



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



Attendance:

Mr. Wolf, Mr. Norvilitis, Ms. Kasprzak., Tracy B., Donna A., Karen F., Nicole C., Cathy C., Jennifer D., Brenda C., Pam Ra., Pam Ro., Michelle F., Caren C., Sheri C., Barb D., Maureen B., Michelle S., Chris P., Dave Z.

Reports:

President's Report: Tracy Brege:

- Tracy proposed voting to approve the draft version of the Meeting Minutes.
 - Caren C. motioned to approve. Michelle F. seconded the motion.
 - The PTO voted to approve the draft version of meeting minutes from the PTO Meeting of November 28, 2022.
- Parent Information Series
 - January 26 – “Anxious Children in School” was a virtual presentation. It was recorded – A link to the recording was sent out in an e-mail from OPCSD on January 30, 2023 about 5:45 PM. If anyone missed the e-mail, please contact Tracy Brege and she can forward the link.
 - March 7 at 7 PM at OPMS – “Screenagers: The Next Chapter” will be in person. The question was asked about the audience, if students would be welcome, or if it was just for parents. Tracy Brege to find out.***
 - March 23 at 7 PM at OPMS – “Teen Driving Safety”
 - Descriptions and dates of these presentations are listed on the Central School District website under the “Resources” tab.
- Tracy thanked Pam Rauh and Sheri Carter for organizing the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
 - Costs had gone up. The allotted budget did not cover the cost of the lunch to be provided to all staff members. An additional amount of \$500 was requested to cover the higher costs.
 - Tracy explained that the OPHS PTO Board voted to increase the budget for the Luncheon by \$500.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Fuentes:

- Reviewed the funds in and out
- Reviewed profits from Turkey Bingo and spaghetti dinner fundraisers.
- If anyone would like a copy of the monthly report, please email Karen at karen.fuentes8888@att.net

***footnote update:

Students in grades 5 and up are welcome to attend the in-person presentation with their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Principal's Report: Mr. Wolf:

- Mr. Wolf mentioned that this was the first day of the second semester.
- Mr. Wolf described that the mid-term exam week was completed successfully. It was the first mid-term exam week in 3 years – the last time was in 2020.
 - He thanked families for supporting the students in preparing for and taking exams, and he thanked the PTO for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, which was enjoyed and appreciated.
 - Mid-term exams are useful to prepare students for taking final exams in June.
 - Students who missed a local mid-term exam could make up the test on a different day. Regents exams could not be made up. In June, Regents exams missed due to illness can be retaken in August.
 - It was discussed that some students had 3 exams on one day. Could this be avoided in the future?
- Winter Homecoming Dance will be on February 11 – it is organized by STAP-Comm.
 - The Dance is a fundraising event for activities STAP-Comm provides to the students.
 - There will be spirit days during the week.
 - The dress code at the dance will be relaxed – students may wear sneakers.
 - Tickets can be bought on OPHS website – search for Homecoming and click on link to payment.
- February break will begin after early release on Friday, February 17.
- Mr. Wolf mentioned that the dress code in OPCSD schools was being reviewed and will be updated.
 - A survey about dress code in OPCSD schools was sent out to families and students in November, 2023.
 - The responses were in and being analyzed. The response rate from families and students was good.
 - Results and proposed changes to the dress code will be announced by OPCSD.

Guest Speaker – TIES – Ms. Laura Kasprzak

- TIES – Together Including Every Student is a program in the Orchard Park Central School District. The website is <http://www.starbridgeinc.org/TIESprogram>
- Laura Kasprzak as the TIES Coordinator. She can be contacted at **716-574-7263 or lkasprzak@opschools.org**
- The program trains volunteers and pairs them with students who have developmental disabilities to enable these students to join activities where they can develop recreational interests, learn about their community, and have fun with peers.
- Ms. Kasprzak is recruiting students with disabilities who would like to participate (Ages 8-21 years) and students who would like to volunteer (grades 8 – 12)
 - Students who are interested in volunteering should complete an application and submit 2 references.
 - Time commitment is flexible – 1 time, 1 time per week or 1 time per month.

Teachers' Report: Mr. Norvilitis:

- Mr. Norvilitis thanked the PTO for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
 - The food was well liked.
 - It was nice for the staff to have a chance to gather and interact.

Committee Reports:

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

Pam Rauh reported:

- **ILC Meeting - 12/6/22**
 - Hoping to have the curriculum handbook updated and on OPHS website by January.
 - Plan to move away from AP Exams for French, Latin, and Spanish 5 Honors and move toward allowing students to earn college credit for advanced language study. By following the Hilbert College Program while attending classes at OP students could earn college credit – curriculum proposals approved.
 - Power School goes dark (grades cannot be accessed) for a varied amount of time during midterms and at the end of the school year. Discussion as to whether it can go dark at the end of a quarter as well. At the end of the semester when grades start going into the system at a high volume, students' averages fluctuate quite a bit. Sometimes when they go into the system in bulk, it leads to confusion from students and parents. Going dark will prevent students from getting all of the notifications while teachers are inputting grades.
- **ILC Meeting – 1/3/23**
 - Asked for teacher input as to whether or not teachers want the Parent Portal turned off around grade reporting periods
 - Discussed that exam schedule would be up the following week and room assignments and proctors were in the process of being assigned
 - French, Latin, and Spanish 1 curriculum proposals approved.
- There is a parent input form that is available online. Please feel free to contact Pam Rauh to get this form.

STAP-Comm: Michelle Slotman/ Karen Fuentes/ Jeanne Kornowicz/ Cathy Kipler

Michelle Slotman reported:

- Asked OPHS PTO for support for the following:
 - Coatcheck
 - Serve water
 - Provide and serve treats
 - Fund a DJ for the dance
- OPHS PTO agreed to provide support for all except for funding the DJ.
- Pam Rauh and Sheri Carter are organizing the Coat Check
- Nicole Curtis is organizing donations of treats and obtaining volunteers to serve water and

treats. The Signup was discussed.

- Nicole will send e-mail containing information and Signup link to Tracy to forward to Julianne for District wide e-mailing. Need to reach more than just PTO families for donations.
- E-mail will also remind parents and guardians who want to volunteer that they should make sure their volunteer status is up to date. Include a link.
- Collections for charity
 - Hearts for the Homeless – collection bins are out
 - School is adopting families at Roswell Park Cancer Center
- Organizing a students contest for designing wallpaper for Chromebooks – new wallpaper will be rolled out every quarter.

Building Effectiveness Team (BET): Elizabeth Duckham and Brenda Cimo

Brenda Cimo reported:

- Met in December
- Discussed Powerschool “dark period”. Please let students know it is coming so that they can check if there are any outstanding assignments and address before they lose access temporarily.
- Discussed dress code that will be reviewed and revised.
- Missing school for vacation counts as an unexcused absence.
- College visits are considered and excused absence.

Central Council Update: Donna Aylsworth

- Adam Ziccardi reported he’s the Senior Open Campus advisor. We may contact him for student volunteers for any of our events. He said they’ll get hours credited for Open Campus.

Post-Prom Committee: Maureen Bass

- Sent out letters to local businesses for donations/ sponsorship
- Upcoming fundraisers in November
 - Chicken BBQ
 - Krispy Kreme donuts
 - Easter egg filling
- The theme for the celebration has been decided on.

Old Business:

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: Pam Rauh and Sheri Carter

Pam Rauh reported:

- Luncheon this past Friday was a success – served close to 200 OPHS teachers and staff including evening custodial staff

- Everyone seemed very happy to be there and appreciated what had been provided for them. Many people indicated that it is their favorite day of the school year
- Thank you to the many parents who volunteered their time or provided desserts, food or drink donations, or monetary contributions. We truly appreciated everyone helping to make it a success.

Lunch catered by Alton's and included Greek or garden salad, chicken souvlaki, pitas, and BBQ pulled pork with rolls. Fruit, beverages, and desserts were provided by parent donation.

- Excess food was donated to Friends of the Night People on behalf of OPHS PTO – portion size was very large, and amount ordered would be adjusted if we choose to use them again in the future

New Business:

- The next event will be Winter Homecoming on February 11th, 2023, which is organized by STAP-COMM. There will be a dance, as in the past. No outdoor events

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

Post Prom: 6:00 pm

PTO: 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Curtis