



Orchard Park High School PTO Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2024 @ 6pm
OPHS Library Media Center

Attendance

Jen D., Karry K-B., Julie S., Karen F., Brandon P., Maura W., Deborah K., Jessica S., Cristi O., Jennifer K., Sarah R., Tammy V-W., Michelle F., Nicole C., Andrea M., Heather M.

Meeting Opened at 6:05pm

President's Report – Jen Domzalski

- Welcomed attendees and introductions around the table
- Jen called for a vote on draft minutes from May 20, 2024, meeting
 - Tammy V-W motioned to approve, and Nicole C seconded the motion
 - PTO voted to unanimously approve the draft minutes
- Announced open PTO positions of Nominating Chair and Winter Homecoming Refreshments Chair
 - Contact Jen if interested or have any questions

Vice President's Report – Jennifer Kellington

- Jennifer is the PTO Facebook coordinator and prepares the PTO Newsletter
- The October Newsletter will go out around 10/12, starting in November the Newsletter will go out during the first week of the month
 - Information for the Newsletter goes to Jennifer by the last week of the month (by Oct. 28 for the November Newsletter) at: ophspto@gmail.com
- Facebook has 148 members
 - Need to check Facebook member approval and determine whether annual renewal is needed. If renewal is needed Jennifer will notify OPHS families in the Newsletter.

Secretary's Report – Karry Kazial-Backes

- Please sign-in at meetings so that meeting minutes can be sent to attendees for review and any corrections
- Karry prepares the PTO Meeting minutes and can answer Membership Toolkit questions along with Jen
- Membership update was provided – we have 98 members as of 9/29, last year's goal was 200 members
 - Discussion of increasing membership – ideas included a membership drive (over 4 weeks), providing details on what the PTO does, having an email go out from the school, email can go through iConnect, have information on morning announcements, using thermometer graphic for the drive, having the drive information in the Quaker Gazette and PTO Newsletter, let folks know that members have no obligation to volunteer

- Not charging \$5 was discussed – we need the funds for our non-post-prom activities and cannot obtain contact information for all families without approval, \$5 is set by Central Council

Treasurer's Report – Karen Fuentes

- Reviewed the September Treasurer's Report
- Notified Event Chairs that we are a tax-exempt organization, however you do need the tax-exempt information. Contact Karen for tax-exempt information. Purchases made will not be reimbursed for tax.
- Reimbursement form is on the PTO Website: <https://www.opschools.org/Page/442>

Principal's Report – Mr. Pafk

- Acknowledged the four PTO supported events that have already occurred including Senior Tye Dye, New Student Orientation, Open House, and Homecoming Dance
 - Plan to improve the New Student Orientation
 - Last week to view Open House videos
- Great week of Homecoming events, discussed the hiring of 6 students to work concessions at the new building, plans to have it open at more than just Varsity football games
- Change in Graduation Requirements – New York State Education decision for NYS High Schools will take place in November. The change would move away from state-wide assessments, such as Regents exams, as graduation requirements, and allow for multiple paths.
 - Discussion regarding the need for assessments in College and that the Regents prepares students for this
 - Regents will still be an option, just not required, and other assessments such as local exams occur
 - Diploma with seals showing special achievement
- Regionalization – Erie will likely lead coordination across school districts to be able to provide AP classes.
- OPHS School Board decision to move away from Class Rank focus. Mr. Pafk asked for input by February on a new way to acknowledge student achievement.
 - Anyone interested in providing input, Mr. Pafk will invite you for in-person meetings
 - GPA will remain, option may be to use College system of *summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, have essays submitted to choose graduation speakers
 - Concern that College applications ask for rank. The rank is still available to parents for applications. Rank is not meaningful when the top 37 students have 100 average or higher. This has been the case at OPHS.
 - Student input will be obtained through the Principal's Advisory Council

Teacher's Report – TBD

- Mr. Pafk is seeking a representative

Committee Reports

Instructional Leaders (ILC) – Brenda Cimo, Chris Popek, Jessica Schimert

- Discussion of the date of the last day of school, June 10. There will be a Regents exam after this date.
- Discussion of curriculum proposal review
- Retreat presentation will focus on values and behavior expectations for students

STAP-COMM – Deborah Kassirer, Kelly Kerl, Ellen Jeffree, Julie Szczublewski

- Committee has not met yet

Building Effectiveness Team (BET) – Jenni Duff, Barbara Lesh (report provided by Mr. Pafk)

- Aging infrastructure including bathrooms in disrepair
 - o Parts not able to be replaced, needing larger repair
 - o Water tested for lead 2x per year

It was brought to the attention of attendees by Deborah K that the elevator does not function regularly and that this is in violation of the rights of students with disabilities. There have been regular reports of students not being able to get to class. This needs to be followed up on by the school.

Central Council – Jen Domzalski

- Council has not met yet

Post Prom – Maureen Bass (report provided by Julie S)

- Upcoming fundraising will include Turkey Bingo (November 16), possible movie night(s) with concessions, donation requests, Get Egged, Chicken BBQ
- Theme is being finalized, did not gather input from students, students enjoyed theme 2 yrs ago when it was a surprise

Old Business

Senior Tye-Dye – Senior Class Assistants – Nicole Curtis, Joy Higgins, Jeanne Kornowicz

- Went well, thank you to all volunteers

Freshman/New Student Orientation – Jennifer Kellington, Denise Straitiff

- There are ideas to improve aspects of the event for next year

Welcome Back Breakfast – PTO Board

- Well-received by staff, need to verify start time for staff arrival
- Thank you to those who donated

Open House – PTO Board

- Set up as first table in cafeteria to catch parents walking in, 21 memberships gained after event
- Ideas to spread handouts with QR code across more tables and have places for parents to sit to fill out the form

Fall Homecoming – Sarah Rera, Tammy Vitko-Woods

- Went well, wristband method for purse/shoes/keys worked, only one bag left at end of the night

- Need fewer volunteers next year, kids asked for iced T and food, there has been fruit in the past, STAP-COMM initiates the ask for food for Winter Homecoming
- Anyone wanting to shadow the current Chairs is welcome

New Business

First Post Prom meeting will be held on October 28 at 6pm in the Library Media Center. All are welcome!

Next Meeting

October 28, 2024 at 7pm in the Library Media Center

7:12 Meeting Adjourned

PTO BOARD Contact Information

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Jen Domzalski | jmdomzalski@hotmail.com |
| Vice President | Jennifer Kellington | jkellington379@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Karry Kazial-Backes | kazial@fredonia.edu |
| Treasurer | Karen Fuentes | karen.fuentes8888@att.net |

Minutes Submitted by Karry Kazial-Backes