



Orchard Park High School PTO Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2025 @ 6pm
OPHS Library Media Center

Attendance

Melissa G., Tammy V-W., Deborah K., Rich H., Maura W., Brandon P., Natalie J., Karen F., Jen D., Erin H., Karry K-B.

Meeting Opened at 6:04pm

Welcome to OPHS PTO and Introductions of those in attendance

President's Report – Jen D.

Open positions include nominating chair, membership chair, staff appreciation lunch chair, NHS induction reception chair

Vice President's Report – Erin H.

Facebook has 220 members and there are 126 PTO memberships

Jen D. - our goal is 200 PTO memberships, at Central Council it was shared that membership in PTOs is down. We added a membership flyer to New Student/Freshman Orientation and we had a table at Open House.

Secretary's Report – Karry K.-B.

Vote to accept June meeting minutes was put in motion by Jen D. and seconded by Erin H.
Approved.

Please sign in to our PTO meetings and I will be sending the minutes to attendees for review before we vote on them at the following meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Karen F.

Review of the September financial report

- Received a matching check from an employer as a general PTO donation
- New restaurant night fundraisers in July (Panera) and August (Red Robin) for the general PTO fund were successful.
- Expenses for homecoming exceeded our budget; however, the board approved additional funds to cover the expenses. The additional funds were planned to come from the restaurant fundraisers. The PTO decided to add support for homecoming since this would potentially impact all grade levels.
- We received monetary donations for the welcome back breakfast which were helpful

- Post Prom donations have a good start

Reimbursement requests and tax-exempt

- We are a tax-exempt group; you may use the tax-exempt form so that you do not pay for tax. We have a tax-exempt Amazon account.

Jen D. - we have a Wal-Mart tax-exempt card that will be available for chairs of events to pick up in the PTO mailbox in the main office.

Principal's Report – Brandon P.

Thank you to PTO for the welcome back breakfast, Senior tie dye, new student/freshman orientation, and open house. It is great here at OP; our PTO really makes a difference. Homecoming was also appreciated. The kids have fun all week and at the dance.

Yonder pouch update – at the start of 1st period students get a pouch that magnetic locks their devices. The students keep the pouch with them. 8th period classrooms have a magnet to release the lock on the pouches. It seems to be going well. Other schools are using lockers. We found out in August that we could not use backpacks only. We were able to obtain the pouches in time, and students and staff have risen to the challenge.

The cohort of students that start in 2029 in 9th grade will have the full set of options for the Portrait of a Graduate. Some changes have already been made including allowance for major life experiences impacting students. Regents will still be an option.

Capital projects update – OPHS has a new elevator. Appreciation to the maintenance staff who had to clean the building without use of an elevator while the work on the elevator was being done. Bison elevator comes out weekly to maintain the new elevator. There have been no issues. The roof is in planning to be replaced in summer 2026. Renovations will occur in the music rooms including removal of the textured walls. HVAC duct work will be completed. These rooms will be unavailable for the school year, therefore planning will occur before the end of this year for where folks will go that usually use these spaces. Restroom renovations were requested by Pafk to Lilleck.

Member – asked whether it would be possible for students to be assigned their own pouch for cleanliness, and allergy-safety reasons.

Brandon P. - there will be a consideration of changes after Oct. 1 regarding the pouches. Students with allergies may request their own pouch. It has been a challenge to be sure to have enough pouches at 1st period classrooms.

Member – question about any building policy regarding homework being due on the weekend.

Brandon P. - will look into this and report back

Teacher's Report – Rich H.

Expressed appreciation for strong, positive, supportive community to be teaching in. Thank you to PTO for new student/freshman orientation, welcome back breakfast, open house. Echoes comments already made regarding Yonder pouches. Sees a positive impact on students.

Committee Reports

Instructional Leadership (ILC) - Brandon P.

- Oct. 20th Superintendent Day will bring in a guest speaker. Discuss literacy through the content. Focus on strategies that work best.

STAP-Comm – will be meeting after our PTO meeting

Building Effectiveness Team (BET) - Maura W.

- Attendance codes discussed and looking to reduce redundancy
- Discuss continued issue of vaping in bathrooms next month

Central Council PTO – meeting next month

Post Prom – starting with one meeting already, there will be no chair, instead a group of committees to carry out the tasks. There was a survey after Post Prom last year and the group is working on a survey to go out to this year's seniors.

Member – Parents have expressed the need for Special Education aides to help the kids at the New Student/Freshman Orientation. This would allow the students to participate fully with other peers without the need for their family members to be present.

Member – question regarding the online attendance form choices. Suggestion was raised by Rich H. of “late arrival” instead of “tardy” as a choice along with the early dismissal choice.

Old Business – Jen D.

Senior Tie Dye – went smoothly, had all of the supplies needed, possibly certain sizes of shirts ran out? Has been a fun tradition. There was an overlap in time with football practice. Posting the sign up for items and volunteers earlier in the summer was a good change.

New Student/Freshman Orientation – PTO provided water, chips, cookies and OP stickers for the students. Suggestions are to move the PTO tables into the cafeteria for more space and to allow the students to sit at the tables. Perhaps have the flow be to have students walk their schedule first, then provide food and allow them to visit with each other.

Welcome Back Breakfast – worked out well, PTO added the option of a monetary donation instead of just the food. This brought in funds to support the expense of the event. Some families took advantage of the option of a monetary donation instead of having to shop and drop off items.

Fall Homecoming – the PTO was more involved this year in providing refreshments of lemonade, water, snacks, and the drink cups. Students drank the water more than the lemonade and there were snacks left over.

PTO General Fundraisers – these were new this year, the two restaurant nights were successful

New Business – Jen D.

Member – appreciates the PTO taking chances and taking and implementing new ideas

Post Prom restaurant fundraisers – scheduling/advertising a set of three months at one time. Oct 23 Chipotle, Nov 20 Red Robin, Dec 16 Panera

Post Prom fall fundraiser ideas shared, member suggestions of bringing in community members to support the fundraising

Member – suggestion of keeping the theme of Post Prom the same each year so that decorations could be reused and planning gets a step ahead. Suggested a communities theme that could incorporate the more usual activities such as sports/farm animal/carnival etc. Turn activities into a theme, or simply Post Prom Party.

Jen D. - Change in that we will no longer have a PTO newsletter as it overlaps to a great extent with the Quaker Gazette. The PTO has a section of the Gazette to add information. We will need to advertise our Post Prom business donors and we plan to advertise in the Gazette (if too lengthy, we will have a link). We plan to also advertise on the PTO website. Also new is the addition of a place for Senior information on the PTO website for families to refer to.

Next PTO Meeting Monday, Oct. 27th at 6pm. Post Prom Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 28th at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

PTO BOARD Contact Information

President	Jen Domzalski	jmdomzalski@hotmail.com
Vice President	Erin Homer	happymume@gmail.com
Secretary	Karry Kazial-Backes	kazial@fredonia.edu
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Minutes Submitted by Karry Kazial-Backes