



Jan. 29, 2025

Owasso Parents & Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to reach out to you today with some information regarding a situation that occurred with one of our Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs), as well as to provide clarity around PTO finances and their relationship with Owasso Public Schools.

School administrators at Morrow Elementary notified parents yesterday that discrepancies had been found in the Morrow PTO account following a review of financial records. Upon this discovery, district leaders and school administrators immediately took action by launching an internal investigation. Based on those findings, the district notified the Owasso Police Department and a police report was completed and filed yesterday.

First, I want to make it clear that OPS takes this matter very seriously and we are fully cooperating with OPD as they conduct their investigation. While I am deeply disappointed that this situation has occurred, I want to express my gratitude to the school administrators at Morrow who acted swiftly and brought this situation to light. Finally, I want to emphasize that the actions which prompted the need for police involvement were that of a single individual who is no longer involved with the PTO and I am grateful to the current Morrow PTO Board for continuing to serve through this challenging time.

As we move forward together, here are a few important things to keep in mind:

**PTO Oversight / Management of Funds:** Each of the PTOs in Owasso Public Schools are separate organizations, similar to an athletics booster club or fine arts booster club, and the district is not responsible for the management of site PTO funds. PTO funds are overseen by parents who have been elected by the parents of that school.

**Funding:** Owasso Public Schools receives state and federal funding and also is supported by school bonds. PTO accounts do not contain any of these dollars and are completely separate from district funds. All of the money in PTO accounts is raised by parents and students through a variety of fundraisers such as walkathons, Popcorn & Pickle Day, Hat Day, chocolate bar sales, etc.

**Audits:** OPS is audited annually by an independent, private-sector accounting and auditing firm and those reports are presented each year to the Owasso Board of Education by that independent firm. You can view those audits for each of the last five years on our website [here](#). Because PTOs are separate organizations, their accounts are not part of that annual independent audit.



# Owasso Public Schools

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**OPS Action:** District administrators are in the process of reviewing financial protocols related to site PTOs to enhance oversight within those organizations and prevent any similar issues in the future.

We are grateful for the PTOs at each of our school sites who have always been committed to supporting the school community by raising funds for programs, resources, and activities that enhance the educational experience of Owasso students, and we look forward to continuing those important partnerships.

If you have any questions regarding the PTO at your child's school, please contact your site principal.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for your continued support of the district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret Coates  
Superintendent