

Oak Park Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Monday, November 6, 2006 / 7:00 pm

I. Approved October PTA Meeting Minutes.

II. Board Reports (only PTA board members that had something to report are listed)

• **Kelley Ahrens (Co-President)**

- SMAC Meeting with PTA Presidents - The SMAC Board is looking at meeting dates for the PTA Presidents from the four merging schools to meet and discuss the merging process and discuss how to bring both PTA's and school communities together. Melisa and I will be attending.
- Co-School PTA Board Meeting - Once the SMAC meeting has taken place then a formal PTA meeting will be scheduled for the Oak Park and Katherine Carpenter PTA members to discuss the transition.

• **Melisa Vick (Co-President)**

- New School Colors and Mascot – Melisa has researched the colors and mascots for the other SM elementary schools. She would like to have anyone and everyone who has any ideas to email them to her so she can formulate a list. The students from both schools will be voting on colors and a mascot next spring. This will ensure that we will have Spirit Wear ready for the August Ice Cream Social event.

• **Patty Jo Carter (1st Vice President - Programs) –**

- Keeping our kids safe - A program was held tonight at Oak Park at 6:00 pm regarding “Keeping our Kids Safe” – Craig Hermann (ADEPT Chairman) hosted the program for parents to learn more about the different types of drugs, media safety on computers, gangs, etc. The program was very interesting with eight (8) Oak Park parents in attendance.
- Birth Order Discussion – This program was booked with Larry Deaton for March 6, 2007.

• **Jessica VanTassel (2nd Vice President – Membership) –** Jessica said that all PTA members should have received their PTA membership cards in the mail. If you did not receive them, please let her know.

- **Jennifer Reynolds (SMAC Rep)**
 - Attended a SMAC meeting on 10/18/06
 - KS PTA member dues are due – **Done**...Ken mailed the check
 - SMAC fees are due – **Done**
 - Bylaws must have been approved within the last three years to qualify for the Reflections Contest. – **Done** last year by Tracy Reynolds
 - Conflict Resolution – Mike Hanson, LCSW, gave a short program on “Resolving and Preventing Conflict”. This program was presented with the intention to assist staffs with merging of schools.
 - Vote Tomorrow - Reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, Nov 7th
 - American Education Week is November 12- 18th. The theme this year is “Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and our Responsibility” which highlights the importance of bringing together teachers, school staff, parents, students and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools.
 - Borders Benefit Days are from Nov 17 – 19th. A 15% part of your total purchase will be donated to the Shawnee Mission school library of your choice.

- **Ken Neaderhiser (Treasurer)** - Ken handed out an up-to-date spreadsheet of the current PTA budget. There was some light discussion on the budget.
 - He took the room party fees income out of donations.
 - PTA membership check went out
 - Directory check went out
 - We are close to the break-even point with Trash Bag sales.

- **Peggy Andra (Teacher Rep)** –
 - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The Wednesday evening snacks kept us going for our evening Parent/Teacher conferences. The conference luncheon was SPOOK TA CU LAR! We always look forward to it: Andrea and her committee could hire out!!
 - First Grade – We will be having our READABRATION on Thursday, Nov 16th from 6:30 to 7:00 pm.
 - Third Grade – Third grade is getting ready to do power point presentations on Overland Park. This is a culmination to our unit. The teachers are enjoying the emergency pencils and the stickers from the PTA, thanks so much!
 - Fourth Grade – Fourth grade is studying variables in science using “lifeboats” and “passengers”. We beginning on looooong division, reading a myth, and learning about population density in the Northeast United States.
 - Fifth Grade – Mrs. Bales’ class has started parent letters on Friday to be read and responded too by parents and returned on Mondays. We want to start writing a few now that Mrs. Bales’ is back, the Parent/Teacher conferences are completed and we are still in this classroom / building. When we move to the new building we have parent letters reflecting that change.
 - Biographies are to be read for the next book project due November 16th. We are studying how the explorers interacted with the Native Americans in the New World. We will be reading Pedro’s Journal about a boy voyaging with Christopher Columbus. We have

concluded our unit on Cooperation and Competition in reading and language arts by writing a diamond poem and using our technological skills. We have learned about our digestive tract and how long the small intestine is. It is over 3 times our height!! Our whole digestive tract from the mouth through the large intestine is over 5 times our height.

III. Principal's Report (Jennifer Gill)

- United Way Campaign – We had a very successful United Way campaign raising over \$1,000. A big thanks to Capital Federal for allowing us to bring our money and having them run the money through their sorting machine, thus giving us an itemized list of all monies donated. The clothing drive was just as successful with 60 bags of clothing donated. Also, Target donated 60 back packs. The next drive will be for Harvesters, “We Care I CAN”.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences – Conferences were very well attended by all. We thank you for the treats and wonderful luncheon in the Halloween motif. It was an event we look forward to every year.
- MAP Test Results – At the conferences parents of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades received the results of their MAP test and KS Assessments. If you have questions about the results, please contact me. The one score that will be very beneficial for you and your children as you look for reading material is the Lexile score. This score gives a range for the child’s comprehension. It will help you choose books at the appropriate reading level. You can get a list of those books at Lexile.com.
- Principal Out of the Office – I will be out of the office for district Venture training on Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th.
- Grandparents and Special Person luncheon – will be held on Tuesday, November 21st. Reservation sheets went home with grade cards. Please plan ahead so we know how many are coming. If someone decides to come at the last minute please call the office and have them bring lunch with them.
- Moving Letter to Parents – The moving letter to parents went home last Friday. It details the plans for the last day at Oak Park and the first day in the new building. I have scheduled a parent meeting on Tuesday, November 14th to review the letter, show visuals of traffic patterns and answer any questions. Please try to attend.
- Flyers in Backpacks – Reminder: all flyers need to go home on Friday ONLY. If you have something that needs to go home then I needs to be copied and put in the teachers boxes by Thursday evening to assure it will be home in Friday’s backpack mail.
- New Building – In the new building we will have no flyers or signs on the walls with tape other than masking tape. Also, the tape needs to be placed on the back of the sign so it doesn’t show on the front. Please use plenty.
- Trash Bag Sales – We need to come up with a different plan at the new building. It will be too time consuming for Mrs. Dimmel to take orders and gather up the trash bags. She had a \$400 order the other day that took her and Virgil over an hour to round up all the bags and haul them to the front office.
- Full-Day Kindergarten – Next school year (2007/2008) there will be two classes of full-day kindergarten offered at this school. However, parents will be required to pay for the 2nd half of the day which will be \$60 a week, if they choose to put their child in the full-day kindergarten class. There will also be a half-day kindergarten in the AM and PM. The State of Kansas does not fund full-day kindergartens yet. The assumption is that they will eventually when they

realize how positive it is for kindergarteners. This will allow for more time spent teaching science, math and reading. The specials (Art, Music, PE, Library, etc) took up so much of the teaching time during kindergarten. So, the schedule will be as follows:

- Two (2) Full Day Kindergartens
- One (1) AM Kindergarten
- One (2) PM Kindergaren
- **Thanks so much to everyone for everything you are doing to help your child prepare for the move and the make this a positive experience.**

IV. Committee Reports

- Clothing Drive – Renee Hodges reported that we had 70 bags of clothes donated during the clothes donation drive in October. They decided to ask for new hats and gloves and received 115 new items. They will ask for socks and underwear in the spring clothing drive. The 3rd grade class won and they will get Crispy Cream donuts. Oak Park is scheduled to help at the clothing center in February, 07.
- Dad's Club – Dad's luncheon week will be the week before Holiday break...week of Dec 11th through 15th.
- Family Fun Day – Terra Hasker reported that on Friday night, November 3rd, there were 125 people in attendance for the movie, ET. The next Family Fun Night will be Friday, February 16th. They were thinking of doing some sort of family science night. Discussion was had that we should perhaps include Katherine Carpenter??
- Gardening – Sheila Schultz and Holly Karpowich dug up all the bulbs and are storing them at City Garden until they can be planted on the new grounds.
- Reflections – Holly Hatfield mentioned that she put a paragraph about the Reflections Contest in the Eaglegram along with the official National PTA Reflections flyer. She asked for everyone's input as to how this contest could be best promoted. The theme this year is "My Favorite Place...." It was suggested that trophies or prizes be mentioned in the next Eaglegram as an incentive for some students to participate in the program.
- Refund Drive – Report from Jennifer Reynolds.
 - Box Tops – As of 10/31/06, \$173.30 has been collected through box tops.
 - Tyson Labels – Our current count is 39. We need a minimum of 100 to request check to be issued.
 - Campbell's Labels – Total of 11,059 to be banked.
- Safety – Bus safety training has been completed and it went well.
- Service Committee - There will be a craft project this Thursday, Dec 9th, from 3:15 to 4:00 pm in the school cafeteria.
- Teacher's Luncheons – There will be lunch next week on Wednesday. It will consists of appetizers.

The next PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12, at 7:00 pm in the new Oak Park-Carpenter school library. Please attend and bring a friend! ☺