

OceanAvenuePTO

Engaging People. Building Community.

OAPTO Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16, 2015

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

Called by: Nanette Dyer Blake, OAPTO President

Number in Attendance: 20 OAES community members

Location: OAES Library

I. Welcome/Introductions/Overview (Nanette Dyer Blake, President)

- Stay informed about PTO happenings – visit oapto.org and don't forget to sign up for the PTO's weekly email blasts
- Next PTO meeting will be on Wed. May 20th from 7:30am to 8:30am – childcare is provided, refreshments will be served and the OAES choir will perform
- Tomorrow is the last day to fill out the PPS Parent Survey

II. Approval of the Minutes (Erica Sabatino, Secretary)

- OAES community members voted to approve the March 2015 PTO meeting minutes as written

III. Staff of the Month (Julie Contreras-Lannon, Nominating Director)

- PTO recognized Custodian Rick Nugent – thank you to Rick for making our school a better, healthier place to be for everyone

IV. Shout Out for Stand Outs (Tobin Scipione, Volunteer Director)

- Thank you to Alison Gorman, Erin Macey, Jenny Carrigan, Aviva Shaw and Aysun Simpson for providing homemade soups for teacher/parent conferences

V. Guest Speaker: Sally Mitchell, OAES Art Teacher

- OAES Art Teacher Sally Mitchell presented the arts curriculum that is offered to students in grades K-5 at OAES
- Mrs. Mitchell also teaches students at Peaks Island Elementary School
- In Kindergarten, the focus is on primary and secondary colors:
 - The curriculum is tied into literacy (i.e., Mrs. Mitchell reads a book such as *Harold and the Purple Crayon* for each art project)
- In grades 1-4, she builds on art concepts learned the year before
- More advanced materials are introduced as the kids get older and lessons include art vocabulary
- In 5th grade, the projects are based on the elements of art:
 - Line, form, value, shape, color and texture
 - Students start out with lines and linear landscapes

- Value lesson includes shape, line and form
 - End of the year project is a Winslow Homer watercolor scene
 - Students have a journal that they keep
- Mrs. Mitchell ties in her curriculum to key International Baccalaureate (IB) concepts (i.e., there is a map of the world that shows where artists are from and artists from around the world are studied)
- Art Club is offered afterschool for 5th graders, usually 12 students – there are 5 or 6 different concentrations that run for 3 weeks at a time
- Mrs. Mitchell demonstrated a lesson that she uses with 3rd graders – students study The Circus by Henri Matisse which uses organic shapes to tell a story – this is a three-week project
- A parent asked what kinds of programs are available outside of school to foster a student’s interest in art:
 - Oakstreet Studios, Maine College of Art (can be a little intense), Free Friday Nights at Portland Museum of Art, summer art camps such as Art Camp at PATHS
- Middle schools in Portland do not offer art class
- Mrs. Mitchell provided an update on the Side x Side federal grant that OAES will benefit from next fall:
 - Side x Side will provide an art education program that enhances a classroom’s area of study
 - The grant will help teachers bring in specialists that work in different areas
 - It fits in well with IB and all grade levels will benefit
 - Side x Side will hold workshops with OAES teachers this fall

VI. OAES Updates (Dr. Beverly Coursey, Principal)

- Dr. Coursey has been attending the Maine Principal Association’s Legislation Committee in Augusta to give feedback on education bills and laws
- Count Me In program is helping to change our school’s approach to attendance:
 - If a student misses 3 or 4 days of school, the teacher reaches out to the family
 - The teacher reaches out again when a student has missed 7 days of school
 - If a student is absent more than that Dr. Coursey calls the family
 - If a student is absent 3 days in a row Nurse Laurie calls the family
 - Dr. Coursey said that one of the most frequent reasons she hears from parents regarding a child’s absenteeism is “my child didn’t want to go to school today” or “my child wanted to stay home with me”
- Welcome to Melissa West our new school secretary
- OAES also has a new lunchroom staff person
- Dr. Coursey would like help from parents with drafting the Success Plan for next year – focus is on student achievement
- June 9th is a literacy night to kick-off summer reading
- June 19th is the last day of school with a 12pm dismissal
- OAES is struggling with a lack of substitute teachers
- OAES has met and exceeded its goal for the PPS Parent Survey – 39% of parents completed the survey
- Carolyn Cohen has been nominated for the Maine PE Teacher of the Year
- OAES teachers are visiting another IB school in New England
- 5th graders are writing persuasive essays – they advocated for a soccer program through their essays

VII. Finance/Budget (Chip Gavin, Treasurer)

- PTO has 28k in our operating account – we've raised 95% of our budget to date
- We met our goal for the annual appeal
- Currently developing the budget for next year
- We are looking to stabilize the PTO budget before we try to grow anymore
- We are expecting expenses for the Spring Fair/Bike Rodeo, garden committee, field trips and enrichment activities

VIII. Fundraising Report (Chip Gavin, Treasurer)

- Call banking is on April 29th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm – this is the final fundraiser for the fiscal year
- The PTO piloted call banking last year and the event was a big success
- Goal is to raise \$5,000 – open to anyone who wants to participate
- Volunteers are needed during the event - contact Volunteer Director Tobin Scipione if interested in helping

IV. Enrichment (Lisa Hicks, Enrichment Director)

- Afterschool enrichment activities are well-attended
- We are committed to not turning students away who can't afford to pay for enrichment activities – the scholarship program has worked out great
- New model we are trying this year – in the past, offerings were provided by volunteers whereas this year we are paying instructors
- Fees that we received from paying families covered the cost for the instructors and the materials – we did not need to raise additional funds
- Enrichment activities are reaching families that do not necessarily have another connection to the PTO
- Lisa is on-site during all of the activities which makes a huge difference as far as supervision goes
- One parent commented that she would rather have her kids participate in afterschool activities at OAES versus sending them to Breakwater or other programs
- Lisa will be continuing in her position as Enrichment Director next year so that she may further develop in-school and afterschool enrichment offerings

X. Community (Jeannette Wycoff, Community Building Director)

- Spring Fair/Bike Rodeo will be held on May 31st from 11am-1pm
- This is a free event with free food for all families
- Free helmets and water bottles will be given away and kids can learn about fire safety
- We would love plant donations for the Spring Fair plant sale
- Book Face Photo Contest is a tie-in with Literacy Night – prizes will be given out at Literacy Night
- Watch for info. about Planting Week in the Garden in the newsletter

XI. Communication (Katharine O'Neill, Communication Director)

- Please encourage everyone you know to sign-up for the weekly e-blast
- The PTO will put out a May/June combined newsletter

XII. Nominating (Julie Contreras-Lannon, Nominating Director)

- The PTO is excited to announce that half of our current board members are returning next year – Tobin Scipione, Chip Gavin, Allison Ayan and Lisa Hicks will all be returning
- We are currently looking for people who would like to help us sustain the organization - if you know of anyone who wants to be more active within the PTO, please contact Julie

XIII. Adjourn