

**General PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**1/13/20 @ 3:30PM via Zoom**

Welcome/Introduction - Elizabeth Seitz & Renee Hansen co-presidents, Lori Zrebiec-VP of CA/CE, Jess Campbell & Stella McCarthy co-treasurers, Shanna Pfau-VP Social Events, Ms. Corcoran (teacher rep), Becky Mauro-VP Communications, Jen Furst-VP Fundraising, Rachel Hantz-Secretary. Carol Pietro is our website guru. The purpose of today's meeting is to provide an overview of what the PTO has been doing this year to support our students and teachers, what our plans are for the future, as well as to provide an opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have.

1. 2020-21 Overview to Date

**Events:** PTO has really tried to do fun events that can still operate in light of the COVID situation

- Membership Drive/Directory is our primary fundraising activity, directory cover art contest
- Chalk the Walk to welcome teachers back to school
- Together T-shirt to help all OSS students and teachers feel connected
- Monster Mash Re-invented with virtual cupcake wars, scarecrow contest, and Halloween themed yard sign.
- Fall Book Fair which is not a PTO fundraiser, but allows us to give books to the school through parent purchases
- Spiritwear was before the holidays, another going on now and will have another in the spring
- Winter Arty Party hosted by Mrs. Tolentino. Penguin themed craft via Zoom

**Capital Improvements:** Teachers have reported feeling very supported by the PTO and these gestures.

- 9 portable, collapsible tents were purchased for outside classes to shade sun and misty weather. They will also be used for field day,
- OSS Sign on Oak Street was falling down and paint was chipped so we invested in having that repaired
- purchased a variety of "Card My Yard" type signs that can be utilized multiple times per year
- purchased webcams for classrooms to enhance the virtual experience,
- purchased easels for remote teachers that are exclusively teaching from home

- purchased bins to separate 1st grade school supplies within the classrooms

\*several of these purchases were made through the PTO's "Mini-Grant" program where teachers are able to make requests and receive funds for supplemental teaching materials, curriculum enhancing coursework, etc.

**Appreciation:** All have been well received

- Back to School treats for teachers and staff
- Teacher Conference Lunch bags from Priscilla's Pantry
- Holiday Recognition blankets and cards instead of the traditional bundt cakes

2. Information - How does the PTO communicate?

- Facebook - private OSS group to ask questions, email OSSPTO@gmail.com to be added
- Grade Level Parents - resource for your grade. This year has primarily been for organizing holiday gift giving and parties
- Website - oakstreetpto.com - resource for current events, etc. Combines info from Friday Folder and Oak Leaf blast
- Oak Leaf Blast - sent via AtoZ every Wednesday. Includes a digital backpack where all event flyers are posted
- Friday Folder - sent by the school every Friday. Main source of school info
- Google Calendar - found on BOE website/subscribe to school - district info
- PTO Meetings - Do people want them to be more frequent than the current 3 Per year (Sept, Jan & April)? Survey says to keep it the same.
- School Sign located on Oak Street

3. How Can You Get Involved? -please email us if you are interested in getting involved in any way!!

**Open Chair Position for Next Year (2021-2022)**

Science Expo - held beginning of April. The current chair, Gary Sarkiss, will move on at the end of this year. It would be advantageous for his replacement(s) to be able to shadow him this year!

\*For those who are new to the Science Expo, grades K-5 create posters/projects alone or in groups. They then present projects in the gym, however this year will be virtual as it was last year.

4. Future Speaker Topics - PTO usually sponsors a speaker in the winter. Last year was nutrition, exercise, mental health. The previous year was a child Psychologist that spoke about electronics/screens/Fortnite. Any ideas for future topics are appreciated.

5. 2020-21 Upcoming Events

-Food Drive/Souper Bowl - First week of February. We didn't have a turkey drive this year as the food bank expressed the need for food toward the end of January. We will have two bins, one for each team in this year's Super Bowl. Students and staff will put food in bins depending on which team they think will win. Proceeds will be donated to the Somerset County Food Bank.

-Sweetheart Activities in lieu of Sweetheart Dance this year.

Arty Party Feb 11 - same concept as Winter Arty Party

Wall of Love - the idea is to give out supplies to kids teachers etc. the last week in January. Write messages of gratitude and love, then hang the hearts on the fence outside school. "Card My Yard" letters will also be placed with a positive Valentine messages.

-Leprechaun Trap "green" edition - students and teachers create unique designs with recycled materials, community will vote on their favorites

-Science Expo - (see above) groups will be due March 5. Info will be going out soon.

-Wizards of Words (WOW) - same author as last year as the event was cancelled due to Covid. Will be a virtual event this year. Trying to decide how many programs will be done, possibly one per grade.

-Everything else - ie: later spring events(family reading night) are TBD.

6. Q&A

Principal's Report on Return to Instruction-

**K** is returning 5 half days 1/19. No sections were altered.

**1st** grade is returning 2/1. They are getting one new teacher/section bringing the number

of students to 15, 15 and 12 in the classes.

**2nd** grade had multiple plans proposed. 3 teachers in person and 1 virtual. (In all grades the virtual classes are not disrupted.) The classes have 18, 18 and 19 students in 2nd grade.

1 - There are places in the building that the 2nd grade classes could be moved and still keep the kids 6ft apart with no moving of kids between classes.

**OR**

2 - Holly may be getting another 2nd grade teacher which would mean restructuring the 2nd grade classes.

**3rd** grade is getting a new teacher/section. Students will be rearranged and class size will be smaller.

**4th** grade - There are 20 kids in each class. 5 kids would be pulled out on a rotating schedule in various learning lab type scenarios. This would eliminate the need to move the kids into different classes/sections.

**5th** grade - another teacher will have to be hired to bring the kids back 5 ½ days

**Question:** about plexiglass/barriers/dividers in the classroom. **Answer:** They are best utilized when the kids are eating. Holly showed an example of one that is clear in the front and corrugated cardboard type material on the sides. There are no longer tables in K classrooms. Now we have desks that are arranged 6 feet apart. Kids can't get up and walk around and play. Doing our best and following the rules.

**Question:** are specials live or virtual? **Answer:** Virtual even for K etc as they come back 5 days. Specialists have no room for more sections in their schedule, so even if your homeroom teacher is changed your specials will be the same as they always were.

**Question:** for the older grades it sounds like you are considering the 5 half days and not the option where we stay in cohorts and go full school days. **Answer:** Holly feels like that is more risk and no benefit for K-5. 6-12 makes more sense with that scenario.

**Question:** has a survey gone out to parents in the district asking them how much it matters to them if elementary and older students are on the same schedule? **Answer:** No. It's more of a busing issue.

**Question:** are extra specials going to change? **Answer:** No

Discussion about BOE and transparency of their plans.

**Question:** isn't the constant changing more disruptive than productive? **Answer:** It's always hard when you shift but then you live it and it gets better.

**Question:** family is new to the district. Where do you find the metrics for the district regarding case numbers and how many cases do you need to shut down, etc. **Answer:** Board of Ed website has info and links.

**ADJOURNED**