Principal's Report (Jennifer Gill)

- Gabriel Gardi (Student Ambassador)-
 - Mix and Match Day is coming up on April 27th to celebrate the end of the 3rd Quarter. This date was moved back because of testing. The clothes will have to be comfortable so you don't have to fidget during class. Mix and matched shoes have to be the same height for safety reasons. Hats and sunglasses cannot be worn during school. Everyone who participates will enter a drawing for a prize, to be announced at the end of the school day.
 - Any upcoming 5th Graders for the next school year who are interested as serving as a school ambassador will be required to write an essay about what you think a leader is and what skills and qualities you have to be a leader. The essay will also convey how you believe being an ambassador will benefit you and others. 5th Graders wanting to become an ambassador will have an interview with Ms. Gill. You will need to bring a resume showing information about yourself and a statement about your idea of leadership. Also included in the resume will be your experience at leadership as well as other activities you've been involved in.
 - The new safety patrol will be decided soon. 5th Graders will be allowed to join.
- Big THANKS for the following –
 - Faculty meeting treats
 - Staff In-Service Luncheon - this past Friday...was wonderful to stay here to eat and have it so nicely decorated with music, etc.
 - Kindergarten round-up treats
 - All School Volunteers – A big THANKS to all of you who volunteer at Oak Park. We wouldn't have such a great school without your constant support.
- Volunteer Reception Tea – In recognition of our appreciation for the teamwork at Oak Park, we, the staff, will be having a volunteer reception on May 1st in the cafeteria between 2:30 and 3:10 pm. We would like you to have the opportunity to sit and visit with other parent volunteers.
- School Improvement Day – Staff spent this day learning about technology and how to apply it in the classroom. How to use the computer as an efficient resource for planning and organizing for teachers. It was a great day of learning and making good use of our time.
- Naming of the New Building – I attended the board meeting to name the new school on the Merriam site so I would have an idea of how the process would go. The new name of that school will be Merriam Park with the school library being named for Corinthia B. Nutter. Our school name will be addressed at the April 10th SMSD Board meeting.
- Ambassadors Group – this group will continue for next school year. It serves the role much like a student council group would. Any 4th grade student wanting to participate needs to create a short essay about leadership. 5th Grade students will need to create a personal resume and have a short interview with the principal to become an Ambassador.

- Oak Park Nominated – Oak Park Elementary was nominated and will be recognized at the district Friends of Special Education Awards later this month for their work as a team on behalf of student success. Jane Bolin, paraprofessional here at Oak Park, will receive an individual reward for her efforts.
- Kindergarten Round-Up – We had 44 future students at our kindergarten round-up this year. The children had an activity with each Specials’ teachers while the parents learned the daily drill of kindergarten. Our Kindergarten aftercare program from after the morning session until 3:10 pm is full. This speaks to the quality of the JCPRD program and its director, Andrew Dellbringge.
- Mid-Term Grades – Mid-terms are coming home the week of April 14th.
- Mix and Match Day – April 27th will be our “Celebrate 3rd Quarter Success” day. Students will be allowed to wear mix-matched clothing. This is also a ½ day of school as it’s a teacher work day.
- Next School Year’s Calendar – We will be setting the calendar this month for the next school year. So, think ahead and let me know if you have events in which you will need to reserve the building.
- PTA Funds requested
 - Nurse – the Oak Park Nurse has requested color vision testing equipment for \$150. She has also requested to buy a few blankets for students who come to lay down for a few minutes.

IV. Committee Reports

- Carnival – Kay Erickson - The Country Fair carnival is scheduled for Friday, April 28th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.
 - We have all our volunteers in place and we're ready to go. Pre-sale ticket flyers went out in backpack mail.
 - Presale of tickets will be on sale beginning April 7th. Cost will be **4/\$100** presale and **3/\$100** at the door.
 - Food will be pizza/pop/cookies.
 - Look for flyers for your class basket.

- Nominating Committee – The new PTA board was voted and approved for next year. The new PTA board members are as follows:
 - **Co-President** - Kelley Ahrens
 - **Co-President** – Melisa Vick
 - **1st Vice President (Programs)** – Patty Jo Carter
 - **Co -2nd Vice President (Membership)**
 - Susie Bebow & Jessica VanTasell
 - **3rd Vice President (Fundraising)** – Tracy Reynolds
 - **Treasurer** – Ken Neaderhiser
 - **Secretary** – Holly Hatfield
 - **Parliamentarian** – Carin Robison
 - **SMAC Representative** – Jennifer Reynolds
 - **Teacher Representative** – Peggy Andra

- Dad's Group – Ken Neaderhiser
 - Dad's Group –
 - Car Race – Friday, April 7th at Katherine Carpenter's gym from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. He has ordered 20 cars and has had 19 students sign up. If you know of anyone that wants to participate, please let him know.

- Gardening – Terra Hasker –
 - The gardening committee will be caring for the garden over the summer. We are each volunteering to take one month in the summer. We are also going to be planting some flowers in the flower bed. We will also be turning over the mulch.
 - Signs – Additionally, we need some signs made by some students to remind folks to “watch their step” and “Don't pick the flowers”. We will laminate the signs and put them on wooden stakes. A small sign (about ¼ of the size of a piece of poster board). We encourage bright colors. Please send them via backpack mail to Jordan Hasker via 5th Grade/Casey.

- Legislative – Royceann Mather –
 - The Kansas Legislative adjourned without passing a school finance bill. They will reconvene on April 24th. Please contact legislators to attempt to fashion a bill that will reflect the needs of our school district.
 - The U.S. House of Representatives is poised to make cuts to education funding this week which will require states to spend more to make up the difference, thus adding to Kansas' education financing woes. Please

contact our U.S. Representative, Dennis Moore, by calling his local office at 913-383-2013 or send him an email by going to

www.house.gov/writerep/

- School Picture Day – Spring school pictures will be Thursday, April 13th.
- School Supplies – Sally Hass – flyers are ready to be sent out in backpack mail sometime within the next week.
- Service Committee –
 - Ronald McDonald's fill a bag – bags will be given to local residents to fill and leave out for pick-up
 - Flowers – Flowers will be sold before April 28th and will be ready for pick-up before Mother's Day.
- Skating – Janet Maxey – Skating has been a huge success this school year. There were 111 kids from Oak Park. The number has consistently been over 100 all year long.
- Teacher's Luncheon – Andrea Carter – We held our final teacher's luncheon for the year on Friday, March 31st. It was a great success! The theme was a spring brunch. The committee members really came through with a bang and we were able to offer some really delicious food, great decorations and door prizes to celebrate our wonderful Oak Park Teachers and staff.
- Staff Appreciation – Will have a breakfast for staff on Thursday April 6th.
- Welcoming – Paula Schwabauer did a fabulous job of decorating for Kindergarten Round-up. Thanks Paula!

V. Gerry Ray – SMSD Board Representative

The discussion with Gerry Ray concerning the naming of the new building was brought forth after the official PTA business was completed. She mentioned that she had received the suggestions lists from both schools, Oak Park and Katherine Carpenter. The name, Meadowlark, was on both lists and she suggested the new school name be Meadowlark. This was not well received by anyone at the PTA meeting. We explained our reasons for wanting to keep the Oak Park Elementary name.

1) Oak Park Elementary name represents a geographic area that everyone in Kansas City identifies with.

2) The reputation of Oak Park Elementary is directly related to our homeowner's property value. Renaming the school while it sits right in the middle of Oak Park Subdivision doesn't make smart economical sense. The Oak Park Homeowners Association unanimously believes that the new building on the Oak Park school grounds should retain the Oak Park Elementary name. They have sent a letter to the SMSD endorsing the Oak Park Elementary name be retained.

3) Katherine Carpenter Elementary is being CLOSED by vote of the SMSD. The Katherine Carpenter students are being reassigned to another school as are other students of schools that close. Oak Park PTA and parents want like to offer the Katherine Carpenter students / parents a compromise...The name, Oak Park Elementary, shall be retained but the mascot will be changed to KC's mascot (The Crusaders), colors will be changed to KC's colors (or allow all the students to pick new colors during the '07/'08 school year) and name the new library,

Katherine Carpenter Library. A wall in the library could be dedicated for the KC plaque to be displayed showing the history of KC, etc.

4) The new building is being built on the Oak Park school grounds...literally 10 feet away from the existing 30 year-old school.

5) Less confusion for the Oak Park students. Will the Oak Park students start out the '06/'07 school year as Oak Park and then have to change names in the middle of the year? This will affect many school committees and projects such as selling spirit wear, yearbooks, print directories, etc.

After discussions were exhausted and Ms. Ray realized that the Oak Park parents and Homes Association wanted to retain the name, Oak Park Elementary, she suggested that the Oak Park PTA attempt to meet with the KC PTA to discuss our compromise and see if we could come to an agreement.

A meeting between Oak Park and KC PTA was held on Wednesday evening, 4/5/06. A compromise was reached to name the new school building, Oak Park – Carpenter Elementary. Emails went out to both Oak Park parents and Homes Association as well as KC parents. They agreed that Oak Park Elementary should remain the Eagles for all of next school year and keep our colors and then have the students vote on the colors and mascot when their student body moves in. They would also like to have a wall that has their historical information about Katherine Carpenter on it and we will do the same with our picture of the current Oak Park. They were also very hopeful our Oak tree would survive the construction process as they agreed it was a significant part of our name.

The last PTA meeting for this school year is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd, 2006 at 6:30 pm. Last names A-M bring salad, N-Z dessert.