



**Orchard Park High School PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 30, 2023, 7:00 PM**  
**OPHS Media Center**



**Attendance:**

Brandon P., Tracy B., Donna A., Karen F., Nicole C., Bret N., Brenda C., Andrea, M., Anne D., Tammy V-W., Michelle F., Chris P., Erin R., Pam Ro., Erin H., Jeanne K.

**Meeting opened at 7:02 PM**

**Reports:**

**President's Report: Tracy Brege:**

- Tracy proposed voting to approve the draft version of the September 25 Meeting Minutes.
  - Tammy V.-W. motioned to approve. Pam Roz. seconded the motion.
  - The PTO voted unanimously to approve the draft version of meeting minutes from the PTO Meeting of September 25, 2023.
- Membership
  - Membership levels are pretty good – 172 members.
  - Goal is 200 members
- Nominations and open positions:
  - Still need a chair for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon which will happen on Jan. 26, 2024 - this is a half day
  - OPHS PTO Board
    - There will be 3 open positions in the 2024-25 school year
    - President, Vice President and Secretary positions will be open
    - If people are interested in shadowing this year to train for one of these positions, please contact Tracy at [tracybrege@verizon.net](mailto:tracybrege@verizon.net)

**Vice President's Report: Donna Aylsworth:**

- Donna reviewed the information in the e-mail she had sent on October 25<sup>th</sup> to all OPHS PTO Event Chairs

**Secretary's Report: Nicole Avitahl-Curtis:**

- Nicole thanked all presenters at the last meeting for reading the minutes and providing corrections.

**Treasurer's Report: Karen Fuentes:**

- Reviewed the funds in and out
- Post prom – donations are ahead at \$2,000 even before fund raising
- Expenses - OPHS PTO paid for DJ at Fall Homecoming and for candy at the parade
- If anyone would like a copy of the monthly report, please email Karen at [karen.fuentes8888@att.net](mailto:karen.fuentes8888@att.net)

### **Principal's Report: Brandon Pafk:**

- Great October
- The first issue of the Quaker gazette was e-mailed out. Mr. Pafk thanked people for giving feedback on the Gazette.
- School events
  - Fall drama is coming up November 9-12
  - Quaker Marching Band at the State-wide Field Band Conference placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of all bands state-wide in the Large School 2 Category
  - Cheerleading
  - Field Hockey
- There were questions about the Gazette
  - How is it put together? It's a shared document populated by about 20 people
  - Who receives it? It is e-mailed to all students, parents and staff

### **Teachers' Report: Bret Norvilitis:**

- No updates

### **Committee Reports:**

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

Chris Popek reported:

- OPHS ILC Meeting was October 2, 2023
- Working on curriculum handbook revisions to revise & unify course names
- Previous meeting asked whether a locker bay can be removed to create a classroom, changes to space is delayed because the district is currently preoccupied with multiple significant construction projects
- New radios are expensive – cost would need to be worked into the budget, in the interim thinking strategically about radio use in advance should suffice
- 6:00am entrance is available for a few requests. Thus far only a handful of teachers are requesting access.
- Staff Survey discussion is currently focused on the High School building
- Discussion about discipline
- Phys Ed department feels administration visibility has improved. Lines of communication appear open, especially with discipline.
- Tech department is happy, there is an order and clear chain of command •
- Language department concerned because previously there had been a lot of change and new standards.
- Mr. Hafner mentioned the upcoming electives fair for 8th graders will be at the Jan 11th open house for both parents and students. Parents want to be included in the transition to High School

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

Jeanne Kornowicz reported:

- Tech integration – discussion of students leading programs. E.g. Alden HS students make a tech help desk
- Zoë Aylsworth was awarded the STAP-Comm Summer Enrichment scholarship. Her scholarship application was based on her acceptance into the Buffalo Healthcare Exploration two week Program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.
- New Business
  - 16 old charters approved
  - 1 new charter approved
- Adopt a Family for Roswell goes November 1-17.

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

Brenda Cimo reported:

- Orchard Park High school BET meeting was October 25, 2023
- **Mentors**- New Hires get paired with mentors (seasoned teachers).
  - The mentors go through training.
  - There are monthly staff meetings for new hires.
- **Student ID use**
  - Students receive their student ID in the first few days of school.
  - It was brought up that students should be using their ID more often (Book check out, lunch, school activities, etc).
  - According to the student handbook, students should be carrying their IDs while on school property.
- **Class Rank**
  - OP still has class rank while other WNY schools do not.
  - There is a debate on the future of class rank at OP.
  - All colleges have different admission policies with some colleges clearly stating on their Common Data Set that they view class rank as very important.
  - It was also suggested that, before rank is eliminated, college admissions counselors who view rank as highly important be asked what the impact would be to students if it is eliminated.
  - One suggestion that there be more than one person within each ranking to eliminate the 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a point differences.
  - A survey will be administered to district stakeholders including faculty, students and parents.

### **Central Council: Donna Aylsworth**

- Discussed allergy awareness

## **Post-Prom Committee:** .

Tracy Brege presented:

- First meeting was on Monday October 30<sup>th</sup>
- No single chair. There will be committee chairs
- More volunteers needed, but should be in good shape

## **Old Business:**

### **Homecoming- Refreshments: Tammy Vitko-Woods**

- Went well
- Didn't run out of cups this year
- Ran out of lemonade about 75 minutes into the dance. Only water served after that.

### **Homecoming - Coatcheck: Sarah Rera**

Tracy Brege presented on behalf of Sarah:

- Coat check went well
- Number of volunteers was good
- Plenty of coat check tickets – don't need to buy more
- Couldn't find hangers. Need to find them for Winter Homecoming Dance when people will definitely have coats.

## **New Business:**

### **Society of Science Scholars**

Tracy Brege presented:

- Discussed proposal for PTO providing for a reception for this new event including funding
  - Number of students about 125
  - The inaugural induction event would be in March 2024. About 125 students to be inducted.
  - The budget would be \$100 - like that of other Honor Society Events the PTO supports.
  - A Chair for the reception will be needed
- Voting
  - Erin R. motioned to vote in favor of adding the reception at the Science Society Induction Ceremony as a PTO-sponsored event.
  - Chris P. seconded the motion.
  - The PTO voted unanimously to approve adding the reception at the Society of Science Induction Ceremony as a PTO-sponsored event.

## **Newsletter**

Anne Daigler presented:

- Tracy welcomed and thanked Anne for stepping into the role of preparing the OPHS PTO monthly newsletter.
- Anne introduced herself
- For publication in the OPHS PTO, please get announcements to Anne by the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month.
- Anne's e-mail address is ophspto@gmail.com

**Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM**

**Next meeting will be on Monday, November 27, 2023 in the OPHS Library Media Center**

**Post Prom: 6:00 pm**

**PTO: 7:00 pm**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Avitahl-Curtis**