



MINUTES

OES PTA Meeting

September 8, 2023, 8:30AM

In Attendance

This meeting was conducted at school in the library. Attendees included:

Meredith Campbell, Chirine Al-Deen, Kristy Choi, Maria Katradis, Sarah Joseph, Safae Chouraichi, Yueqin (Luna) Zhao, Joanne Deng, Rashi Agarwal, Cozie Sawyer, Jessica Gowda, Amy Waldron, Ida Brudnick, Serena Cheung, Jeanette Schnier, Teri Milstein, Michelle AVECILLAS, Ji-Eun Kastner, Karen Rose, Joy Park Lee, Paula Currall, Elissa Shahan, Christine Lancman, Chris Kelley, Abby Holzinger, Katie Prince, Rebecca Greene, Katharine Kraft, Theodore Reinert, Lauren Magee, Stephanie Chen, Sangram Kadam, Betelehem Zeleke, Aline Lang, Jules Park, Sunghye Yeom, Katie Tobin, Sarah Olhorst, Ashley Quinn, Diana Bizri, Bitna Lee, Stephanie Brown, Nazia Fatima, Carrie Reasonover

PTA Business

Joy called the meeting to order at 8:35am, and welcomed everyone to the first PTA meeting of the year. She introduced the board members present and described their duties. She then related some upcoming PTA events: Dining for Dollars on the 19th, Movie Night on the 22nd, Halloween Bingo, Family Science Night, and Skate Night. As there were many new families in attendance Joy described the Back-to-School folder contents. Meredith will be sending out a survey to families to determine their communication preferences (flyers in Tuesday folders, PX, Facebook page, room parent emails, Chris Kelley's weekly email). We need a volunteer to shadow Karen as assistant treasurer.

Budget

Several things highlighted by Joy for the '23-'24 budget. Most importantly, we have a \$33,000 carryover from last year, which lessens the need for fundraising this year. There won't be an armchair fundraiser this year. We will still do ReadATHon in November.

- PTA gives each teacher \$250 for the classroom, which is a big draw for the school hiring.
- PTA is starting a Sunshine Committee this year to support teachers with food, etc. monthly. Need volunteers for this.
- PTA provided funds for the garden, fence, mulch, and chicken coop this year.

Question: Are there any big projects we want to use the money for?

Answer from Joy: Not really. We're looking into what families would want and what FCPS will allow. Elissa said she would like to see money put into improving the playground. Someone suggested giving teachers more than \$250. Christine said we will always give individual teachers more money if they request it.

Programs

Question about PTA structure: Are there committees, or just board members? Some people want to be involved but can't commit much time.

Answer from Christine: STAW and Sunshine Committee are great ways to get involved. Joy said that none of the chairs for the events this year are on the PTA board.

Question: Are we bringing back the directory in any form?

Answer from Karen: A to Z Directory isn't happening this year but we're working on something else. Info will likely be available in October; PTA members will have access to it.

Joy made a motion to approve three documents: the meeting minutes from May 2023, the financial audit conducted by Karen earlier this month, and the '23-'24 budget. Christine seconded the motion.

Principal Kelley thanked PTA board and introduced staff with a slideshow.

Question from Joy: How are administrative roles divided among Principal Kelley, Asst. Principal Eck, and new Asst. Principal Abby Holzinger?

Answer from Chris: Mrs. Holzinger focuses on state testing (VGA, SOL, etc) and grades 1, 3, and 5; Mr. Eck focuses on school testing (Cogat, etc.) and grades K, 2, and 4. They share 6th grade.

Question from Elissa about testing.

Answer from Abby: It's grade-specific and will be covered by classroom teachers on Back-to-School Night.

Question: What school-sponsored activities exist?

Answer: Most activities are sponsored by PTA, including International Night, Spelling Bee, and Family Science Night.

Chris said that field trips are coming back for most grades this year.

Question from Christine: How do we find out about non-classroom activities like bus patrol, SGA, PTV?

Answer from Chris: The staff are in charge of those; maybe communication isn't getting out well enough. Sixth graders have a lot of extracurricular things to achieve 8 service hours: garden club, student buddies, recycling club, special education PE buddies.

Joy said she's considering different options for disseminating information for future PTA meetings, maybe a panel of veteran parents, maybe with counselors and Ms. Tobin.

Joy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15am. The motion was seconded by Meredith.

Upcoming Events and Activities

September 13-14: Back-to-School Nights

September 19: Picture Day & Dining for Dollars at Wings & Burger Factory

September 22: Movie Night

September 25: No School

Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place in the evening via Zoom in October.