



Oak-Land Middle School

PTA Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fields' Principal's Report

Safety Protocols at Oak-Land:

Deputy Erickson is armed and trained. Oak-Land's greatest strength is its staff and teachers who speak up when they see something of concern. Oak-Land has great counseling, and other support, and there are consequences in place when needed. A safety team meets on a weekly basis. This safety team will soon be conducting a tabletop exercise that asks the question – "what would we do if something were to happen at Oak-Land?" Oak-Land will continue to address students who struggle - academically, socially, or with mental health. Issues are addressed so that students feel supported at school.

Principal Fields answered questions from parents in attendance.

There are plans being put into place in the event that some Oak-Land students choose to participate in the National School Walkout on March 14. Teachers will stay in the building to monitor students who do not walk out, but there will be staff present to monitor a walkout event if that was to happen. Participation at Oak-Land is expected to be limited.

Conferences:

There are two evenings of conferences this year – Thursday, March 1st and Tuesday, March 6th, both from 3-7pm. Parents are welcome to sign up for conferences on Skyward if they feel they would like a traditional 5 minute face-to-face conference. With so much information now being available via Skyward and the emails that teachers send to parents about their class's weekly agenda, it is recognized that many parents may not feel a traditional

conference is needed, but it is available for those who would like it. Teachers did send out progress reports to all students. In the case of teams of teachers who had similar concerning reports, those teams contacted those individual parents to have a session with the team. **Mr. Fields stressed that parents can always request a meeting with a teacher if they have concerns. You are not limited to conferences.**

Reading Awards:

Reading awards were given out in conjunction with the Olympics this week, in a ceremony for the 7th and 8th grade. Gift awards were given out to 3 students with the highest number of reading minutes, and given to the advisory class with the highest number of collective minutes. A special reading of the Dr. Seuss book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go" rounded out the ceremony. Next week, 6th grade will have their ceremony.

PTA Business:

We continued a discussion that began at the last PTA meeting about how we might wish to change the focus of the PTA going forward. Ideas were shared:

- Move toward a more true parent-teacher organization, and lessen the fundraising function of the group.
- PTA would fund staff appreciation
- PTA meetings quarterly.
- Meetings would still have a school update from Principal Fields, but each meeting would have an additional focus that would change each time – maybe one meeting may feature a presentation by the math teachers about the middle school math curriculum, maybe at another meeting you learn about the middle school social studies curriculum, etc.
- Plan family events that may change from year to year – ideas included - Back to School Picnic, Homecoming picnic, ice skating in Bayport or Afton, rollerskating, Twins/Saints/Timberwolves family outings.... Maybe start with two events next year.

More firm plans will be made at the next PTA meeting. **Please attend to share your thoughts!!! What would YOU like the PTA to be about?**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 18, 6:30pm.