



OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 **TIME:** 5:37pm-6:20 pm **FACILITATOR:** Heather Raines, President

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Kerri Oakley, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

Heather Raines, President, called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. 18 total PTA members in attendance, including 1 principal, 3 board members, and 2 staff members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Dagenhart reported that reports cards will be going out soon and teachers will initiate communication for scheduling parent-teacher conferences, encouraged parents to reach out as needed. A message was sent via School Status/email regarding connecting families for holiday sponsors. Staff is hoping to get started early to make this as successful as possible, please call the front office or email guidance or Ms. Dagenhart with questions. She reminded the audience of no school on Friday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kerri Oakley, Secretary, presented September meeting minutes for approval. Megan O'Neill made a motion to approve the March minutes. Laura Turrentine seconded the motion. PTA members were in favor of approving minutes and no one opposed.

BUDGET

FINANCE REPORT: Treasurer, Douglas Locascio was unable to attend the meeting. Heather Raines, President, gave the treasure report of \$12,163.05 with an outstanding balance of \$5,160.93 for T-shirt order. Waiting for current T-shirt drive order to finalize the total.

BOARD UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Kerri Oakley reported that our current membership is 111. The previous goal was increased to 130, with this being a 30% increase from last year's ending membership total. The PTA drive deadline has been extended to October 31, 2024 due to missed days from the recent hurricane. The classroom with the most members will receive a class party of their choosing. The winner will be announced November 5, 2024. Reminded the audience that former members need to renew every year, per NCPTA policy.

ACTION: PTA members should continue encouraging Oakwood families to join PTA. To determine level of membership, click the link <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/join-pta>.

GENERAL UPDATES: Heather Raines, President, reports that board members were required to take a training with the NCPTA to ensure our PTA remains in good standing, including attending quarterly Hickory City PTA meetings, direct withdrawal from PTA account vs reimbursement so everything can be tracked, having a zero balance at the end of the school year (unless funds are earmarked), and adding necessary positions to the board to include nominating chair, audit chair, and advocacy chair. It is important as we all fall under the NCPTA 501c so if any one of the individual schools fail to follow these bylaws, then they will be at risk of losing their 501c.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

YEARBOOK: Tiffany Gutshall, Yearbook Committee Chair, gave the report that the 2024-2025 yearbook cover has been selected. Links for purchasing yearbook can be found on the new website for both hardcopy, soft copy and an upgraded copy for fifth graders, who already receive a free soft copy yearbook courtesy of the PTA. In addition to purchasing your yearbook, there are links on the yearbook page that can be used to upload photos. Members were encouraged to use the links to upload any photos throughout the school year so that they may be used in the yearbook, including spirit nights, field trips, grade specific activities, etc.

ACTION: Visit website to order yearbook or upload photos here: <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/about-4>

PTA PALS: Heather Raines presented for Jenn Isaac. Reported that we have enough members to cover all of Oakwood staff, however some members have more than one and if anyone wants to adopt a teacher, contact her and she will assign one. Texts and/or emails will be sent monthly as a reminder to anonymously provide your small gift.

ACTION: PTA Pals should surprise staff with a small gift each month.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Blakely DuBose reported that the Winter Social will likely be a “dance theme” to include having coordinated dances. Requesting anyone that may be able to assist with provision of speakers, balloon arches, activities, etc. Date will be January 16, 2025.

Nicole Johnson’s contact was mentioned to possibly bring in large speakers and sound system to be able to play music and make announcements.

ACTION: If you would like to volunteer to set up or clean up, please contact Blakely.

FALL FUNDRAISER: Heather Raines, President, discussed current auction items including multiple pieces of furniture, Crawdads birthday party package, and birthing class gift certificate. Also discussed possibility of rescheduling fall fundraiser to spring/winter to allow for additional time to get donations to ensure maximal success. The majority vote was in approval to reschedule to fundraiser to a later date.

ACTION: Please contact Heather Raines if you are interested in donating to the auction.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP: Heather Raines, President presented for fundraising committee for Jason Raines. Corporate sponsorship drive ended on October 10, 2024 with 9 “Blue Jay” sponsors, 7 “Oak” sponsors, and 4 “Acorn” sponsors which totaled out to be \$13,500 which supports classrooms, teacher meals, and a general request fund. A current general request for 3 Chromebook charging stations which are approximately \$500 each. Plan to vote on the purchase of these at a future meeting. Corporate sponsor banners have been sent and approved, if any changes need to be made please contact Heather Raines.

ACTION: All sponsor information can be found on our website here <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com>

GROUNDS: Heather Raines, President, presented on the grounds committee. At this time True Authority has completed phase 1 of the campus beautification project, which is the parking lot. Phase 2 has been initiated. Of note, the front playground is maintained by the district, therefore is not within parameters for the PTA. However, True Authority placed a bid and will be completing work on that area based on what the district plans.

ACTION: Contact Board to assist in Grounds, see Grounds page on website here for more details: <https://>



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www.oakwoodelempta.com/s-projects-side-by-side

STRESS-FREE LUNCHES: A reminder that the sign-up genius link can be found in the PTA website.

ACTION: PTA members should sign up to participate as they wish. There is 1 remaining spot for the next date.

TEACHER BIRTHDAY LUNCHES: Gift cards will be provided to all the teachers for their birthday paired with a bundt cake in lieu of a birthday lunch due to limited available dates and missed school from the hurricane.

ACTION: The committee chair will be delivering the gift cards, of each teachers choosing, and bundt cake.

OTHER BUSINESS

OAKWOOD SWAG: T-shirt drive fundraiser is live until October 31, 2024. Items will be sorted and delivered to the school. The link is on the PTA website and social media. It will be online only.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS: Trunk or treat will occur October 24, 2024, 4:30-6. Spirit night at Village Inn Pizza will also occur the same date, throughout the day. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the website. Or donate candy to assist those volunteering at trunks. Encourage friends/family/co-workers to eat at Village Inn Pizza throughout the day to support Oakwood.

Walk to school day was cancelled due to the two-hour delay and effects from the hurricane. The majority vote was in approval to reschedule to November 6, 2024.

Book fair will occur October 28-November 1, 2024. There will be a Hurricane Relief Book Drive during the Book fair to help support a school impacted by the recent hurricane. There is a sign up for volunteers on the website for morning, mid-day, and afternoon times available.

If there are other opportunities for hurricane relief, the PTA is open to options to help, please reach out to a board member.

Next spirit night will be at Cranford Brothers on October 17, 2024 from 4-8.

NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Our next General PTA Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at 5:30pm in the Oakwood Cafeteria. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.