

# Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council (OPAC)

*Learning for life in a safe, caring place.*

## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 7:00 pm

Location: MS Teams virtual meeting

In attendance: Cassandra Acland, Humberto J Alves, Andrew Isaacs, Barry McKay, Suzanne Millar, Amanda Robinson, Cheryl Tack, Tanis Thiessen, Kathryn

1. **Call to order** -- Suzanne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. **Welcome/introductions** -- Suzanne welcomed everyone and introductions took place.
3. **Adoption of meeting agenda and October minutes** -- Suzanne voted to approve the October minutes, Cassandra seconded. No changes were requested by attendees to the agenda.
4. **Financial report** -- Barry presented -- \$6073 is current balance, by end November we should have \$1555 additional funds from Peak of the Market - our portion of the fundraiser, bringing our balance up to \$7628 by early December. Tanis - thanks to Cassandra and volunteers for sorting veggies.
5. **Principal's report** -- Tanis presented.
  - a. Enrolment is currently 179 students.
  - b. Kindness Week occurred last week as part of provincial Bullying Awareness Week.
  - c. First two weeks of December the Artist in the School program will run, with Freeze Frame Productions creating film stop motion videos with grades 1-6.
  - d. Arts -- music teacher Ms. Megalaa is working with each class to create a special item. Tanis thanked OPAC for book funds, and will share via Twitter and Instagram when books arrive.
  - e. Calendar -- Friday November 26 is report writing day, Winter break begins Thursday, December 23.
  - f. Travel and Quarantine -- Provincial travel requirements can be found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/orders/index.html#travel-self-isolation>
6. **Teacher representative** -- Ms. Cheryl Tack -- Kindergarten, and School Support Team member -- Cheryl thanked OPAC for classroom books and shared her kinder class routines.
7. **Fundraiser update** -- Peak of the Market -- Cassandra presented -- Peak of the Market was successful and raised \$1575, with 35 bundles donated to Harvest Manitoba with the

help of volunteers. Discussed delivery and related communication with Peak of the Market. Additional fundraising activity will be planned in the new year.

- 8. Staff Appreciation** -- Discussed options and prices for catered Qdoba lunch or a TacoTime lunch. Motion by Suzanne: OPAC will raise the prior authorization from 250 dollars up to 450 dollars for a teacher appreciation hot lunch. This will be a one time event, as a change from cookies and coffee. Cassandra seconded. Motion passed.
- 9. Short round table discussion** -- There are funds in the OPAC account for future projects. OPAC will consider options for an outdoor classroom project in the new year.
- 10. Future meeting** -- Survey results regarding in-person or virtual were split, approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  for in-person,  $\frac{1}{3}$  for virtual, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  indifferent. Next meeting will be virtual, Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 pm
- 11. Adjournment** -- Suzanne made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

### **Principal's Information Report for OPAC November 24, 2021**

1. **Enrolment** – 178 students (we had 179 students last year at this time)
2. **Kindness Week** – Last week was a provincially declared Bullying Awareness Week. At Oakenwald, classes embedded this into Kindness Week activities. Each day, we focused on a different word that is tied to Kindness: Respect, Caring, Inclusion, Integrity, and Responsibility. The learning continues through embedded lessons in grades 3-6 with the Thrival Kits that focus on wellbeing, and with Project 11 wellbeing resources in other grades.
3. **Artist In The School** – we are so pleased that we can get back to something that feels more “normal”, in the form of a guest artist connection for grades 1-6 students. Freeze Frame Productions will be in our building throughout the first two weeks of December, providing hands-on learning to our students in how to plan, script, create, and film stop-motion videos. We are looking forward to sharing those products, hopefully via SeeSaw.
4. **The Arts** – without an opportunity to safely gather for our traditional winter concert (pandemic orders currently prevent this), our music teacher Ms. Megalaa is still working with each class to create one special item that will hopefully be recorded and shared somehow. We continue to learn more technology skills to attempt to become more creative at having our traditions continue in a different way, and are grateful for the support of Ms. Megalaa in this endeavour.
5. **Thank you to Parent Council for the Book Funds** – some teachers have already gone shopping for classroom books. Our teacher librarian and library technician are particularly excited for this and have collected some of the student requests to be able to put together an order for new books. When books start arriving at the school, we will post photos and thank yous on our Instagram and Twitter accounts.
6. **Calendar Reminders:**
  - i. this Friday (November 26) is Report Writing Day – no classes that day, as teachers are focused on writing comments for student report cards
  - ii. this is an unusual December in that our winter break begins on a Thursday (December 23), with school resuming on Thursday January 6.
7. **Travel and Quarantine** – parents are encouraged to stay up to date on provincial quarantine requirements following travel, and to follow those requirements for students prior to their return to school. All provincial travel requirements can be found at the following link: [Province of Manitoba | State of Emergency and Public Health Orders \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/state-of-emergency-and-public-health-orders)