



# MINUTES

OES PTA Meeting

October 11, 2023, 7:00PM

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## In Attendance

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This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Attendees included: Joy Lee, Karen Rose, Ji-Eun Kastner, Keith Eck, Carly Reilley, Lauren Magee, Sunghye Yeom, Paula Currall, Ajit Joseph, Meredith Campbell, Sarah (no last name given), Jennifer Nisoff, Michelle (no last name given), Jessica Gowda, Joelle D, Tzitziki Henley, Utkarsh (no last name given), Stephanie (no last name given), Sal Elmi, Tewobista's mom.

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## PTA Business

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Joy called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. She introduced Lauren and Carly, who were the evening's featured speakers as "experienced" OES parents. Lauren introduced herself and her family and spoke about the community feel at OES and the events her family has enjoyed over the years. She praised the admin and teachers who are always at events. She encouraged everyone to sign up for Panther Art as it's a great way to get involved in your child's classroom. Michelle asked about Panther Art and Lauren explained. She then talked about the transition from elementary to middle; Thoreau made it very easy and the sixth grade teachers do a good job preparing kids.

Joy then asked everyone to keep questions until end and introduced Carly. Carly introduced herself and her family. She shared that the biggest thing she wishes she'd known was to be your child's best advocate: participate in activities, meet with teachers, and get to know the other staff. Also important is making sure IEPs are up to date and the school is keeping up its end. Ajit asked to explain IEP and Carly elaborated. She also talked about AAP briefly and the importance of getting to know the school counselors.

Joy added that Katie Boland would have also mentioned importance of school counselors and encouraged everyone to meet them at next PTA meeting in Nov.

Ajit had a question: How often do counselors meet with students? Mr. Eck answered that they're always free to meet with students and are scheduled once a month for regular classroom lessons. OES is different from some other schools in that admin are also available to students and parents.

Joy reported that movie night was a great turnout and apologized for delay in screen setup.

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## Budget

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Readathon is going on; it's the one big student-led fundraiser of the year. We've made \$3,000 so far which is 30% of our goal.

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## Miscellaneous

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Jessica asked about the attendance email; Meredith answered.

Volunteer needs: Halloween Bingo sign-up genius coming soon. Family Science Night in November needs six more volunteers.

Updated budget report and the September meeting minutes are posted on website. Joy made a motion to approve those minutes; Meredith seconded.

Mr. Eck thanked the PTA for its support and shared that the admin are looking forward to Panther Art. The chickens are a huge success and he's working on a live chicken camera feed. Joy asked if at the next PTA meeting parents could see the chicken coop; Mr. Eck said yes.

Admin are working to set up the Veterans' Day program at school.

Jessica asked a question about volunteering at Family Science Night; Joy explained how it works. Jessica said she would volunteer.

Joy asked for recommendations, suggestions, etc. from parents for PTA. She mentioned that it's a good way to make adult friends and enrich kids' experience at OES. She then made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Meredith seconded.

Meeting concluded at 7:32pm. Ms. Kastner volunteered ESOL email and translator help for parent-teacher conferences.

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## Upcoming Events and Activities

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October – Vocelli Dining for Dollars

10/16-10/27: Storybook Pumpkin Festival (OES Library)

10/19: Family Reading Night, 6-8pm (OES Library)

10/26: Sunshine Committee – Candy Apple Station (received \$150 gift card from Wegmans)

10/27: Halloween Bingo (OES Gym)

11/10: Reflections entries due

First Skate Night

11/15: Chipotle Dining for Dollars

11/16: Family Science Night

12/1: Guys' Night Out

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## Next Meeting

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The next PTA meeting will take place at school in November.