

# OMS PTO meeting

**Welcome & Introduction:** Mr. Salsman, Mr. Bellinger, 6 board members and 15 parents were present.

President: Laura Shotton, Vice President: Joan Fischer, Secretary: Suzanne McGinnis, Treasurer: Amanda Alonzo, Staff appreciation and Fundraising: Christy Beech, Schoola: Denise Zarr

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from the meeting will be sent out by e-mail, and posted on the OMS website. We also have a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/OMSPTOSTL/?ref=bookmarks>

## **President report:**

Thank you for coming. Our goal is to help as many students as possible, and add more technology into the school. We also want to improve the environment for the teachers and students. We believe all parents are part of PTO and hope parents will contribute in any way that they can.

**Treasurer's report:** The budget was reviewed. We do not have to cover club stipends this year. We are increasing the staff appreciation budget. This will allow for miscellaneous treats throughout the year. 15 teachers have already used their \$50 reimbursement given to them each year. The nurse and library are given extra funds to supplement what is given by the district.

Last year, the PTO earned \$17,772 and spent \$19,731. The amount of expensed exceeds the amount of income as the PTO is intentionally lowering the amount maintained in the checking account at year end from ~\$7000 to ~\$5000.

Fundraising included two student involved, fun fundraisers - the spring lock-in (\$5938), followed by entertainment night (\$2812). Our other fundraisers include: Box tops (\$2450), Schoola (\$2222), T.J.'s Pizza (\$2180), entertainment books (\$926), eScript (\$399), Orange leaf (\$384), Donations (\$380) and Shoparoo (\$81).

We purchased 24 chromebooks & cart (\$8403), one smartboard (\$1968), 25 cordless mouse/keyboards (\$949). Our goal was to make the rooms match technologically. We funded the club stipends (\$2705), teacher reimbursements (\$1777), staff appreciation (\$593), part of PBIS (\$289), and nurse office supplies (\$286). We helped fund library needs from last year's budget cuts by paying for the Junior Library Guild subscription (\$567) along with books and other resources (\$1417). To help update the library, we also purchased two café style table/chair sets (\$777).

We have already learned of a need this year for a document camera (digital overhead) in each of the two computer labs. Ms. Ahrens the speech teacher was moved to a very small space last year. Over the summer she repainted the windowless room to make it more cheerful and bright. PTO has agreed to reimburse her for the paint.

## **Fundraising update:**

Our goal is to bring in money by having fun. We also have a straight donation option, product sales and other options. If each student contributes \$35, we would have about \$21,000.

**Schoola:** (Denise Zarr) We started this fundraiser 2 years ago, and have earned over \$2000. You donate clothes and the company puts them online to sell. We make a portion of the sales (minus shipping). We will have drop off drives at both conference nights, but clothing can be brought in at any time. The clothing must be clean, intact and in good sellable condition. <https://www.schoola.com/schools/oakville-middle-st-louis-mo>

**Box Tops:** (Laura Shotton) We have made almost \$14,500 in the last 5 years. We were featured in a commercial that ran for 10 days in August. We were less successful last year, but hope it will pick up. We have 4 competitions throughout the year. We have contests between the advisory classes with two classes winning per grade. One class is who brought in the most, and the other class is who brought in the most per student because all classes are not the same size. We also have the top 5 students who receive a \$5 gift card. We recognize 10 random winners who bring in at least 5 box tops with Orange leaf coupons (donated by Orange Leaf).

Remember, Box Tops expire so send them in, and don't keep them for later. Check with neighbors and family members to make sure they are not throwing away money.

### **Events:**

**Entertainment night:** has been scheduled for Monday, November 7 from 6-10pm. There is no school on the 8<sup>th</sup> due to the election. This is a great activity for the students including games, crafts, sports, trivia and more. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and work at the event. Contact Laura Shotton if you are interested. Cost \$10/\$15 at the door, with low cost snacks (50 cents) and crafts (free to \$1) available. This is for OMS students only.

**Orange Leaf:** will be scheduled later. We earn 20% of sales just by buying dessert.

**Spring Lock-in:** will be scheduled later. Our lock-in is our largest fundraiser with OMS students staying at school from 9 pm until 6 am. We ask for volunteers to work 3 hour shifts, or stay all night. We typically have over 300 students in attendance. About half are 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the remaining are fairly evenly split between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We have a check in system to make sure kids show up, and a check out system for safety.

Our events contribute to the school while building culture. The students love hanging out with the teachers and principals outside the classroom. We have a nurse on duty, and lots of parent support.

### **Staff appreciation:**

We started the year with first day treats, and also supper for the open house night. The teachers have already expressed their appreciation for the treats and food, and often ask for recipes. We plan to have meals for the fall and spring conference nights. Christy Beech will send out e-mail requests for donations. The PTO provides the main dish, and anything else needed. If there is any food left over, the teachers eat it for lunch the next day which makes it an added treat.

Teachers are using the lounge more after the PTO update during the 2014-2015 school year. You can see pictures on the OMS PTO Facebook page. Random snacks/treats are being planned throughout the year.

### **Parent Q & A:**

Other fundraisers and donation drives are done by student council, NJHS, band, choir, and other activities which is why we keep our fundraising to a minimum. Parents are welcome to make a cash donation to PTO, and a few parents do participate in this option.

We would love to have 1:1 technology in the school. We can contribute, but we cannot fund this need. We are hoping to get more chromebooks in the hands of students each year.

## **PTO UPDATE:**

At the end of the school year, we will have the president & treasurer positions open.

Besides being the president, Laura Shotton currently runs the Box Tops campaign, school website for PTO updates, and organizes the Lock-in & entertainment night. These activities could be split between different people because they do not need to be linked with the president.

## **Principal Report:**

Thank you for coming. We always need lots of help behind the scenes. We know schedules are busy. PTO meetings will be at 9 am except the March meeting so we can meet the school board candidates.

We do video announcements daily.

Encourage your students to sign up for something. Currently art club, yearbook and library council are starting. In September, cross country and student council will start. Sports this year will include volleyball, track & field, basketball and soccer. There is a talent show in March.

Thanks to Prop A & Prop R, we have a new fire alarm. We also have a new HVAC system in the back of the building and office.

We were able to have teams again this year in every grade. This allows for better teacher prep, and the teachers getting to know the students better. Some ELA teachers are on both teams. We now have a Spanish teacher for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

September 14 is picture day. They will be taken during health/computer/pe class, so you do not have to be concerned about sweaty kids.

There is a district committee being formed to look at block scheduling in the high school. There is another committee about redistricting. Mr. Bellinger is on the redistricting committee representing the middle school principals.

There will be a Friday update e-mailed weekly which will include upcoming events. You can also find information:

school webpage <http://mehvilleoakvillemiddle.ss11.sharpschool.com/>

OMS Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/OakvilleMiddleSchool/?hc\\_ref=SEARCH](https://www.facebook.com/OakvilleMiddleSchool/?hc_ref=SEARCH)

OMS PTO Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OMSPTOSTL/?ref=bookmarks>

The door is always open. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The next meeting is September 22 at 9 am.