

# OAK RIDGE PTA

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Meeting Minutes, April 26th, 2010

## **ATTENDEES:**

Kathy Ahari ( PtA President ), Andrea Melvin ( PTA Treasurer, ), Jennifer Tickell, Susan Conlan, Sue Sundermeyer, Christine Johnson-Staub, Mary Cox, Elizabeth Burden Taylor ( PTA Secretary ), Tom Daniels (Principal )

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

7:10PM Introductions were offered.

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS :** Susan Conlan reporting, before Principal's Report because she must leave early.

1. Nominees for Officers for next year We have Jen Strano as the nominee for President and Kelly Brady as Vice President. We don't have nominees for Secretary and Treasurer. There is discussion regarding the possibilities of nominees. There is also discussion regarding the need for Volunteer Coordinator.

We will hold off on the nominees until next month.

2. Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser: We have made \$1520, and will make another \$150 when we get the last stray order in, because it is a big order. It will be delivered on May 6th for no extra charge. If anyone needs any more pizza or cookie dough, you can get it in by Thursday to add to this big order.

3. Staff Appreciation: Starts Next Monday. To set up, we need to be here at 6:45 am. We will need items for breakfast and for the luncheon. We also need people to cover lunch duty during the week. There is discussion as to when to drop off items and what people can bring for it.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Tom Daniels reporting. He wishes to Thank some people. Community volunteers, Ann Jackson and Ann Dickinson, and Janet Herterhick .Plus the Reading for Fun volunteers, and recent grade 6 Harwich Jr Theater trip chaperones. Thanks to Susan Conlan for the Little Caesars fundraiser, and Jen Tickell and Jenn Powell for the LOOK mural in the front lobby. Thanks to Peter Mann for his hard work to display student work. Peter, Tom and Jackie Reeves met about redesigning the main foyer to unify the look and make it more welcoming.

The Intercultural Potluck is coming up, it will be small. We are having George Machon and John Williams provide some music and Grade 6 students to share their projects about Asian Countries. Thanks to Jennifer Curtis and Martine Canning for organizing this.

Seventh graders met in small focus groups recently led by our school psychologists, Social Development teacher and Assistant Principal. The overall feeling from students was that there was bullying here at the school, but that other schools have it too and we are getting a bad rap. They really appreciated these focus groups and want more input.

Tom has thought of more restructuring next year for staff for more input, but thinks there maybe should be a student group for input also. There is some bullying right in the classrooms, not only the unmonitored areas. There has been improvement since we have been dealing with the bullying, in the 7th grade, he has noticed. Overall, the students feel too tightly controlled without enough time to move and without enough voice in decision making. The seventh grade feels that the 8th grade now stands out with bullying issues.

Tom Spent a couple of professional days at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence conference in Reading. Highlights of the conference included a site visit to a Blue Ribbon Middle school and a presentation by a SOUTH Carolina Teacher of the year, Ann Marie-Taylor who focused on the important role of music and movement in teaching students with special needs and all students. Highlights of the site visit included a focus on school wide environment to build positive climate, after school clubs and activities, and de-coupling math from the main schedule to allow for leveled grouping that didn't affect other subjects, a key board lab and bell choir for music and much more.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Refer to hand out. Book Fair did well, didn't make the budgeted amount but was close. The Pizza fundraiser did well, maybe do in the fall and the spring as well? We can have 50% of our budget carried over to next year. We currently have \$40,000 in our account. We can use about half of this amount for whatever PTA wants to use it for. Jennifer Tickell steps in and reports on how she e-mailed the board about possible ideas to spend the extra money on, around the school. She feels we should spend the money somewhere that will not be spent by the school-department budget. There is discussion about finding out what are the planned purchases from Dr Johnson, and how we can find out what the school needs. Possibly a committee to search the school to find needs.

**SECRETARIES REPORT:** Elizabeth Burden Taylor reporting. The minutes are presented from the March meeting. There was a motion made by Jennifer Tickell to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Christine Johnson -Staub.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Movie Night:** May 21st Andrea Melvin reporting. She is thinking about which is rated PG but the younger kids shouldn't be afraid to see it, it will be appropriate for all.....She will ask Michelle Mahoney to e-mail about getting volunteers for it. We will get the license for the movie, and charge to see the movie and not the snacks.

**B. BOOK FAIR:** The book fair went well, but we didn't make the projected profit. We still have Scholastic Bucks to spend. There is discussion as to how we should spend this money. The library is decided on and the Young Adult section should be focused on.

**C. Stop and Shop A+ :** Kathy Ahari reporting for Martine Canning. We have made \$ 2495.88 from the program. It is great!!! Martine is working on the push for this program for next year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. OPEN HOUSE :** There is discussion about changing the PTA Orientation night, coordinating it with Curriculum OPen HOUse, etc. It is decided we need something to draw the people in to the PTA Orientation maybe we can have an Ice cream social or movie night before school starts and get everyone excited for the start of school.

**B. Career Day:** Can the PTA help with getting Career Day going for the 6th grade? Ann Kelley asks for help for this. There is discussion about Career Day and how good it is, and what we can do for it. We will help with this, we need someone to take charge of this program and Jen Tickell has information to give about how it is run etc.

**C. Fund Request from the BAND:** There is a request from the Band, for money to help the grade 6-8 band that takes part in the Great East Band Festival, they have paid \$48 to participate, but since there are more students taking part this year, the transportation costs have increased. Can we cover any/all of this for them? There is discussion on this matter. Do we have any extra money? This is a great cause. We should give some of this, yes. We will find out how many students going are Oak Ridge students and cover their costs. WE are also going to add a line item to the budget for next year for the BAND.

**D. Donation:** The school is getting ( for free ) refridgerator magnets that will have school information on it for the students.

**SPIRIT AND SHARING:** Mary Cox reporting. They are focusing on the troops, and need cards and pictures from the kids etc. Also, can we get a new shirt for the RAVEN? Kathy Ahari will donate her XL Oak Ridge shirt for the RAVEN ( costume ).

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:25 pm.