

Oak-Land Junior High PTA

Meeting: 2/22/10

1. Welcome / Introductions

2. Principal's Report

- Andy Yitalo will participate in the MN High School Math League State Tournament. Congratulations, Andy!
- Sarah Jamieson and Mary Adamle are hosting a 7th grade Honors English “kid-conference” tonight in the building. Students are presenting information in individual classrooms, based on areas of interest.
- Technology Update...
 - * \$300,000 annual budget for 7-12 technology
 - * Not enough to provide a \$900 laptop to each child at O-L and SJHS
 - * Several options were seriously considered which would have provided laptops to some students, but none of the options were equitable, and none of the options provided what we really wanted.
 - * The future, for now, in this district will rely on web-based applications (Google Apps and Moodle).
 - * We will rely on district and student-owned wireless devices that can access these web resources.
 - * Student learning and the quality of our program must be the core of what we do.
 - * Increasing the use of Google Apps and Moodle opportunities with more broad use of student-owned equipment cannot be regarded as negative.
 - * Is it different? Yes, but that does not mean that student learning will be less.
 - * We will look for ways to maintain the things that made O-L different because of the one-to-one laptop program. Problems must be viewed as creative opportunities. Staff training is essential. Mindset must always be that this initiative is doable. The laptop is a tool, but not the magic dust that made us great.
 - * Next steps? Determine how many laptops will be purchased. Determine who uses the laptops (departments, carts, etc...). Do we create a computer lab? How and when do we revise curriculum? How do we train teachers for this model? Where do we store the computers? How do we strategically encourage student-owned machines? What are the ‘menu of opportunities’ of machines that will work?

3. Committee Reports

- Treasurer’s Report: Estimated \$4000 available for spring grant cycle. Grant applications are due by March 23. Grant review committee will meet soon after.

4. School Board Report

- No school board members were present.

5. New Business

- Dance this Friday, February 26 – Hawaiian Luau theme. NJHS will help set up decorations. NJHS and ambassadors are co-sponsoring the concessions at the dance.
- 2010-2011 officers: still looking to fill one position. Contact Trish if you are interested.
- This year, Community Education will be hosting its second annual Friday Night Live on Friday, April 23, 6:30-8:30, for current 6th graders who will be attending Oak-Land next year. "This fun event for 6th graders will include an inflatable obstacle course, open swim, games in the cafeteria and a chance to check out the Junior High School you'll be attending next year. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase..." Jason Anderson (School Age Care Coordinator with Community Ed, and former Oak-Land student), is looking for Oak-Land PTA parents (with current background checks on file with the district) willing to volunteer from 6:00-9:00 on April 23. Community Ed does a great job of organizing the event...it's very well run, and easy for the volunteers. Current Oak-Land students interested in volunteering are welcome, too.

If you are interested in volunteering for Friday Night Live, please contact Jason at andersonj@stillwater.k12.mn.us.

6. Next Meeting: APRIL 12, 2010