# Oakview PTO General Meeting Agenda

**Date & Time: October 14, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**
**Location: Oakview Media Center**
**Virtual: https://meet.google.com/ruv-qnuj-qxw**

| This Month's Events & Decisions | | | |
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| **Topic** | **Chairs** | **Key Information / Updates** | **Time** |
| Welcome and Introductions | Natalie Anderson | The meeting kicked off with warm introductions from the board, school administration, and attendees. It's always great to see both new and familiar faces — 17 in-person and 2 virtual attendees joined us!<br><br>The board is continuing to explore ways to improve the audio/visual setup for future hybrid meetings to make remote participation smoother and more accessible. | 6:00 PM |
| Treasurer Update | Thea Sanford | • No major updates this month.<br>• The board voted to open a Certificate of Deposit (CD) to make use of surplus funds in the savings account - a great way to generate a little extra interest.<br>• We're looking for responsible teenagers to join our babysitting rotation during PTO meetings. Let us know if you know anyone!<br>  ○ Historically, this has been a volunteer role, but starting next year, we plan to include babysitting as a paid line item in the budget. | 6:10 PM |
| Fun Run Recap | Holly Nicolai, Natalie Anderson | • We raised a fantastic $40,216.64 (excluding pending corporate matches)!<br>• Approximately $7,000 was spent, mainly on the t-shirts that will be reused throughout the school year for spirit days and field trips.<br>• We surpassed our fundraising goal by over $3000 - thank you to all who donated, participated, and volunteered!<br>• Interested in helping plan next year's Fun Run? Holly would love a co-chair - reach out to oakviewpto279@gmail.com if you're interested! | 6:15 PM |
| Liaison Updates | Liz Novotny | • Restaurant Nights<br>  ○ Recent events:<br>  ■ McDonalds - $619<br>  ■ El Rodeo - will report on earnings next month | 6:20 PM |

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| | | ○ Upcoming:<br>■ Culver's - 11/18<br>■ 3 Squares is in the works<br>■ Northern Taphouse may be a new option - they're opening a new location in Maple Grove in November and another school had success partnering with them<br>● Conference Catering (October 22, 28, 30)<br>○ SignUpGenius is live! Thank you to those who've already signed up - dessert donations are still especially needed.<br>○ Menu:<br>■ Night #1 - Pizza (Papa Murphy's)<br>■ Night #2 - Tacos<br>■ Night #3 - Pasta (Sweet Taste of Italy)<br>○ Want to help in the future? Lacee would love some help next year! We're looking for someone to shadow this year - it's a great way to ease into involvement!<br>● Book Fair<br>○ Open during all three conference dates this year!<br>○ Held in the Maker's Space (it has a locking door for security)<br>○ Free Book Friday will be back this year!<br>○ Still looking for volunteers! | |
| Volunteer Coordinator Update | Amy Thompson | ● Book Fair volunteers are still needed! We're hoping more will sign up after families schedule conferences later this week.<br>● Field trips have already begun, so background checks are in full swing - thank you to Amy for keeping everything running smoothly! | 6:25 PM |
| Harvest Bingo | Erin Dietz, Alison Edgar | ● November 21<br>● Format will be similar to past years, with a few tweaks:<br>○ Shorter event - trimming to 90 minutes instead of 2 hours<br>● Food Trucks<br>○ Still in the works - Amanda will post on socials to crowdsource contacts or recommendations<br>● Prizes<br>○ Turkey order needs to be placed | 6:30 PM |

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| | | ○ Cheryl and Kyle are back to help with prizes<br>● Gambling Permit<br>○ Completed - thank you, Natalie!<br>○ *Note for next year: There is a FREE one-day Bingo permit available!*<br>● Logistics<br>○ Need to confirm rental with Bingo vendor | |
| Principal and Administration Update | Ryan Gibbs | ● MN Schools of Excellence<br>○ Oak View is in the process of applying to become a Minnesota School of Excellence, an honor awarded by MESPA (MN Elementary School Principals' Association).<br>○ This recognition highlights schools that are dedicated to continuous improvement and serving the diverse needs of their students.<br>○ We need your input!<br>■ Six surveys (covering learning, diversity, culture, instruction, data, and engagement) were sent via the 10/15 Family Newsletter.<br>■ Please complete them by 11/23/2025 to help share our application.<br>○ Application is due June 1, 2026 - final decisions expected by next fall.<br>○ Learn more here: https://www.mespa.net/soe<br>● Other Highlights<br>○ The Maker's Space has been a huge hit this fall!<br>○ Outdoor classrooms are officially up and running.<br>○ The newly renovated library is getting lots of use and rave reviews from students.<br>○ The BBQ was a huge success - thank you to all who came! Admin is looking for more ways to balance safety, visibility, and community moving forward.<br>■ The music teachers are planning a December Sing Along event and a Spring Student Performance - more info to come<br>○ Literacy Curriculum Update<br>■ New reading curriculum (CKLA and 95% Phonics) is showing strong results<br>■ Fewer students flagged as high-risk - down 50% compared to last year | 6:35 PM |

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| | | ○ The Student of the Month assemblies in October will be paired with the highly anticipated Silent Disco! | |
| Questions / Suggestions | Oak View Families | Oak View's 5th grade representative was chosen for the Students Connecting Through International Service program!<br>● The program is a long-running initiative that gives 5th grade students from four elementary schools in the district (Oak View, Basswood, Elm Creek, and Park Brook) the chance to represent their school while engaging in meaningful international service work.<br>● Each year, one student form each school is selected through a competitive process that includes a lengthy written application and a personal narrative. These essays are reviewed anonymously by a team of staff members who assess who the student is and why they want to participate in the program. Typically, 10-12 students apply per school.<br>● The selected students become student ambassadors and meet regularly throughout the school year to prepare for the experience. The students then raise money and collect supplies for Juan Escutia Elementary School, a small rural school in Sasabe.<br>● The school relies heavily on this support as many of the students' families face barriers such as illiteracy and lack of access to basic school supplies. Stores are remote and difficult to reach, and students must have all their supplies before the school year begins, or they are not able to attend.<br>● The impact is significant: thanks to the Students Connecting Through International Service program, every child at Juan Escutia Elementary receives a full set of supplies for the year, along with other items throughout the years such as computers, printers, water coolers, and space heaters Their fundraising efforts have also contributed toward a new playground for the school, as well as a small school bus. | 6:55 PM |