



**Orchard Park High School PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00 PM**  
**OPHS Media Center**



**Attendance:**

Brandon P., Tracy B., Donna A., Karen F., Nicole C., Bret N., Ellen J., Julie S., Andrea, M., Tammy V-W., Michelle F., Pam Ra., Jennifer D, Tara C., Maura W., Pam Ro., Karen L.

**Meeting opened at 7:02 PM**

**Reports:**

**President's Report: Tracy Brege:**

- Tracy proposed voting to approve the draft version of the January 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
  - Michelle F. motioned to approve. Ellen J. seconded the motion.
  - The PTO voted unanimously to approve the draft version of meeting minutes from the PTO Meeting of January 29, 2024.
- Membership Update
  - Membership levels are approaching the goal – up to 197 members.
  - Goal is 200 members
- Nominations and open positions:
  - Society of Science Scholars Reception -which will happen on March. 26, 2024
    - A chair position is open
    - There was a question about whether students need to be present to be inducted. The date conflicts with Quaker Marching Band trip to perform at Disney World.
    - Mr. Pafk will follow up with teachers in charge of the Induction Ceremony.
  - OPHS PTO Board
    - All positions on our executive board will be open for the 2024-2025 school year. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will all be open. If people are interested in shadowing this year to train for one of these positions, please contact Tracy at [tracybrege@verizon.net](mailto:tracybrege@verizon.net)
    - Tracy emphasized that is important to fill the Board positions – the PTO cannot run without a Board.
    - Tracy and Nicole asked everyone to please help spread the word and recruit people to open positions

**Vice President's Report: Donna Aylsworth:**

- No update

**Secretary's Report: Nicole Avitahl-Curtis:**

- Nicole thanked everyone who presented, provided notes and gave corrections for preparing the January Meeting Minutes.
- Nicole reminded everyone who attends to please sign in so that she can send meeting minutes around for corrections and for review ahead of next meeting

**Treasurer's Report: Karen Fuentes:**

- Reviewed the funds in and out
- Post prom – \$1,000 more in donations came in. Up to \$5,115.53. Target for donations is to reach \$6,000.
- Sponsored apples for Biology Class Apple Cider Day.
- If anyone would like a copy of the monthly report, please email Karen at [karen.fuentes8888@att.net](mailto:karen.fuentes8888@att.net)

**Principal's Report: Brandon Pafk:**

- Proposed working with Julianne Becker to make a short promotional video to help recruit new PTO Members
- Talked about lockdown drills in the week before the break.
  - Following up on e-mail from February 25.
  - Discussed why 2 drills were conducted and one was (unintentionally) not announced as "This is a drill."
  - Discussed that future drills will be sure to be announced as "This is a drill."
  - PTO Meeting attendees shared thoughts/feedback on unannounced drill – benefits for better preparation vs. undue anxiety for students
- Question about College Night coming up on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - College Night is organized by counselors.
  - Mr. Pafk will follow up with counselors to get information about College Night out to families.
- There was a question about the Society of Science Scholars Induction Ceremony – do students have to be present to be inducted? Mr. Pafk will ask the teachers who organize the ceremony.
- Tickets for graduation – each student should receive 5

**Teachers' Report: Bret Norvilitis:**

- No update

**Committee Reports:****Instructional Leader Council (ILC): Pam Rauh and Chris Popek:**

Pam Rauh reported:

- Meeting was on February 6<sup>th</sup>,
- Transcript Request Process – noticed some issues with accessing transcripts. School Counseling will look into and address these issues.

- Regents Exam Requirement – a proviso that, even though the Regents exam doesn't count as a grade, all students must sit for the Regents exam for the Regents course they are currently taking in order to continue on to the next class. This was met with approval. The next step is to draft language to appear in the handbook.
- Cell Phones and Exams – having students place their phones in their lockers during exams has led to issues. Working on a different solution for what to do with phones during exams. A policy is in the works for spring exams.
- Midterm Reflections
  - time in the middle slot is tight so proctors who are finishing up and getting ready to start need to be sensitive and attentive to time.
  - audio needs for World Languages continue to be a challenge in the testing spaces,
  - some extra “reading days” for project-heavy departments would be appreciated (as the added days to Semester 1 were this year).
- Professional Development Days – More time spent together on high school issues would be a benefit. Next year's calendar is looking to add more high-school only time.
- “Grading for Equity” – discussions about a book the IL Council is reading.

**STAP-Comm: Jeanne Kornowicz/ Kelly Kerl/ Ellen Jeffree/ Julie Szczublewski**

Ellen Jeffree reported:

- Meeting was on February 5<sup>th</sup>
- Bathrooms are being updated
- Snow days in January don't need to be made up because they occurred when a State Emergency was declared.
- Project Lead the Way is beginning
- Hospice flowers/bouquets are being sold the week of March 4-10
- Appealing for sign language to be added
- Idea being discussed of having a Spring thrift pop-up store
- During the PTO Meeting, there was a discussion about student bathrooms - vaping and different hall monitoring systems available to high schools. OPHS is considering what to do and researching options.

**Building Effectiveness Team (BET): Brenda Cimo and Jennifer Duff**

Tracy Brege reported for Jennifer Duff and Brenda Cimo:

- Orchard Park High school BET meeting was February 13, 2024.
- Facilities update:
  - Original odor still continues, and a new odor has been detected. Working to find the sources of the odors.

- An area having asbestos was discovered. It's only a concern if it's flaky and airborne. It is being sealed off so it doesn't pose a risk.
- Lockdown observations: discussed results of the February 7th lockdown
- Attendance update: After a student has 10 absences a letter will be sent home. Still revisiting the tardiness policy and considering detention. Students will be notified of any updates via email.

**Central Council: Donna Aylsworth**

- No update – meeting will take place on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Post-Prom Committee: \_\_\_\_\_**

Tracy Brege presented:

- Entertainment planning is underway
- Will be asking to borrow games, such as Can Jam or Corn Hole for the evening
- Pam Rauh is organizing the "Get Egged" Fundraiser. Volunteers will be needed to hide the eggs.

**Old Business:**

**Winter Homecoming : Nicole Avitahl-Curtis and Sarah Rera**

Nicole Avitahl-Curtis presented:

- Thank you to all who donated treats and volunteered
- There was a separate table for all treats that were not home-baked, were not prepared with nut ingredients and that were also free of various other allergens
- Students appeared to enjoy the treats. Not clear if students with allergies realized there was a table of treats for them.
- There was a suggestion to highlight the table for students with allergies more by putting a turquoise-colored tablecloth on it – like symbolism of the turquoise pumpkin
- The dance was not as well attended as last year, so there was an excess of treats. Will ask for less next year.

**New Business:**

Not presented

**Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM**

**Next meeting will be on Monday, March 25, 2024 in the OPHS Library Media Center**

**Post Prom: 6:00 pm**

**PTO: 7:00 pm**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Avitahl-Curtis**