



Orchard Park High School PTO Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2024, 7:00 PM
OPHS Media Center



Attendance:

Brandon P., Tracy B., Donna A., Karen F., Nicole C., Bret N., Ellen J., Julie S., Andrea, M., Tammy V-W., Michelle F., Chris P., Pam Ra., Jennifer D.

Meeting opened at 7:02 PM

Reports:

President's Report: Tracy Brege:

- Tracy proposed voting to approve the draft version of the October 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes.
 - Pam Ra. motioned to approve. Brandon P. seconded the motion.
 - The PTO voted unanimously to approve the draft version of meeting minutes from the PTO Meeting of October 30, 2023.
- Membership Update
 - Membership levels are approaching the goal – up to 193 members.
 - Goal is 200 members
- Nominations and open positions:
 - Society of Science Scholars Reception -which will happen on March. 26, 2024
 - A chair position is open
 - There was a question about whether students need to be present to be inducted. The date conflicts with Quaker Marching Band trip to perform at Disney World. Also several people who might be willing to chair the reception might be away on this trip.
 - Mr. Pafk will follow up with teachers in charge of the Induction Ceremony.
 - OPHS PTO Board
 - All positions on our executive board will be open for the 2024-2025 school year. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will all be open. If people are interested in shadowing this year to train for one of these positions, please contact Tracy at tracybrege@verizon.net
 - Jen D. read a list of all the positions that are open. Anyone with questions should contact Jennifer Domzalski
 - Discussion about how to recruit more volunteers to chair events and serve on the Board

Vice President's Report: Donna Aylsworth:

- Donna stressed the urgency to find people to fill open positions on the PTO Board
- Recommended that anyone interested should shadow current Board member sooner rather than later

- Facebook continues to be a good medium for sharing information about PTO

Secretary's Report: Nicole Avitahl-Curtis:

- Nicole reviewed process for preparing meeting minutes and receiving corrections from presenters
- Nicole reminded everyone who attends to please sign in so that she can send meeting minutes around for corrections and for review ahead of next meeting

Treasurer's Report: Karen Fuentes:

- Reviewed the funds in and out
- Post prom – donations are at \$4,213.84 before fund raising. Target for donations is to reach \$6,000.
- If anyone would like a copy of the monthly report, please email Karen at karen.fuentes8888@att.net

Principal's Report: Brandon Pafk:

- Busy October
 - There were several concerts
 - Fall Drama had performances of the play "Humbug"
 - Tech Wars – OPHS were Grand Champions for the 4th year in a row
 - STAP-Comm did lots of charity work
- People in attendance provided feedback on the Gazette.
- Video discussing class rank
 - There is a discussion about whether or not OPHS will continue to use class rank
 - Mr. Pafk and Mr. Lilleck are working on a videotaped presentation in which they summarize and discuss published research about the pros and cons of class rank
 - The video should go out to families in February. There is a feature which allows viewers to give feedback and have thought exchange
 - DCIP will make recommendations about class rank at the end of the school year.
- There was a question about how many tickets each family will receive for attending the graduation ceremony. Mr. Pafk will get the information.
- Discussion of when grades from the 2nd Quarter will be available
- Question about exam scheduling – some students had 3 exams on 1 day. ILC is the best forum to address the issue.

Teachers' Report: Bret Norvilitis:

- Mr. Norvilitis thanked the OPHS PTO on behalf of the staff for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

Allergy Awareness: Andrea McGrath:

- Goal – ensure inclusion and safety of students, and access to food allergen information (students and parents) at school events, including PTO-sponsored events.

- Described importance of ensuring that items are free of allergens. Recommended the following:
 - Baked goods should not be offered as allergen-free.
 - Only prepackaged, store-bought goods with allergens listed on the label should be offered as options that are allergen-free.
 - Separate allergen-containing items from allergen-free items and label clearly
- Presented/read a document from Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) – Food Allergies: What PTOs and PTAs Need to Know
- CDC published guidelines for managing food allergies in schools can be found at www.foodallergy.org
- Anyone who wants to participate in discussions with the Allergy Awareness Working Group or would like more information can contact Andrea McGrath at andrea.mcgrath@mac.com and/or Renata Doerr renatasmith@msn.com
- Discussion among meeting attendees about how to make sure treats for the upcoming Winter Homecoming Dance can be presented safely to students.

Committee Reports:

Instructional Leader Council (ILC): Pam Rauh and Chris Popek:

Chris Popek reported:

- Meeting was on December 5th, 2023
- Discussed the, then, upcoming midterms –
- Budget development was on the agenda for the January meeting - meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

STAP-Comm: Jeanne Kornowicz/ Kelly Kerl/ Ellen Jeffree/ Julie Szczublewski

Ellen Jeffree reported:

From the Dec meeting

- Adam Wittmeyer from the Boys and Girls Club spoke. He informed STAP-Comm that the Boys and Girls Club has just completed a \$40,000 renovation of the gym and wants to encourage high schoolers to come over on Tuesday nights from 6-8 for open gym time.
- STAP-Comm adopted a family from Roswell for Christmas and raised \$2400. This helped a family of 6 and a few other small families.
- STAP-Comm passed a constitutional amendment to add an ex-officio position who will be connected to the BOE.

From the January meeting:

- Mr. Pafk reported on the capital improvement plan on the new field house, the pool, and the music wing.
- STAPCOMM is looking for new members to join the tech committee.

- STAP-Comm raised \$265 at our Panera fundraiser.
- The Hospice flower sale will start at the beginning of February with delivery in early March.

Building Effectiveness Team (BET): Brenda Cimo and Jennifer Duff

Brandon Pafk reported for Jennifer Duff:

- Orchard Park High school BET meeting was January 24, 2024.
- Staff directory on the OPCSD website – teacher emails can now be found on the parent portal. They were taking down from the website for cyber security
- Future faculty meeting agenda items
- Update on Building projects
 - The pool and music wing are on hold - bids/expenses are exceeding budget by 20 million dollars.
 - The elementary school additional wings will start next
- Sharing spaces –
- Odor mitigation – looking for the source of the odor

Central Council: Donna Aylsworth

- Discussed class ranking system
 - Many of the students have high grades
 - The competition for the top ranks is very tight

Post-Prom Committee: _____

Tracy Brege presented:

- Committee has had 2 meetings
- There is still time to join and help with planning
- Considering starting post-prom earlier in the evening, since many students leave prom before the end.

Old Business:

Homecoming- Refreshments: Nicole Avitahl-Curtis and Pam Rauh

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis presented:

- Thank you to Pam Rauh for stepping up to co-chair!
- Thank you to all who volunteered and who donated drinks, fruit and desserts
- Things went well. The Luncheon was a success. It was well attended and people seemed to enjoy their time. Several people said they liked the food. Food was from Alton's/Columns.
- We accommodated dietary restrictions.
- We made sure food was set aside and delivered to the evening Custodial Staff. They appreciated it.
- Recommend ordering again from Alton's/Columns.

- Discussed with meeting attendees if all approved of continuing with Alton's/Columns.
- Discussion about logistics of accessing elevator on an exam day and whether exam week is still the best week for holding the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

New Business:

Winter Homecoming

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis presented:

- Thank you to all who are donating treats and volunteering
- Sorry for having to request baked goods in back-to-back weeks – right after Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Still need treats and volunteers – Mr. Pafk to send out e-mail to all OPHS families

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2024 in the OPHS Library Media Center

Post Prom: 6:00 pm

PTO: 7:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Avitahl-Curtis