

Orange HS PTSO meeting minutes 9/14/21

14 participants including principal, 2 VPs, PTSO officers, and parents.

Welcome, intro's - led by Jessie Kelly

Treasurers Report:

- See report attached below: Many easy ways to contribute (see below)!
- Fidelity! Received a check for \$1000 from Fidelity charitable grant!
- Membership information will be updated by September 26 memberships so far this year!
- Remember teachers can join for free.
- Report approved.

Updates from Principal Johnson.

- Not too many student discipline issues.
- Missing several teachers across different departments, so class sizes must be bigger. We have lost some square footage in classroom, so some rooms feel crowded.
- Students are adjusting but tired. He is concerned about his freshmen and wants to work on strategies to support them.
- Staff is also very tired. Averaging 8-12 teachers out per day. We have very few subs so teachers are having to provide cross coverage.
- Principals across the district are having the same troubles.
- Jessie asking if anything we can do to help. **Mr. Johnson says if we can just get folks to sign up as substitutes Direct link to page here <https://www.orangecountyfirst.com/Page/87>: There is a one day training that is being offered once a month.** For questions, ask Kim Woodell, rockstar sub!!
- He is going to think about other ways that we can perhaps help.
- We need outdoor seating we can get. Got 19 new tables today! 350-400 kids at lunch - **could use 10 more picnic tables - metal tables ideal, but any kind will be appreciated.** .
- Students bringing camp chairs may be a possibility down the road, but Mr. Johnson wants us to have a student parking lot plan before we offer that option.

Fundraiser Updates:

- **Mini Grants:**
Applications opened on Sept 2 and will close this friday. 3 applications so far. Cultural arts counsleing office and english departments. We can fund up to 5 grants for \$300 each. Beverly, Kim R and will review applications and then present to principal johnson. He sent a reminder to staff. They have received 2 communications and a flyer in mailboxes and teacher and staff breakfast.
- **Grocery Store Loyalty Cards:**
 - [Harris Teeter](#) and [Food Lion](#)

- Amazon Smiles (smile.amazon.com) (select charitable organization and select Orange HS as charity)

Old Business:

- Welcome Breakfast: for teachers and staff was enjoyed and successful with lots and lots of food. Teachers were so thankful. Plan to do it again next year. Will do something similar for teacher appreciation in May.

New Business:

Transportation:

- **Walking path for neighborhoods right around the school:**

Kim W. did some research: background: we are all concerned about car lines. She lives behind the football field. When they put in the geothermal they put up a fence. The fence is still there - used to be able to walk to school. Blocking walkers and contributing to congestion in car lines. She asked maintenance and they said have them take the bus. Hope to create access - she has a slide presentation. There are at least 43 kids at OHS and OMS that could walk vs get in the car line! Mr. Johnson has asked to have the fence taken down, but was told it is for security. Kim has a wonderful slide presentation showing 4 distinct possibilities to create walking access from neighborhoods: .

Site 1 - is an old path - just spruce it up?

Site 2 at a corner - fence is damaged anyway - could we add a gate?

Site 3 - off Latta - just high grass and weeds. A couple of obstacles but basically flat - comes out at Ag barn. Has an 8 ft area that might need a bridge.

Site 4 - is it HS property? A wooded flat area at corner of Harold Latta and OHS Road. a little hilly, and come out at parking lot.

Mr. Johnson has had conversations with district and they are willing to pay for supplies and equipment, but absolutely do not have the personnel to provide the labor. Could it be an Eagle Scout or community project? No timeline - Mr. Johnson would love to take Kim's presentation and get it on the calendar. Patrick Abele. Mr. Johnson will give him a call in the morning.

- **Busses and car line:**

Trying to approve more bus drivers. Are they arriving late at the high school? Yes - 2 busses are persistently late. Some kids are not getting home until 6. Several substitutes and a chronic shortage.

Morning routes delayed - due to driver shortage. Adding more students daily (1000 added in the past 2 weeks). One bus has to take 2 loads of high schoolers. Have there been conversations about consolidating HS and MS routes? Concern is the logistics. 2 years ago, it was done here. Jill Muson has asked and was told no. The routes are too long.

Mini Grant for clubs: some student clubs are having a hard time fundraising - could we have a mini grant program for the clubs/student organizations? Would love to be able to support the students in that way. Perhaps we take a small group of people to expand the idea out and present to the group at a later date. We have some time.
If anyone wants to join in this effort, email the OHSPTSO gmail.

If any suggestions, ideas, concerns, comments, contact Jessie directly! We appreciate Mr. Johnson and the staff. We want to be successful and safe. Mr. Johnson says that means a lot to for parents to recognize how difficult this is.