



OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025 **TIME:** 5:37 pm- 6:24 pm **FACILITATOR:** Heather Raines, President

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Kerri Oakley, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

Heather Raines, President, called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. 25 total PTA members in attendance, including 1 principal, 3 board members, and 3 staff members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Dagenhart reports that Oakwood has several new staff members/teachers this year. All the teachers are now working hard with beginnings of classroom instruction and preparing for third grade BOGs on September 10th and mClass window for K-3 students starts September 3rd. Immunizations are due September 23rd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BUDGET

FINANCE REPORT: Heather Raines, President, presented the treasurer report stating that the current balance is \$6,990.92 available funds. We have received \$2,250.00 from corporate sponsors for this school year so far. Teacher birthday gifts have been purchased for around \$800.00.

BOARD UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The current membership is 82. There will be a raffle this year to promote membership. A drawing will be held where a random member will win a basket with oakwood swag as well as some other goodies.

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>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/GENERAL UPDATES

YEARBOOKS: Tiffany Gutshall is the committee chair. Tier 3 members receive a free hardback yearbook with their membership. Fifth graders will receive a free softback yearbook but can be upgraded for free to a hardback with a Tier 3 membership or \$5 without a Tier 3 membership. Yearbooks are already for sale on the website for current pricing until December 31st, 2025. Prices will increase slightly after starting January 1st, 2025. Please 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.). Tiffany Gutshall will ensure children have a photo release to allow his/her photo in the yearbook. Also of note, we will be doing a yearbook cover art contest this year. Every



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student will have a chance to participate during art class and a representative from the Hickory Museum of Art will judge the winner, as well as art to represent each grade level.

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

PTA PALS: Crystal Sigmon is the new 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.

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. Trunk or treat will be October 23rd, 2025 in the Oakwood parking lot. If you would like to sign up for a “trunk” visit the website. Candy donations may be available for trunks. Winter Social will be January 23rd, 2026 and Spring Fest will be May 1st, 2026.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS: Staff birthday gifts have been ordered. If anyone would like to chair the birthday gift coordination, please reach out to a PTA board member.

T-shirts/swag are available on the PTA website. Orders will be taken through September 17th, 2025. When ordering, include the oldest child’s name to maximize efficiency with distribution.

Battle of the PTOs will be September 5th and 6th at the Hickory Crawdads Game. You should have received flyers in Tuesday folders with discount tickets. Whoever has the most attendees will receive a cash prize.

Stress Free Lunch is an opportunity for PTA members to volunteer each month to monitor lunch time so teachers can have a quiet break to eat a provided meal. There are three 45 minute blocks to cover with a back-up person to cover any last minute absences. To sign up, visit the website. There will be a new committee called Hospitality committee that will oversee the monthly teacher meal. This will include managing the meal/set-up/clean-up/etc., but not paying for the meal. If you would like to volunteer as Hospitality chair, please see a PTA board member.

Spirit Nights are opportunities for families to support Oakwood in the community. There was a hard copy calendar of dates and locations for 2025-2026 sent out at the beginning of the year. This information can also be found on the website. Domino’s required a monthly commitment, which will be the third Tuesday of every month (can be carryout or delivery). Other opportunities include Cranford Brothers BBQ, El Paso, and Salsarita’s. Typically, the school will receive a portion of sales for the day or evening, so be sure to let them know you are with Oakwood. See QR code below for Domino’s Spirit Night information.





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Walk to School Day is a nationally recognized event that takes place on October 1st, 2025! We will be meeting at Holy Trinity or the YMCA soccer field parking lots to walk to school as a group (bring your Oakwood swag and posters to celebrate). Please see the website or social media for more information.

The grounds beautification is ongoing! The PTA is responsible for any additional grounds upkeep beyond what Hickory City Schools does; this includes flower beds. Susanna Dean, a former Oakwood student and Girl Scout Gold Award candidate, has offered to provide a gaga pit, sunshade, and paint project for the playground. The PTA has offered to fund part of the project with money raised for the grounds. Heather Raines, president, is hoping to get more clarification and information at the district wide PTA meeting tomorrow.

Corporate Sponsors can sign up on the website at three different levels (Acorn \$250, Oak \$500, Blue Jay \$1000). Each sponsor will have their logo on two banners on the campus as well as social media exposure. There is a letter with more information to describe Oakwood's Corporate Sponsor program. If a business needs an invoice or receipt, a committee chair is needed to send those out. If you would like to volunteer as Corporate Sponsor chair, please see a PTA board member.

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.



NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Our next General PTA Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, at 5:30pm in the Oakwood Cafeteria. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.