

Oak Knoll PTO
Minutes of the Regular PTO Executive Board
Oak Knoll Teachers' Staff Room
February 11, 2015

2014-2015 Executive Board Officers:

Jill Wurster, President	David Ackerman, Oak Knoll Co-Principal
Stephanie Chen, Vice-President	Kristen Gracia, Oak Knoll Co-Principal
Tracy Watt, Parliamentarian	Joan Lambert, School Board Rep
Page Curtin, Secretary	Ashley Honerkamp, MPAEF Representative
Regina Skinner, Treasurer	Tamara Russell, Communications Chair
Emily Record, Financial Secretary	Aarti Chandna, Auditor

I. Call to Order - Jill Wurster

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 a.m. by President, Jill Wurster.

II. Approval of Minutes - Page Curtin

The regular PTO board meeting minutes of January 2015 were approved as presented.

Motion: Tracy Watt. Second: Gina Skinner.

III. Treasurer's Report - Gina Skinner

Another quiet month. No deposits. Paid District dues and basketball coach fingerprinting. More activity expected with upcoming Spring Field Trips.

IV. MPAEF Update – Ashley Honerkamp

Mark Calendars for Auction - Saturday, April 11th. Friday, February 13th is the deadline for auction items. Almost 100% teacher participation.

“An Evening with Liz Wiseman - Bringing Out the Best in our Students” leadership talk Thursday, March 12th 6:30-8:30 at the Hillview PAC. Liz Wiseman spoke to leadership team to kickoff school year.

Dine Out was a success. There are some kinks to work out such as long lines. Overall, a nice community building event. Planning another Dine Out in the Spring.

Working to finish fundraising and fulfillment of pledges.

Working to determine Fund-the-Need for the Auction.

Working on the Run. Nelson Roberts is back as title sponsor. Marketing and Facilities leads still needed.

Shop.MPAEF.org is building every month.

Securing more business and realtor sponsors.

V. Oak Knoll School Update – Kristen Gracia

David Ackerman visited Outdoor Ed. 5th graders were doing great - no homesickness. Weather was gorgeous.

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Smarter Balanced Assessment

Oak Knoll is getting technology in place for this new test. The staff is excited about it. April Parent Coffee will address this year-end assessment and how to evaluate scores vs previous assessments. The Smarter Balanced will go beyond multiple-choice questions to include extended response and technology enhanced items, as well as performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

The goal will be 85% proficient and advanced. Working to ease anxiety of kids taking online test. Frustration over keyboarding skills could influence scores. It is predicted that scores will drop by 30% for this reason. Teacher training to take place March 30th. Teachers will address kids' mindsets so they feel confident they can handle.

Importance of talking about race - There have been a couple of race-related incidents recently. Jenny Ryan has written an article. The book, Nurture Shock, is recommended as it explains the importance of talking about race and how to do it.

Winterfest - Winterfest was a big success. 50/50 mix of Tinsley and other families was achieved. There were several interactive games including parents.

Carline Safety - Leah is working with Allison Chao to revisit the carline. Met with MPCSD Traffic Safety Coordinator, Susannah Hill. Reviewing safe routes. Issues are greater with afternoon carline. Information push after February break with Safe Moves Assembly and communication to parents. Cross guard to be added at the intersection of Oak Knoll Lane and Oakdell. Also pushing for stop sign at this intersection.

Playground safety - No more tag on structure. Leah to lead grade level assemblies regarding playground rules. Even Kinder Yard to be addressed. Reminder not to share food.

Coffee Talks - Coffee Talk yesterday on Reading with Jacqui Cebrian and Jane Bennion. Future coffee talks to go in teacher's newsletters to promote.

Speech and Debate - Tournament went well and is a great example of skills our kids can handle at this age. Everyone looked and acted very professional. Parent donation received afterwards.

VI. Teacher's Update

Teachers in favor of vaccinations for all kids.

There was some question as to why the teacher items at the auction are awarded to 1 person + x number of friends. This is due to a different program being used.

Winterfest was terrific but still some concern about getting everyone there. All but three families planned to attend but more did not show. It was discussed that the same thing has happened in the past even when a bus has been provided.

Much discussion among teachers about input sessions for Principal search.

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VII. District Update - Joan Lambert

Vaccinations - All students must be vaccinated unless they get a Personal Belief Exemption (PBE) for personal or religious reasons. Our district is 97% vaccinated. District is following up with kids who are not vaccinated. Kids who are not vaccinated can be and will be excluded from school if there is an exposure notice.

Mandarin Charter - County turned down 7-0. There was a ton of parent support. Petitioners can appeal to the State and asked for a denial so that they can do so. Charter will go in front of the State in May before the grant approval deadline of May 8th. However, facilities deadline has been missed. The District is now looking for ties to the State Board and Charter Advisory Committee.

Laurel School - New school is on schedule and looks great. In order to have time to have upper Laurel campus ready for 2016-17 school year, 1st day of school will be after Labor Day 2016. Teachers are voting on how the rest of the calendar year is impacted.

World Language

The parent subgroup has met and brainstormed options for how world language is implemented in our schools in years to come. This is in response to the continued request for world language in parent surveys. Oak Knoll had foreign language several years ago but the program went away due to mixed reviews and lack of funding. District is discussing options for how world language is implemented - through online learning, an outside program, etc.

Kristen Gracia presented a trailer at last night's District meeting on how Oak Knoll plans to embrace World Language next year. She believes World Language is part of Oak Knoll's mission, a missing piece of the puzzle. The big vision for next year (using existing resources) will be for everyone at Oak Knoll to take on the growth mindset of learning some Spanish. In years to come as program is developed, goal may be exposure for K-2 and proficiency for 3-5.

Spanish and French are offered at Hillview currently. Adding Latin and Mandarin is in consideration. Will visit a school in Hillsboro who just implemented.

VIII. District Ed/Parent Education - Stephanie Chen

Parent-Child Yoga - Tuesday evening, February 24th in keeping with Mindfulness theme.

It was discussed that the Oak Knoll website is being evaluated. There have been problems with the Fusion pages and feedback about revisions needed in the site survey.

IX. Adjournment - Jill Wurster

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.

Respectfully submitted,

Page Curtin, PTO Secretary

Date approved: March 11, 2015