

What Is The Oak Grove School Board?

The following individuals are current members of the Oak Grove School Board (OGSB):

• Meredy Benson Rice	2008-09 Head of School
• Michael Morton	Parent
• Tom Heggstad	KFA Trustee, Parent
• Kim Gair	Assistant Director, Interim Associate Head, Parent
• Tony Winecoff	Parent
• Joy Maguire-Parsons	Enrollment Director, Parent
• Willem Zwart	Interim Associate Head, Teacher
• Mark Lee	KFA Executive Director
• Frode Steen	KFA Trustee
• Ellen Hall	Past Head of School
• Carole Smith	Community Member
• Derek Dodds	KFA Budget Director, alternate KFA member
• Craig Walker, Chair	KFA Trustee

As you can see, five members are parents of children attending Oak Grove School, four are KFA Trustees, five are members of the OGS faculty and staff, and two are Ojai community members with past ties to Krishnamurti's schools. Although OGSB members do not officially represent any group, the Board is a good balance of parents, staff, KFA Trustees, and community members.

Candidates were selected by the school board's Nominating Committee, which was made up of the previous Head of School (Ellen Hall), KFA Executive Director (Mark Lee), and OGSB Chair (Craig Walker). Nominees are approved by the whole School Board.

Responsibilities of the OGSB

The Oak Grove School Board was developed by the KFA Education Committee during the first half of 2007, and held its first meeting last September. Although the KFA cannot legally give away its ultimate responsibility for the school, it is the intent of the KFA to delegate to the OGSB primary responsibility for overseeing the operation of the school. Most of the day-to-day responsibility for running the school already belongs to the Head of School. The KFA still retains its legal responsibility for hiring the Head of the School, but only intervenes in the school's governance if actions taken by the school impact the KFA as a whole or violate the intent of the school.

Not an Advisory Board

The OGSB is not an advisory board. Like the Head of School position, the OGSB has been delegated real power to oversee the operation of the school. Decisions by the OGSB (and Head of School) are communicated to the KFA Trustees in a report, and those involving the budget, facilities, legal issues, etc., must be ratified by the Trustees, but the KFA does not consider these issues independently. OGSB decisions are not just recommendations.

OGSB Committees

The Oak Grove School Board will be setting up its own Committees that will be advisory in nature. These include a Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee, Facilities and Grounds Committee, Intent of the School Committee, etc. These committees will be made up of OGSB members and others who wish to volunteer and help the OGSB with its work.

turn over for KFA Board Information

About The KFA Board of Trustees

The Krishnamurti Foundation of America (KFA) not only includes Oak Grove School, but also Krishnamurti Publications of America, a Krishnamurti Library and Archive, a Krishnamurti Retreat, and several gatherings and outreach programs during the year. The Foundation manages 175 acres of land and several Foundations buildings in addition to those used by the school. The KFA recently embarked on a project to digitize the entire Krishnamurti archive and make it available on the Internet. While the school has always been central to Krishnamurti's work, it is one part of the KFA activities.

The KFA established the OGSB, in part because the WASC Accreditation team recommended the school have its own Board, but also because the KFA felt that a Board closer to the day-to-day operation of the school would be more effective. It is for these reasons that the KFA decided to delegate most of its responsibilities to the school board. In the OGSB by-laws, at least four members of the OGSB must be KFA trustees; currently there are four KFA trustees and nine other members of the OGSB.

The Krishnamurti Foundation of America has always drawn its own Trustees from the school community as well as other backgrounds. There currently is one KFA Trustee who is also a parent at the school, but there are also ex-parents, an ex-Head of OGS, and an ex-student. All of the KFA Trustees have an interest in the school and recognize the school as central to Krishnamurti's teachings. Trustees all share an abiding interest in Krishnamurti's teachings and the work of all branches of the Foundation.

An Invitation for OGS Parents and Staff

The KFA, OGSB, and various OGSB Committees need your participation to help make the KFA and Oak Grove School successful. If you have a deep, abiding interest in Krishnamurti and the whole scope of the Foundation's work, please apply to be considered for a KFA Trustee position. If your interest is primarily in the school, and you have the time to devote a minimum of one year as an OGSB member, please consider submitting your name as a candidate for the OGSB. If you have expertise or a strong interest in supporting a specific area of the school you are most welcome to submit your name for an OGSB Committee position. Standing OGSB Committees currently include: Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee, Facilities and Grounds Committee, and Intent of the School Committee.

If You Have Questions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the following people:

- Craig Walker, OGSB Chair, KFA Secretary, 798-1573, CraigW9953@aol.com
- Michael Morton, OGSB member, Michael@nourishamerica.org
- Mark Lee, OGSB member, KFA Trustee, KFA Executive Director marklee@kfa.org
- Willem Zwart, Interim Associate Head of School, willem@oakgroveschool.com
- Kim Gair, Interim Associate Head of School, kimgair@hotmail.com

If You Would Like To Apply for the KFA Board or the Oak Grove School Board

Send an email to Craig Walker, OGSB Chair, at CraigW9953@aol.com