

Striving to Further Enrich
the Children of Oxford



Oxford PTO
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
Pies 'N Pints Restaurant
August 23, 2017

Call to Order: President Lisa Suttile called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

Roll Call: Lisa Suttile, Brudnell Bowen, Kim Swanat, Amanda Burlinson, Christine Bavone, Sue O'Brien, Helen Perez, Jill Bonnett, Kerry Mizak, Ann Marie Lacobelle, Michelle Pedros, Pamela Miller, Jen Wolyniec and Heidi Roddy.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from meeting of June 22, 2017. Motion to approve by Brudnell Bowen, seconded by Pamela Miller. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Correspondence: Thank you notes from recipients of PTO scholarships awarded at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

Audience of Citizens: Kerry Mizak on behalf of the Oxford School Building Committee. Gave an overview of the status of building a new middle school. A grant was submitted to the State for a 27.5% reimbursement rate, which had to be done by 6/30/17, as the reimbursement rate went down after that date. Projected cost is \$48.6 Million and after the grant reimbursement, the cost to the Town would be \$35.6 Million. Location is town owned property located between GOMS and QFS. Referendum in November to vote on allocating funds to build the school. If the project passes referendum, and everything thereafter stays on track, the school would open for the 2020-2021 school year. The school building consultant suggested having tours of both GOMS and OCS to help residents understand the dire situation in both buildings, and Mrs. Mizak asked if the PTO could assist with those tours. The School Building Committee will handle setting up the tours, creating the flyer and getting it approved and distributed through the schools. PTO will also advertise the tours and distribute the Committee's flyer.

Fundraising Requests: 4 requests from GOMS cheer for Spirit wear, Bottle Drive, Shake the Can and Tag Sale at OCS on 9/16. Motion to approve all four requests made by Sue O'Brien, seconded by Pamela Miller, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Sponsorships: Lisa Suttile asked Amanda Burlinson to prepare a sponsorship request form for Newtown Savings Bank to sponsor the Color Run, as they have expressed interest in sponsoring the event. Amanda will e-mail the form to Lisa.

Officer's Reports:

President – Lisa Suttle –

Lisa gave a brief overview of what the PTO does for the new parents in attendance.

Meet the Teacher Nights: QFS 9/7 (Brudnell and Lisa to attend), OCS (8/31 Brudnell and Pam to attend) and GOMS 9/14 (Possibly Brudnell and Lisa to attend). Lisa will send out an e-mail to members to ask for additional assistance.

Lisa was contacted by the company who prints the coupons on the back of the grocery store receipts. Asked if the PTO would be willing to advertise that these coupons exist on the back of the receipts, and if we do, PTO would receive \$1.00 for each coupon redeemed.

Believe Fundraiser in the Fall. Company will ship orders to student's houses instead of to the schools. No orders to sort or to get parents to pick up.

Vice President's Report – Brudnell Bowen –

Kindergarten and New Student Orientation went well and Brudnell received 25 new membership forms.

Kidstuff Coupon book fundraiser - Books will arrive beginning to mid-September directly to QFS and OCS. No cost to PTO, unwanted books are returned on the honor system. Lisa suggested providing a large empty box at each school where unwanted books may be returned.

Treasurer's Report – Kim Swanat –

Current balance \$21,394.27. \$58 in outstanding debits, \$2,040.87 balance for GOMS Cheer, \$3,402.16 balance for GOMS Drama. Net Balance \$15,893.24. Have not yet received Gemma Power Systems donation yet. Motion to approve made by Heidi Roddy, seconded by Sue O'Brien, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Funding Requests: No requests

Principal's Reports

Rachael Cacace (QFS) – No report provided.

Heath Hendershot (OCS) – No report provided.

Donna Morelli (GOMS) – No report provided.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising/Box Tops: Kate Bittner- Box Tops ongoing.

Student Directory – Sending out membership forms to schools for distribution the first week. No printed directory this year, just the online version and AtoZ App.

Membership forms due back by 9/15. Reduced teacher fee of \$5. Pam hopes to have all data entry done by the end of September.

Adult Programs – Nothing to report

Adult Trips –Nothing to report.

Board of Ed Liaison – Changed to Sue O’Brien. BOE is dealing with the news that Oxford may lose \$4.9 Million in funding if a State budget is not passed. Superintendent Ortiz and BOE Chair Cote to meet with Board of Finance to see what can be absorbed by the Town. Preliminary discussions included pay to play for all extra curriculars, drama, music, etc. Last BOE meeting was moved from Pies N Pints to OHS due to funding loss from state. BOE also discussed trying to become more involved in personnel matters at Central Office. Two positions on the BOE are coming up for re-election. Next BOE meeting 9/12.

Oxford Education Foundation – Brudnell reported the board met 7/27 and approved articles of incorporation and by-laws. Working on logistics for opening a bank account. Next full meeting 8/31 at 7:30 at OHS, which is tentative because of OCS Meet the Teacher Night being the same night.

Book Fair – October 10, 11 & 12. Need volunteers for during the day at schools as well as the Ice Cream Social.

Children’s Programs – Nothing to report

Clothing Drive/Shred Day – Fall date not yet scheduled. Brudnell will look into different shredding companies.

Hospitality/Sunshine – Christine sent a sympathy card to the family of the referee for the Harlem Rocket’s Game. Brudnell noted a sympathy card should be sent to PTO member Amy Motes as her father-in-law recently passed away. Christine will send the card.

Plant Sale – Courtney Schwartz and Sarah Clark have expressed interest in assisting setting up for the sale dates.

Publicity/Newsletter – Nothing to report

Website: Heidi will update with new school year information.

Auction Night: Nothing to report. Sue O’Brien inquired if we could do away with minimum bids, as she heard from many auction attendees that they did not bid because of them. Heidi noted that many of the donations came with required minimum bids, but noted she’d have Jim look into it.

Old Business:

- Lisa spoke with the representative from Gemma Power Systems about receiving their donation. Gemma is still waiting to receive a few more checks from the benefit, and they expect to provide the PTO with a check for their donation soon.

The rep also noted there is a good chance the donation will exceed the expected \$16,000.00

- Lisa spoke with the Manager of Newtown Savings Bank about moving the PTO account. They offer lots of different programs with reduced fees, Kim Swanat needs to meet with the bank to discuss the options. Account will be moved once the donation from Gemma Power Systems is received.

New Business:

- Jets Game Fall 2017 – Still running.
- Color Run – Jen Wolyniec assisting Lisa. Date: 10/21. Need to decide a 3K or 5K. Do we ask for Great Oak Road to be closed? Committee needs to be forms and lots of volunteers needed. Registration is \$30 for a team, 25% discount for second registration. Includes t-shirt for each team member. Participants and spectators can buy additional dye packs, which are corn starch based.
- Jen Wolyniec noted she has been talking with the administration at GOMS regarding and 8th grade trip to possibly Washington, D.C. Mr. Hibbert is putting together a request and working with the BOE on the matter.
- Amanda brought up the previously tabled topic about whether it's worth the PTO's time to continue governing all fundraisers in the schools, as there were numerous issues with Music Dept. fundraisers at GOMS last year and the PTO has still not received the percentage required. Lisa noted she recently spoke with Mr. Hibbert about the matter and he assured her that all fundraisers will be done properly, handed by the appropriate GOMS staff member or parent, and he will provide the PTO with a check for our percentage from the Music Dept. fundraisers as soon as possible. Lisa wants to continue governing the fundraisers as it went fairly smoothly last year, with the exception of one department, all other groups were able to follow the procedures. Brudnell and Amanda expressed doubts about it being worth the time and effort. Motion to table the decision made by Christine Bavone, seconded by Heidi Roddy, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- Scholarship in honor of Chelsea Wheeler – Lisa spoke with Mary Geffert who is a close friend of the family, and she will check with the Wheeler Family to be sure they are supportive of this idea.
- Cookbook Fundraiser – Christine Bavone putting together – flyers to go out the first week of school.

Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment – Next meeting will be in September 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm at GOMS. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Burlinson
Oxford PTO Secretary