

Ocean Avenue PTO

Engaging People. Building Community.

OAPTO Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2015

Time: 7:30am-8:30am

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)

- Nanette referenced our mission and meeting guidelines which are always visible to ensure a comfortable meeting for everyone
- Stay informed about PTO happenings – visit oapto.org and don't forget to sign up for the PTO's weekly email blast
- Always looking to hear from teachers and parents with feedback
- On Thurs. May 28th there will be a Capital Improvement meeting at City Hall with City Council members and School Board members
- Kindergarten registration is happening now
- On June 2nd there will be a Kindergarten Welcome at our school
- PTO is planning a summer play date for new families at the OAES playground
- Next PTO meeting is on June 9th directly following Literacy Night at 6:30pm – we'll be voting on the leadership slate for next year – childcare will be available
- May/June newsletter is coming out today
- We have two raffle prizes to give out at the end of the meeting

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

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

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

- We are still looking to fill the Communication Director and Vice President positions
- The current board has brought tremendous energy to the organization
- There is a lot to look forward to and many board members are returning for a second term
- We are an organic organization – this is good time to make changes and look at what we can do better
- Our structure has also changed – we've added more support for each director
- If you know of any kindergarten or first grade parents who may be interested in getting more involved, contact Julie at Nominating@oapto.org or julie@oapto.org

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

- Thank you to the following volunteers who helped support our Call Banking fundraising efforts – Tim Willoughby, Nancy Vashon, Kiersten Ellis, Margaret Carignan and our board helped raise \$4900 for the PTO in just 2 hours by calling friends and family and asking them to donate!
- Thank you to David Kuchta for all his hard work clearing the garden and for coordinating Planting Week so that all students can share in the garden

V. Finance/Budget (Chip Gavin, Treasurer)

- PTO has an operating budget of 36k – we are on track to meet our revenue and expense targets
- A third of our expenditures will be happening this spring - we are expecting expenses for the Spring Fair/Bike Rodeo, garden committee, field trips and enrichment activities
- We are looking to stabilize the PTO budget before we try to grow anymore
- We may be able to add to our reserves this year

VI. 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
 - There will also be face painting, a climbing wall, juggling and arts & crafts
 - Dolphin Press will be available for sale at the Spring Fair
- Planting Week starts May 27th through June 5th:
 - David Kuchta could use some volunteer help with distributing seeds to students in 45-minute blocks
 - Incoming kindergarteners will get a sunflower seed at the Kindergarten Welcome that they can plant in a new garden bed near the flagpole
- Kerri Nichols is organizing a Book Face Photo Contest as a tie-in to Literacy Night:
 - One prize per grade will be given out at Literacy Night – pictures will be posted outside the library
- Egg Drop will be on June 17th
- OAES Night at the Seadogs is on Thurs. June 18th:
 - There will be fireworks, you can enter your child to throw the first pitch, kids can walk around the bases, the choir will sing
 - Tickets will be sold through the front office and at the Spring Fair

VII. Enrichment (Lisa Hicks, Enrichment Director)

- We are trying to squeeze in more in-school enrichment before the end of the school year – 2nd graders will participate in a drumming workshop
- Lisa would like to get some ideas from teachers in order to plan offerings for next year
- She would also like to ensure that every class gets to participate in some form of in-school enrichment next year

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

- Side x Side grant is in the planning process – there will be training days for teachers on the 25th and 26th to meet with the artists – the grant is right in line with our International Baccalaureate goals
- School Success Plan is well under way – teachers and parents who attended Coffee Talk provided feedback on the plan
- OAES has hired a new school social worker for next year due to Phil Studwell retiring
- The School Board approved new start and end times for next year – OAES students will start at 8:20am and end at 2:50pm – early release will be at 1:50pm
- Our “bubble” year is moving from 2nd to 3rd grade and some teachers are retiring so there will be some moving around
- Wed. Sept. 2nd is the first day of school but there is no school that Friday
- Smarter Balanced Testing has gone fairly well – this is the last week

- The NWEA test covers 1 hour for reading and 1 hour for math – students will have a dance party to celebrate – students created lots of upbeat messaging and posters about trying their best
- OAES is hoping to be an authorized International Baccalaureate school by next spring
- Christopher Emmons, President and CEO of Gorham Savings Bank, served as Principal for a Day as part of an initiative to bring business leaders into Portland schools – thank you to Gorham Savings Bank who donated \$500 to OAES!
- Access Test Scores came back for ELL students – 15 kids scored a 6 which allows them to test out of needing ELL services
- The 5th grade trip to Boston was yesterday

IV. Teacher Updates (Lisa Crowley, Kindergarten Teacher)

- Ms. Crowley gave a brief update on Talk Science which focuses on teachers facilitating productive classroom discussions
- The second stage is called Higher Order Thinking
- Next Generation science focuses on cross-cutting concepts like patterns and cause and effect – next year students will be focusing on writing
- Next Generation science standards are being debated in Augusta right now – Ms. Crowley believes these standards are an excellent fit with our curriculum
- OAES is already ahead of the curve with science-mindedness
- Ms. Crowley attended an ELL conference where educators looked at data and test scores:
 - The younger students are, the faster they learn language
 - Once kids get to level 4 and 5, it is much harder to make gains
 - As a teacher, you want to move your students one level per year
 - It is a huge achievement that 15 kids achieved a score of 6 on the Access Test
 - Sign Up is another tool geared toward ELL students – if you're teaching about hatching eggs you also have to teach the language being learned at the same time
 - The conference was a chance to hear about what other schools are doing, i.e., Riverton is hosting Parent Academies
 - Ms. Crowley suggested that the PTO invite Brenda Gushee to speak next year

X. Dr. Paul McGovern and the OAES Choir

- The OAES Choir, under the direction of Dr. McGovern, graciously performed for the PTO
- On June 8th there will be an all-city elementary school concert that includes both band and chorus for the very first time

XI. Adjourn