



OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 **TIME:** 5:33 pm-5:59 pm **FACILITATOR:** Heather Raines, President

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Kerri Oakley, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

Heather Raines, President, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. 16 total PTA members in attendance, including 1 principal, 3 board members, and 3 staff members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Dagenhart reports that report cards went out last week, if your student did not receive his/her report card, please check your Infinite Campus app. Numerous assessments are occurring at this time or coming up soon including Mclass, iReady, and ESL testing so please keep noise to a minimum if you are visiting the building.

She also extended gratitude to the Oakwood PTA, Oakley Building Co, and Andy Lawhon for putting in the new sidewalk that allows improved accessibility to the lower playground from the building. Ms. Dagenhart also reported that Susanna Dean, a former Oakwood student and Girl Scout Gold Award candidate, will be starting her project soon to install a gaga pit in the lower playground as well as a painting area for the upper playground. Ms. Holbrook's son will soon be starting an Eagle Scout project including Oakwood history. Lastly, if your student is interested in signing up for the science fair, please know that the deadline is the end of January for signing up.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kerri Oakley, secretary, presented October meeting minutes for approval. Heather Raines made a motion to approve the October minutes. Audrey Mazzoli seconded the motion. PTA members were in favor of approving minutes and no one opposed. October minutes were approved.

BUDGET

FINANCE REPORT: Heather Raines, President, presented the treasurer report stating that the current balance is \$8,080.80 available funds. That does not include a credit from Cranford Brothers BBQ spirit night in October which is \$500 and El Paso's check from November. Domino's will be credited at the end of the school year.

BOARD UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The current membership is 118. All magnets have been distributed, if you did not receive a magnet with your membership, please let a board member know and we will get one to you as soon as possible.

ACTION: PTA members should continue encouraging Oakwood families to join PTA. To determine level of membership, click the link <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/join-pta>.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS/GENERAL UPDATES

YEARBOOKS: Tiffany Gutshall is the committee chair. Heather Raines, president, presented the update. The art contest winners for the yearbook cover were anonymously selected by the directors from the Hickory Museum of Art. The winners are as followed: Zady Glasby, Ms. Little; Mary Katherine Bartles, Kindergarten; Harper Degerstrom, First Grade; Aribella Jonas, Second Grade; Hayden Turner, Third Grade; Autumn Oakley, Fourth Grade; Eden Taylor, Fifth Grade; and overall winner Hayden Turner. Each grade level winner will have his/her artwork on the back cover and the overall winner will be displayed on the front cover. Please continue to use the website to upload school related photos to be used in the yearbook at any time (i.e., field trips, social events, academic events, etc.).

ACTION: Purchase upload photos here <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/events-updates>

PTA PALS: Crystal Sigmon is the committee chair. PTA pals is a way for PTA members to “sponsor” or “adopt” a staff member to show our appreciation with a monthly treat, no more than \$10, October to May. 51 Oakwood staff members will fill out a “favorite things” form as a guide to receive a treat anytime during the month. We are still waiting for two lists from staff. Reminder to provide a gift each month.

ACTION: Sign up to “adopt” an Oakwood staff member at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BA4A928A5FBC16-57650103-ptapals#/>

SOCIAL EVENTS: Blakely DeBose is the committee chair. Heather Raines, president, presented the update. Winter Social is next Thursday, January 22nd, from 4:30-6:00 at First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. Spring Fest will be May 1st, 2026. This is a fun, free event held outside at the school, open to the public, which includes bounce houses, balloon artists, food trucks, vendors, etc. If you would like to volunteer for any event, please sign up using the link below.

ACTION: Volunteer or view upcoming social events here: <https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/s-projects-basic>

GROUNDS: Heather Raines presented on grounds updates. She reinitiated that a sidewalk leading down to the upper grade playground/soccer field from the covered area has been constructed in collaboration by Oakley Building Co. and Lawhon Properties and Forestry Mulching over Christmas break. The Coin War fundraiser will go towards costs of the concrete.

ACTION: Stay up to date with campus beautification or donate to general funds here:
<https://www.oakwoodelempta.com/s-projects-side-by-side>

CORPORATE SPONSORS: Alison Teague, committee chair, presented updates. Banners are now on display for corporate sponsors. If you are a corporate sponsor and have a new logo, please reach out to a board member so we can get your banner updated.

ACTION: Visit the website or social media sites for updated corporate sponsor mentions.

OTHER BUSINESS

The PTA will sponsor its third school assembly in January, which is called the Magic of Science which will demonstrate science experiments that resemble magic. The second assembly was a bird of prey show which displayed and exhibited hawks, owls, and falcons with a falconer providing facts and answering student questions. If you have an idea for an assembly for next year, please talk to a board member or Ms. Dagenhart. Field Day preparation is starting. The date will be April 17th, rain or shine. If there is rain, it will take place at the school, if there is no rain, it will take place at the Hickory YMCA. If you or any family members are able to



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volunteer, please go ahead and mark your calendars and ensure the volunteer form has been submitted with HPS.

Science Fair theme is “futuristic.” PTA will be assisting with decorations and providing a prize for the winner which usually includes Hickory Crawdad’s tickets. PTA is also asking for members to bring in folding tables any time prior to the event to use for displaying student projects.

While the PTA is not hosting the school talent show, we will be providing a meal for the participants. This is scheduled for April.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

The next Stress Free Lunch opportunity is February 9th. To sign up, visit the website or the link listed below. Teacher lunch will be “tailgate” theme. If anyone has a suggestion for catering, please speak to a board member. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BA4A928A5FBC16-57646885-stress#/>

Spirit Nights are opportunities for families to support Oakwood in the community. This information can also be found on the website. See QR code below for Domino’s Spirit Night information, which is always the third Tuesday of every month. The next spirit night is at Chicken Salad Chic on Thursday, January 15th from 5-8 pm.



Also of note, Oakwood is participating in Box Tops for Education. Please use the QR code below to sign up so we can earn money for the school through the purchase of everyday products.



Merger update information sent by Duane Kirkman, former superintendent, which includes the following important dates:

January 20: first Commissioners meeting of 2026 at Justice Center, 7:00

January 29: Candidates for County Commissioner Forum at Newton Library at 6:00

February 2, 16 and March 2: Commissioners Meetings, at Justice Center at 7:00

March 3: Primary for County Commissioner to determine candidates for the fall 2026 election

NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Our next General PTA Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at 5:30pm in the Oakwood Cafeteria. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. No meeting in February.