

OPAC Meeting Minutes September 26, 2024

In attendance: Michael Moreau, Mary-Ann Mitchler, Kathryn Labiuk, Amanda Robinson, Nadia Selby, Cas Acland, Lindsay Toews, Brittany and Gerren, Heather Allen, Ana Nikolic, Beverley Todd, Kristen Black.

1. Call to order – Amanda called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Adoption of September meeting agenda and June minutes – Amanda
 - Amanda asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda, no additions brought forward. Amanda motions to approve September meeting agenda, Nadia seconds. Motion passed.
 - Amanda motions to adopt June minutes, Cas seconds. Motion passed.
4. Principal's Report – Mr. Moreau
 - a. Beginning of 2024/2025 School Year – Year is off to a fantastic start; Oakenwald has a calm, positive environment. Mr. Moreau has been learning about the school and its systems over the past few weeks. Grade 4 and 5 students have already participated in their two cross-country races.
 - b. New Staff – There is many new staff members at the school this year. A brief background on the new staff members and their role at the school was provided by Mr. Moreau.
 - c. Safety and Wellbeing - We are so proud of our students in the way they have embraced a culture of safety and care. As we transition to a new school year, teachers and support staff are teaching, modelling, and reinforcing routines. Supporting positive early school experiences is a priority. We begin every day saying that *“At Oakenwald, we take care of ourselves, we take care of each other, and we take care of our school.”*
 - d. School Plan Priority Areas:
 1. Numeracy and Literacy: Visible Learning Targets
 2. Reconciliation: Focus on Treaty Education
 - e. Terry Fox Walk - On October 4, we will all participate in an assembly and walk/run for Terry Fox. In 1980, Terry wished to raise one dollar for every Canadian for Cancer Research. With inflation, in 2024, we are collecting Toonies for Terry to support Cancer Research and commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope.
 - f. Strong Beginnings - On Thursday, September 19 or Friday, September 20 each student from kindergarten to Grade 5 attended school by an appointment to participate in assessment activities in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather data about each student's learning that may not be evident during whole class assessment activities. It is also a chance to further build a positive student-teacher relationship. All teachers and specialists were involved in this process. Teachers will submit the information gathered and work on understanding class learning profiles. Our Student Support Team are now meeting to review the information collected and to plan forward.
 - g. Tri-conferences - Our conference evenings will be Thursday, November 7. Our goal during the first conferences is to focus on well-being, work habits and student goals. More information on format and scheduling will come soon. If you have questions during the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.
 - h. Communication Plan - We are focusing on limiting our communications from the office to a single weekly New & Information email every week on Thursdays. The goal is to include as much information as possible in the body of the message and not in attachments and links, to streamline communication. We appreciate all our busy families taking the time to review our

news every week. Visual communication is a goal; however, we are now just in the process of reviewing our documentation for Media Release. We are hopeful to share the beautiful success stories and learning with our community online soon, through Instagram and our school website. Edsby will be used for booking Tri Conferences, publishing report cards and where attendance will be recorded.

- i. Nutrition Program - Oakenwald School is very excited to launch its Universal Snack Program. Starting on Monday, September 23, healthy snack options were made available to all students. Snacks will be delivered to classrooms every morning. If needed, a student may choose to take an item from the basket. Caregivers should know that the snack program is meant to supplement what is offered from home. Please continue to send snacks and lunches with your child(ren) knowing that the program will help address additional needs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program, you can connect with our School Counsellor and Nutrition Program coordinator, Andrea Hamm.
We appreciate the support of families in communicating that “children take snacks because they are hungry – and everyone gets hungry” in order to promote the universality of the plan.
- j. By the Numbers - We are currently at an enrollment of 236 students, having grown by 21 since the office opened at the start of the year. As new families continue to register, we expect that this number will fluctuate, and we have plans in place for additional growth. Our current class sizes are very good, averaging 20 students per class. We are running two classes per grade in all grades from kindergarten through grade 5.
- k. Upcoming Events this Term

Monday, September 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation NO CLASSES
Wednesday, October 2	Picture Day (all day)
Monday, October 7	NO CLASSES - Professional Development Day
Monday, October 14	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving
Friday, October 25	NO CLASSES - Metro Common Day
Thursday, November 7	Tri-Conferences - 4:30 – 8:30 pm
Friday, November 8	Remembrance Day Assembly 11:20am
Monday, November 11	NO CLASSES - Remembrance Day
Thursday, November 21	Picture Retake Day
Friday, November 29	NO CLASSES - Divisional Common Day
Friday, December 6	NO CLASSES - Report Card Writing Day
Tuesday, December 10	Winter Concert - 6:30pm Start
Tuesday, December 17	Reports Cards Go Home
Monday, December 23 – Friday, January 3	NO CLASSES - Winter Break

- 5. Nominations/Election of OPAC Executive and Volunteer Roles for 2024-2025 - Amanda
 - Nominations are open and ongoing. Email sent to families sharing information about the nomination and election process. Nominations can be made by email, Google Form or at the October 16th meeting. Election will take place at meeting on October 16th. OPAC will be electing 7 members to the Executive.
 - Heather raised questions about requirements to have 7 elected members. Amanda will review by-laws to ensure everything is clear before elections at next meeting.
 - Roles Seeking Nomination for 2024-2025 school year:
 - i. Chair

- ii. Vice-Chair
- iii. Secretary
- iv. Treasurer
- v. Fundraising
- vi. Hot lunch
- vii. Open to suggestions for 7th role

6. Financial Report – Nadia

- Starting school year with \$675.08 in the bank. Everything has been paid out from last year's expenses. No other financial information to report currently.

7. Fundraising – Cas

- No fundraisers scheduled yet
- School Clothing: Last year we ordered extra merch so we would have samples on display at Meet the Teacher. There is lots of interest in school branded clothing again this year. Cas has been discussing having 4 dates for placing bulk school wear orders throughout the year.
- Peak of the Market fundraiser – Cas will be sending out information
- Discussion of holding a Dance-a-Thon that kids could collect pledges for. Could be held during the school day. Opportunity to Grade 5 students to help run the event.
- Raised idea of fundraising for playground upgrades to raise funds for inclusive equipment, such as swings. Could consider reaching broader community asking for contributions.

8. Other Business:

a. Social Events/Committee

- Discussed several ideas for events to hold throughout the school year: dance, school picnic, family fun night, touch a truck, etc. The group shared ideas about recruiting volunteers to assist with planning and fundraising for these events. No decisions made or events scheduled at this time.

b. Hot Lunch Planning

- Currently the Hot Lunch role is vacant. Mr. Moreau asked about uptake on orders, shared that it was largely dependent on food options, but popular options can see upwards of 80% participation. Subway and Boston Pizza are the most popular choices. Wok Box had poor uptake, especially with younger grades. Lindsay and Heather volunteered to organize 1st Hot Lunch through Munch a Lunch. Target to hold the third week of October.

9. Next Meeting:

- Thursday October 17 at 6:30 pm

10. Adjournment – Amanda adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.