



MINUTES

OES PTA Meeting

September 6, 2018, 7:00 PM

In Attendance

Chris Kelly, Keith Eck, Brigitte Palmer, Kate Cote, Mimi Chou, Jamie Rothenberger, Audra Hoebler, Noorie Rae, Ellie Zaeda, Krystle Rosse, Faisal Kiani, Clive Gojer, Marcus Warner, Megan Kedy, Patrick Ohlhorst, Sarah Ohlhorst, Joy Lee Jill Whitman, Martha Steffey, Susan Dreiman, Bradley Nairne, Lori Nairne, Jesse Chichester-Constable, Balbina Chichester-Constable, Prity Goel, Munira Rawat, Suparna Paul-Mohapatra, Hunter Keeter, Sandra Semaan, Megan Harrell, RS Reed, Gyami Shrestha, Sudhir Shresthat, Kim Dierckser, Stephen, Hubbard, Nora O'Rear, Shraddha Jain, Jim Miller, Frederico Pedroso, Sarah Diab, Dahlia Lichter, Julie Chen, Karen Rose, Megan White

Welcome

Brigitte Palmer, PTA President welcomed the guests.

Stay Connected and become a Member of the PTA

Here is how you can stay connected with the PTA.



www.facebook.com/groups/OaktonPTA/



[@OaktonESPTA](https://twitter.com/OaktonESPTA)



[@oaktonespta](https://www.instagram.com/oaktonespta)

Subscribe to the Panther Express on Oaktonpta.net or <http://bit.ly/PantherExpress>

Membership with the PTA needs to be renewed each year. The first day folder contained instructions on how to renew your membership. The August 20th post on Oaktonpta.net also contains the instructions.

Presentation of 2017-18 Audit and Approval

The audit was performed in August using the procedures of the Virginia PTA of which OES PTA is a subsidiary. A copy of the audit is available upon request.

In Summary

- Starting Bank Balance for 2017-18 was \$40,504
- Receipts totaling \$104,449
- Expenses were \$109,302. Some highlights of our expenses last year were \$3,098 spent on new instruments for the music department and \$4,698 for new math manipulatives for all grade levels.
- Ending Bank Balance for the year was \$35,051

Vote: Members of the PTA were asked to vote to approve the audit. All approved.

Presentation of 2018-19 PTA Budget and Approval

Copies of the Budget were passed out to those attending. It is also available on Oaktonpta.net >PTA Info >PTA Budget and Meeting Minutes.

- Section 100 covers our major fundraiser. There will be one major fundraiser where we plan to raise \$60,000. This will be discussed in more detail after we approve the budget.
- Sections 500-800 details what the PTA pays for. Some highlights include
 - \$250 for each classroom teacher. At the back to school lunch we presented each classroom teacher with a certificate for \$250 which can be used towards any equipment, supplies, books the teacher wants to purchase for their classroom. They were very excited to receive these certificates.
 - \$500 for the following departments; AAP, Guidance, Language Arts, PE, Spanish, Math, Art and Music.
 - \$6,000 for new computers
 - New Canopy to provide shade over the playground picnic tables.
 - Total Expenses \$93,328.62

Brigitte mentioned that she was surprised to see all the things the PTA pays for and most of these items aren't nice to have extras. They are items that are necessary for the school. She encouraged people to take a look at the budget to understand the scope of what the PTA provides for the school and our students.

Vote: Members of the PTA were asked to vote to approve the budget. All Approved.

Announcements

Panther Pride Fund and Read-a-Thon

- Brigitte explained that the Friends of Oakton fundraiser that has been run in the past has been rebranded to the Panther Pride Fund. You can check out the Panther Pride Fund video on Oaktonpta.net, August 23rd post. We will have one major fundraiser in October. We will be seeking corporate sponsors in addition to donations from family and friends of our students. Donations are 100% Tax Deductible. For more information go to PantherPrideFund.org
- On September 28th at 6:30 we will kick off our Read-a-Thon with a pep rally and movie night featuring the movie Wonder. For the entire month of October the students will participate in the read-a-thon where they will log the books that they read and will gather donations for the panther pride fund.

Be SMART presentation

Attendees also heard from Jen McCarry of the Be SMART campaign, a program created to bring together all responsible adults to reduce suicides and the number of unintentional shootings that occur when children get ahold of an unsecured firearm. McCarry explained that each year, nearly 300 children age 17 and under gain access to a gun and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, and nearly 500 more die by suicide with a gun. Be SMART says many of these deaths are entirely preventable with responsible gun storage. The campaign encourages five easy steps for keeping kids safe (see image). Parents can learn more at besmartforkids.org.

FCPS Safety and Security Presentation

In an interactive discussion that ranged from metal detectors to mental health, nearly fifty Oakton Elementary School (OES) parents, teachers and staff gathered to explore “Keeping OES Safe” at the September 6th PTA meeting.

Participants heard from the Director of the Office of Safety and Security (OSS) for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Tom Vacarello, who outlined the [\\$4 million in security enhancements](#) recently approved by the Fairfax County School Board. The Board approved eight security training positions, 18 psychologists and social workers for student mental health support and \$1M to replace classroom locks. The new measures were the result of the [FCPS Internal Security Review Recommendations](#), a wide-ranging overview of existing and proposed security practices at FCPS triggered by the Parkland, Florida, school shooting.

Vacarello encouraged parents to review the report and talk with their children, “No matter what we talk about, we have to address mental health. If you haven’t had that talk with your kid about mental health you should,” said Vaccarello. “You have the conversation that when you hit your arm, your elbow hurts. You need to tell your kids, ‘Sometimes your brain can get hurt. I need to tell somebody I’m not feeling right.’ So, have that talk however you’re going to have it, but do have that talk. You have to have it, because until we address mental health in this country, frankly, we’re not chipping away at the iceberg.”

Next Meeting

October 10, 2018, 8:30 am, OES Library