

Onalaska Middle School PTO

Open Meeting - 10.28.2025 - 6:30 PM-8:00 PM - OMS Commons

Introductions

- Call to order
- Welcome all/introductions

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

- Balance: \$11,183.17
- Provide Update on Thrivent Grant Usage
 - It's been confirmed with the family who made the donation that since all furniture needs have been met for OMS staff, PTO can use Thrivent funds as we see fit
- Deposits: Donations Received for October Conference Meal \$300 (Give Butter) and \$114.66 (Paypal)
- Withdrawals: October PTO Meal: Jersey Mikes \$565.58 plus Sams Club –additional sides, drinks - \$94.70 Total \$660.28
- Box tops for Education: \$253.60 (Goal: \$1000.)
- Upcoming financial commitments: 11/14 Bagels/Donuts, fruit, juice, and creamers for WOW Event - up to 80 people

Principle/teacher Report

- Principle Update:
 - Winter 1 sports have kicked off with wrestling and boys basketball. Winter 2 begins in January with girls basketball.
 - Music is ramping up with pep band and jazz band. Eight OMS students qualified for honors band. Show choir is prepping for competition season.
 - Q1 wrapped up on 10/31. Staff is adjusting to the new block schedule - Math and ELA teachers having to fit more content into a small amount of class time while Science and Social Studies

teachers are looking for more content and topics to dig deeper into with their additional class time.

- 11/15 is the Community Open House at OMS. Folks are able to see the new building
- Teacher report: NA

Community/Project Updates

- OMS Food Pantry - Consider Donation to OMS food Pantry - thoughts?
 - OMS wrapped up a food drive on 10/29. Ben suggests waiting it out before any monetary donations are made. Our superintendent is working with community leaders to support students and families who SNAP benefits are on pause.
 - School District has already made outreach regarding Thanksgiving dinners. PTO support is not needed there at this time
- WOW Event Planning (Stephany)
 - Scooters donating coffee, cups, creamers. PTO will cover fruit and bagels/muffins
 - Stephany will pick up Scooters items 11/14 and have in commons by 6:30am. Kelsey will do the same with food items. Anna on deck to support however needed. Ashley R could potentially return items to Scooters after the event.
 - Ben confirms staff can clean up the commons area after the meeting.
- Fundraising
 - Parade of Lights Hot Cocoa Stand Discussion (Anna)
 - Kelsey has been in contact with Park & Rec and states we should prepare for about 100 people. Suggests pivoting from the parade to the lighting of the tree since spectators are a bit more stationary at that event.
 - Give Back Restaurant Nights
 - Chipotle - 10/30 (Flyers available)
 - Barrachos? 11/17
 - Pizza Ranch - 1/12
 - Student led fundraising efforts require school board approval. Brainstorm a student-led event (sales, penny wars, etc) and discuss next steps.

New business

- Brainstorm: Winter Student and Family Activity
 - Winter Carnival, Gaming Night, Movie Event
 - Could be combined-or in addition to-a holiday event (cookie decorating, present making/crafting, holiday-themed games.)
 - Ben suggests cookie social between each class's choir concert on 12/11.
 - Ashley is getting details on sourcing cookies and cost from EB PTO
 - We'll need to be mindful of cookie style - not just traditional Christmas but Hanukkah, Kwanza, etc. Ben suggests sticking with Onalaska purple to keep things simple.
- Brainstorm: Staff Holiday Offering
 - Brainstorm ways of giving back: wish list, flat gift, etc
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - 11/14 - Coffee and Breakfast for Well Ona Way (WOW)
 - Help Stephanie with pickup at 6:30
 - Set up at 7:00
 - Take down at 9:00
 - 11/17 - Burrachos Give back
 - 12/07 - Holiday of Lights Parade. Email sent to Parks and Rec (Kelsey)
 - 1/12/2026 - Pizza Ranch (Anna) Volunteers needed
 - TBD - Beer By Bike Brigade (2026)

Upcoming Events and Calendar Review

- Upcoming Key Dates:
 - WOW Coffee and Breakfast 11/14
 - Thanksgiving Break November 27th-29th; Christmas Break December 23rd-January 2nd
 - Spring Conferences March 12-13th
 - Staff Holiday Offering: Week of 12/16

Open Forum

- Ashley has book fair numbers. Scholastic anticipated 2500 and we ended up just below 5000. Our give back amount was 1365 - 9 ela teachers for

\$120, reading intervention and multi language teachers each got \$120 as well.

- Cash total 504.52. \$13 in cash was left in a jar, let's give that to PTO
- Future book fairs? One each fall with conferences and we could do one in the spring as well.
- Feedback from Ben - location was great, kids were able to browse during nutribreak. Promote and talk more about the event during the school day

Closing Remarks

- Schedule next meeting: 11/18 6-7:30
- Summarize to-dos and disbursement of minutes

Follow-Up Items

- Follow up with Lorrie Roeck to discuss 11/14 WOW event
- Seek additional donations from local businesses - Festival, WOODMANS, Hyvee, etc
- Coordinate with Parks and Rec
- Gratitude cards for staff
- Holiday meal for staff - Ben suggests any day Dec 16-18