

Ocean Avenue PTO

Engaging People. Building Community.

OAPTO Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2015

Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Called by: Nanette Dyer Blake, OAPTO President

Number in Attendance: 28 OAES community members

Location: OAES Library

I. Welcome (Nanette Dyer Blake, President)

- Nanette thanked the PTO for the opportunity to serve as President saying that it was a great way to interface with school staff and teachers
- Nanette referenced our mission and meeting guidelines which are always visible to ensure a comfortable meeting for everyone
- Dr. McGovern showed a drumming video of third graders playing drums and hand instruments that were bought with funds donated by the PTO
- Dr. McGovern wanted to personally thank the PTO for all the support the music program has received this year which included the world drum set and songwriting workshops for all classes

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

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

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

- PTO members voted to approve the 2015-2016 leadership slate:
 - Allison Ayan – President
 - Chip Gavin – Treasurer
 - Molly Anderson – Secretary
 - Tobin Scipione – Volunteer Director
 - Julie Contreras-Lannon – Nominating Director
 - Nanette Dyer Blake – Nominating Co-Director
 - Kerri Nicholas – Community Building Director
 - Lisa Hicks – Enrichment Director
 - Ben Grant – Fundraising Director
 - Emily Bruce – Communication Director
 - Victoria Parker and Allison Frothingham – Auction Co-Chairs

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

- This was a brand-new board position – it was lots of fun to ask people to help and receive so many positive responses
- Tobin will be serving on the board again next year in the same position
- 75 individuals volunteered a total of over 2000 volunteer hours to support PTO efforts
- 25 people helped with the Spring Fair/Bike Rodeo
- Tobin thanked the board for their service to the PTO and also recognized Nanette for the incredible amount of time and energy she put into her role as President

V. Finance/Budget (Chip Gavin, Treasurer)

- The PTO generated close to 40k in revenue this year
- Our expenses are slightly under that number which leaves a small surplus to go toward the existing reserve fund
- The incoming board will have several thousand dollars as a cushion
- Next year we are looking to stabilize the PTO budget before we try to grow anymore; we experienced tremendous growth in our first few years
- The PTO has an extra \$3,000 that we would like to donate to the library!

VI. Fundraising (John Gordon, Funding Director)

- We had a very successful fundraising year thanks to the efforts of many people – we raised \$38,000 total!
- We had 200 individual donors support the PTO
- Original Artworks raised \$3,000 – thanks to Kiersten Ellis and Margaret Carignan for coordinating
- Designing Women Craft Fair raised \$2,100 through a suggested donation at the door and selling refreshments
- Bids 4 Kids Auction raised \$20,700 including \$6,200 in sponsorships – big thanks to Cricket King and Kerri Nicholas for spearheading the event with help from Tobin Scipione
- Annual Appeal raised \$2,000
- Call Banking generated \$5,200 in less than 3 hours – 12 volunteers made calls and wrote thank you notes and receipts
- Grant writing efforts resulted in \$2,745 with grants from Whole Kids Foundation, Portland Trails and Bike Coalition of Maine – thank you to grant writer Brenda Zollitsch
- We are still selling tickets to OAES Night at the Sea Dogs

VII. Community (Jeannette Wycoff, Community Building Director)

- This year we organized the Watermelon Welcome, Spring Fair/Bike Rodeo and Teacher Appreciation efforts where we provided homemade soup during Teacher/Parent conferences
- The plant sale at the Spring Fair raised \$230
- Thank you to Kerri Nicholas for coordinating a Book Face Photo Contest – over 70% of the student body participated
- Thank you to Rob Carignan and Allison Ayan for coordinating a monthly Walk and Roll event
- Thank you David Kuchta for supporting the garden and making our campus look beautiful
 - David could use help with the garden over the summer
 - Incoming kindergarteners received a sunflower seed at the Kindergarten Welcome that they planted in a new garden bed near the flagpole
- Thank you to Brenda Zollitsch for securing a grant from Whole Kids Foundation for the garden
 - Brenda has 5 pending grants and needs specific projects for grants so please let the PTO know if you have a project idea
- The PTO is providing eggs for the Egg Drop which is next Thurs. June 18th

VIII. Communication

- We are moving away from paper communication - look for more electronic communication next year
- Also moving to a quarterly newsletter format versus a monthly newsletter
- We'll continue to post information on Facebook and there is a calendar on oapto.org that is specifically for PTO events

IX. Enrichment (Lisa Hicks, Enrichment Director)

- Arts enrichment is Lisa's expertise and this year we offered lots of in-school enrichment including:
 - Third grade physical theater residency with Gretchen Berg – each class worked with her for 6 hours to create original physical theater pieces around their "Portland, Maine" studies
 - Four-day West African drumming and dance residency for 5th graders with a final performance
 - One-day West African drumming workshop for 2nd graders
 - Two-day West African dance workshop for Kindergartners in Ms. Crowley's class
 - Four-day theater workshop where Mrs. Winship's 4th graders explored themes of justice, caring and kindness through theater
 - Lisa spent 10 weeks with the kindergartners exploring dance and music
 - Goal for next year is to get every grade and every class involved
- This year we hired artists who are experienced and know how to relate to kids
- We also paid afterschool enrichment instructors and charged a fee for those classes while also offering scholarships to students – offerings included hip hop, yoga, ukulele, art making and Dolphin Press literary magazine
- Lisa will be returning to her board position next year and one of her goals is to compile a master list of things we fund and continue to work with staff to develop new ways to work together
- It was great to develop communication with Learning Works and Portland Recreation – Lisa hopes to find ways to collaborate with both groups

X. Adjourn