

OAK RIDGE PTO  
 DATE: 10/11/2021  
 TIME: 6:30 PM  
 LOCATION: Oak Ridge Elementary  
 FACILITATOR: Oak Ridge PTO Board



**OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY PTO MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Oak Ridge Parent Teacher Organization's mission is to facilitate the betterment of Oak Ridge by creating an open, welcoming and supportive learning environment, fostering school pride, developing and strengthening the community of advocates that exist to support our students, teachers, staff and families. We appreciate parent involvement in any capacity and invite you to join us in helping our school this year.

**Attendees**

|                                  |                                 |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| President - Russell Tapper       | Vice Principal - Donald Backner | Katie Lacey- Parent |
| Vice President - Chrissy Schultz | Lisa Medici- Parent             |                     |
| Secretary - Jenny Nordeen        | Kate Alfonzo- Parent            |                     |
| Principal - Dr. Cathy Kindem     | Aman Anand- Parent              |                     |

| TIME    | Meeting Topics  |
|---------|---|
| 6:30 PM | <b>Call to order</b> : Meeting Called to Order by PTO President Russell Tapper  |
| 6:30 PM | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  |
| 6:35 PM | <b>Approve minutes from last meeting:</b> First meeting of the new school year.   |
| 6:40 PM | <p><b>Principal Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using signage to welcome students and also focusing on physical and mental health. All students have a gratitude journal. Sometime during the day all classes pause and think about gratitude and what has gone well in the day.</li> <li>Focuses on social and emotional health- next week is Unity day where there will be a focus around welcomeness and belonging within school. Second step program (from classroom teacher)- focus on social and emotional learning. Newsletters will include activities that can support these focus areas at home. Moving towards virtual announcements.</li> <li>There is a focus this year on nutrition (need partnership info?) (have a graduate student in the lunchroom helping).</li> <li>Continuing partnership with Dakota County Park and a new grant with Dakota county recycling.</li> <li>Value is "Better Together"- SeeSaw, Friday Folders and emails. Continue to share info to parents on what happens at school</li> <li>Updated Handbook (on website for parents to review). Every week will highlight something from the handbook within school communication to parents.</li> <li>Question from parent on composting partnership?- Kindergarteners are doing worm wednesday and putting a focus on classroom level composting, lunchroom composting is happening as well</li> </ul> |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question from parent on what initiatives school is taking on diversity and inclusion?- Staff is focused on professional development, several staff members serve on district committees</li> </ul>  |
| 6:55 PM | <p><b>PTO Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New PTO members in each position</li> <li>• Amy Kupinski has created a PTO Tab on the Oak Ridge website</li> <li>• Yearly Fundraisers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fun Run - Hosted by Boosterthon - Dates</li> <li>○ Butter Braids - All online, orders and payment collection, distribution at ORE</li> <li>○ Boxtops - Oak Ridge receives 10 cents for every Box Top that is turned in</li> <li>○ Amazon Smile - Oak Ridge can earn .5% on qualifying purchases</li> <li>○ Kowalski's - receipts are dropped in a designated box, totaled and Kowalskis makes a donation to Oak Ridge 4 times per year based on the number of receipts</li> <li>○ Restaurants Nights - Chipotle, Noodles, Papa Murphy's, Mason Jar, Davanni's, Raising Canes, Buffalo Wild Wings, Outside at Oak Ridge</li> <li>○ Cash donations - As a 503 C non-profit organization, you can make a cash donation that is 100% tax deductible. In addition, many employers offer a donation match program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fall Conference Dinner</li> <li>○ Scholastic Book Fair</li> <li>○ Turkey Bingo (for students- Bingo will focus on recycling since its National Recycling Day and then snacks will be handed out)</li> <li>○ Winter Conference Dinner</li> <li>○ Kindergarten Night</li> <li>○ Outside at Oak Ridge</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Schools request - Rain boot carts, to hold 25 boots</li> </ul> |
| 7:10 PM | <p><b>Budget Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| 7:15 PM | <p><b>Teacher Updates/Requests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Picture Day on November 1st</b> (volunteers to help with the different photographer stations to assist with LifeTouch). LifeTouch will offer packages to volunteers. PTO will create a volunteer sheet to go out in Friday's newsletter.</li> </ul>   |
| 7:20 PM | <p><b>Closing Comments</b></p>   |
| 7:30 PM | <p><b>Adjourn Meeting</b></p>  |
|         |  |