



William B. Ogden PTA

Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 8:45 AM

East Campus Cafeteria~ 24. W Walton, Chicago, IL

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting called to order by: Melissa Smejkal

Roll call and verification of quorum

Approval of agenda

Welcoming of guests and new board members

Melissa Smejkal, President

Gwen Miglio, Co Vice President

Dinna Trovero, Co Vice President

Angie Verros, Treasurer

Miranda Semb, Secretary

Email for correspondence: OgdenPTA2016@gmail.com

In Attendance:

Parents: Melissa Smejkal, Gwen Miglio, Dinna Trovero, Lisa Ahmad, Patty Kopitas, Candice Warltier, Amanda Mitchell, Miranda Semb, Amanda Longton, Katherine Viher, Betsy Olesker Tomas, Rebecca Wells, Joanne Fox, Melissa Cook, Sophie Baal, Rebecca Wells, Lori Smedley, Rachel Hegarty, Kathy Farrow, Susie Janner, Lynn Brahin, Rahel Kebed, Maria Trillo, Sonal Bhatt, Shereen Moolayil, Tanya Gill, Gena Love, Genia Rackos, Geraldine Hernandez Abisoror, Lloyd Hervey II, Amanda Khoury, Vandi Pagany, Calandra and Albert Rhodes, Sarah Anderson, Betsy Tomas, Lauren Kurtz, Latha Soorya, Krista LaFrenz, Holly Blankstein, Jennifer Cantu, Sara Pinchback, Stephanie Baker, Angela Cameli, Maureen Brusznicki, Jaclyne Wallace, Yongzhen Zhang, Ashley Barnes, Michele Berman, Amanie Ghantous, Jennifer Yak, Asmaa Kh Al Bejan, Helen Belmonte, Teachers/Administration: Principal Michael Beyer, AP Cara Kranz (55)

Previous Meeting Minutes: N/A

Reports:

- Treasurer Report: Balance of \$2,300

First donation of the year given to the Spanish Department for \$500

Our annual goal this year is \$20,000.

Budget passed

New Business

- We are always looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of capacities, no matter how much/little time you can spare (e.g. distributing flyers to classrooms, copying flyers for distribution; helping for event set up, working the event, take down; keeping our popcorn maker and hotdog machine in tip top shape; ideas).
- Please consider signing up to be a PTA member, the cost is \$20 for the year and blue forms are located in the front office, cash or check are accepted and in the near future credit card payments may be made via the school website. Mark any correspondence PTA, the office staff have access to a PTA mailbox.
- Scales and Tales is our next event Friday September 16th

Volunteers needed from 2pm for set up

Volunteers needed to work the event (selling food items such as popcorn, hotdogs, concessions, etc.) 3.30pm – 4.45pm

Volunteers for clean-up 4.45pm – approximately 5.05pm depending on how messy!

Cost: \$5 per person

- International Week – Candice Warltier (cwarltier@communication-strategies.com), please write “International Week” in the subject line of any communication)

Be a part of this brand new week-long event! A committee is being formed with a first meeting to take place early October. If you are interested, please email Candice (see above).

This part fundraiser, part celebration needs a fun name!

Vision: Kids will be entrenched in learning about cultures which may be new to them. Ogden is incredibly lucky to have kids in attendance from all corners of the world, we should encourage them to learn from each other.

Goal is to elaborate on this cultural exchange both in the classroom (help support teachers, art project ideas, etc.) and perhaps at after-school events as well.

The week would culminate with a big celebration on the Friday (food? Kids setting up tables for different countries?)

Ideas welcomed! Even if you have very little time, but would like to contribute ideas, etc. please consider it as a lot of the planning will necessarily happen via email.

- Ogden Wear

Had a great idea generated by a couple of parents about researching vendors both for t-shirts but also for iron-on or sew-on patches with the Ogden logo that kids could use to accessorize! Another idea led from that one that we could have an event based around placing patches on wardrobe items and enhance with other decorative items as well.

- Box Tops: Betsy Olesker Tomas (betsyotomas@me.com)

Kleenex boxes will be placed in each of the classrooms into which the kids can deposit their box tops. There will be a friendly competition to see which class collects most box tops and a prize will be given!

We could potentially collect \$20,000 annually from box tops so let's get collecting. **Anyone who can help Betsy collect box tops from the supplies dropped off this year, please contact her.**

- Committee for creating PTA fundraiser events specific to 4th and 5th grade (Betsy Tomas betsyotomas@me.com)

These would be run simultaneously with the current PTA events but would be tailored to the older kids and offered at an alternate location.

Ideas include: Game night; I-pad Minecraft; Babysitting Certification Class; Lego construction; CPR training; Rainbow Loom; Duct Tape Jewelry and yoga

These require LSC approval to move forward

Students will need to pre-register and secure their spot with pre-payment (typically \$5 possibly more for certification classes)

The first event would be a Halloween Themed Craft Event on Friday, October 28th in lieu of the Halloween Costume Dance

Please contact Betsy if you have other ideas and/or want to help!

- "Empower Me" Speaker Series – Dinna (dtrovero@icloud.com)

- Series will provide adults with insight to better understand a variety of topics.

This will comprise of a series of speaker events

1st Event – October 25th

- ✓ What is IB? What are the benefits, how does it work in practice, how does it support learning?

Other ideas:

- ✓ How to find a technology class
- ✓ How to find the perfect summer camp

Ideas and Volunteers are welcome so please contact Dinna for more information!

- Questions and Answers

- ✓ What is the difference between Friends and PTA?

The room parent for each room will serve *all groups* as a class liaison officer.

Both groups work in alignment; generally, Friends focuses more on adult geared events and PTA puts on kid events (some exceptions). Both groups raise money for the school (e.g. smartboards, chrome books, etc.)

Both groups have an application process to request funding for school items, you can find contact information on the Ogden website/organizations.

- ✓ Can we bring in an expert on math, reading, etc. funded by the PTA?

We love ideas, please present your ideas in email with research and costs, etc. and they will carefully considered!

- ✓ Can we have a “Woo-Hoo” bin? Idea for a movable cart with perks for teachers to raise moral and make their day. Could include coke/pepsi, snacks, etc. More ideas? This was a very popular suggestion and is being implemented! First trolley service Friday 16th at 1pm!! If people want to contribute small items that can be added to the cart, please let us know so we can check contents before it sets off on its round (ideas could include small soaps, quality chocolates, etc.)

It was pointed out that there is a Teacher Appreciation Week that went very well last year, the teachers had breakfasts and lunches provided for the entire week from PTA, Friends, etc, maybe communicating this week a little bit more would help raise awareness and donations for this special week?

- ✓ Previous years have seen a big difference in the type of party held by different classrooms. Some have had games and food while others have had nothing. Is there a way to make this more equitable?

Room parent communication will help, are there any other ways this could happen? Is it feasible that kids ‘visit’ with other classrooms on that particular day? Ideas?

- ✓ Can we elaborate on the International Week and once a month highlight a country and culture?

Absolutely, if we have parental input, helping to gather information, etc. parents willing to come in and speak, etc. Use a display board? Etc. Is there anyone who would like to spearhead this??

- ✓ Can we have kosher hotdogs?

Our hotdogs are donated, but if anyone else can find a way to have kosher hotdogs donated or would like to donate themselves, that would be great! We need to do maintenance on the hotdog machine so if anyone would like to come forward and be hot dog guru that would be great!

The other food we typically have for sale at PTA events is cheese pizza along with the concessions that are sometimes controversial but sell well for this fundraising event (cookies, various chips, water, cotton candy, ice pops – we will be getting the smaller version of these from now on). Healthier options are usually cost prohibitive we have found although we continue to investigate these alternatives. Our Treasurer, Angie Verros has been fundamental in bringing more gym and recess time to the school and she is interested in investigating healthier food options as well. Ideas always welcomed from everyone on this!

- Membership

At our meeting today we welcomed 43 new members! We received monies in the amount of: \$120 in checks and \$740 in cash (total \$860) which will be deposited today. Thank you for becoming members and please keep updated (and encourage others to keep up to date) by:

Reading these minutes!

Referring to the Ogden website: [ogden.cps.edu / organizations / PTA](http://ogden.cps.edu/organizations/PTA)

Referring to the PTA Facebook page (button located on PTA link above)

Upcoming Events (full list on Ogden website):

<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Scales and Tales Traveling Zoo	Friday, September 16th
Empower Me Speaker series	October 25 th (details tbd)
Halloween Costume Dance	Friday, October 28th
Safe Halloween Costume Parade	Monday, October 31st

Old Business

- No old business

Next meeting is: October 3rd **3.30pm** (see below for full schedule)

Meeting times are being rotated so as to hopefully make it more convenient for parents and teachers to be able to attend. Please make sure to check the time of the next meeting as well as the date!

Meeting adjourned at: 9.30am

Minutes compiled by: Miranda Semb, Secretary

Upcoming Meeting Dates	Meeting Time
October 3 rd , 2016	3.30pm
November 7 th 2016	6pm
December 5 th 2016	8.30am
January 9 th , 2017	3.30pm
February 6 th , 2017	6pm
March 6 th , 2017	8.30am
April 3 rd , 2017	3.30pm
May 1 st , 2017	6pm
June 5 th , 2017	8.30am