

## OA Board Meeting

January 10, 2017

In attendance: Chris Dingwell, Beverly Coursey, Victoria Parker, Ben Grant, Aviva Shaw, Nancy Vachon, Scott McCauliffe, Julie Soule, Lisa Hicks

Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

Victoria: The auction planning committee has already had one auction meeting and has mapped out goals for next year's event. They will be making it easier for funders - corporate sponsors will be able to donate right on our website.

Aviva: In terms of the budget, we're doing fine; we're where we are supposed to be at this point in the year. We have \$750 grant that we have to use on the garden this year. Our total earnings from the auction continue to rise, as we continue to receive checks in the mail. She is going to look into some deposits that were made last August - not sure of source - that are listed in "other income" - \$3000. Aviva added a childcare line item. We have about \$2000 in invoices that just came in. We have \$2500 that we can still spend on Enrichment, and \$500 that has not yet been spent on Girls on the Run. Aviva did make the transfer into savings that we discussed at the last meeting, so we now have \$9000 in savings.

We talked about new teacher funding requests; voted later in meeting.

Beverly requested \$1000 to fully fund an Americorps position; that person would take the lead on OA's community engagement work, working with families, checking in on kids etc. They would work full time for the rest of the school year. Molly: this Americorps person would really help connect PTO and families, help make progress on welcoming new families, and help get a lot of work done that no one else has time to do.

Americorps was excited by Beverly's proposal. They think this idea could be replicated in other schools. The district is on-board. The person could start very soon, after the remaining \$1000 is in place.

Victoria: She is hearing that what teachers really need is books for their classroom libraries; maybe we should prioritize this over additional enrichment? Apparently when some teachers left Clifford, they took their books with them, meaning that some teachers started with no books and had to build up from there. The school library has gradually built up its collection; the focus should be on classrooms. We have \$3500 in our budget for classroom supplies that we are sitting on. Should we consider giving \$500 to every classroom?

The school also continues to need snacks. Victoria is working on getting OA signed up with the Locker Project, which would allow OA to get either weekly or monthly food deliveries. Katie at Locker Project

has just been hard to reach; Victoria and Aviva will keep reaching out to her. In the meantime, could the PTO give \$250/month to fill up a snack closet? Currently, Chris Salamone goes to a local church to get donations but they are erratic.

Beverly – General Update: provides BHP and a clinician – can't get people in. Several kids at OA have been waiting the whole school year for an external agency to hire the Behavior Health Professional and Clinician that those students need; OA has been working hard to fill in those gaps in the meantime, and the school is hoping to get some relief by having those positions filled in the next month or so.

Interviews are happening for some subs to fill in for maternity leaves – Allie DeCarlo, and Sara (special ed teacher). OA's attendance #s are rising due to more walking school buses, Bev picking kids up and dropping them off, and more parents calling school to ask for help when their child needs a ride. The new teacher contract has changed how teachers' meeting times will be scheduled etc. – kind of complicated to change this in the middle of the year. Seaport Credit Union is again sponsoring an essay contest for grades 3 and 4 about future aspirations; the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have a speaker talking to them about college. 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working on a big upcoming exhibition.

For Gifted and Talented, testing will now be in the middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, so services would start the following fall. The new process will allow teachers to have meetings to discuss kids, etc.. The work on creating an outdoor classroom is continuing – we're in the planning phase, getting permits etc.

Molly- Update on Ambassador project: she met with Pious Ali; he offered to do an orientation, but he suggested starting small with a few people who would be willing to invest a lot of time. She has 3-5 people in mind for this. Molly also got some good suggestions from talking to Kathy Cole at Riverton who has been doing potlucks for 4-5 years. They found it helpful to pair the potluck with another activity. Heather Sumner had idea about dance around the world type event. Maybe tapping into West African drumming kids; both King and Riverton said you need a hook but nothing too formal. Lisa: we've done that before with Annegrett. People Molly has spoken to say it works out ok to not have translators, though maybe we could have informal ones that could just be available if needed. For outreach, Riverton used lots of translated flier, signs, morning announcements, translated robocalls and emails. They also went door to door in Riverton park – now they have sort of have key people who will spread the word to lots of others. They have immigrant families on their PTO board now. About a date for our event...maybe March? We could tie it in with K registration, and pursue the drum circle idea. Maybe we can do it the week after ELL conferences, so that families could be told/reminded in person at their child's conference. Molly will choose a date.

Other events/fundraisers: Kiersten Ellis will help with original artwork fundraiser(selling kids' art on mugs etc.) – maybe March or April. Scott is going to find a b.good date for our fundraiser there. Ben will ask Allison about a possible Red Claws event. Jason LaMontagne has RC connections. Victoria will contact him.

Lisa – Enrichment – hardly anyone signed up for dancing and drumming – but then Learning Works had no enrichment so Learning Works kids were able to use up the spots. K-2 programs are popular. Gibson will be working on Dolphin Press. We still need to find someone to work with 1<sup>st</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> graders.

Donors Choose – Julie will check on the deadline of the remaining project; we can discuss this over email.

What should we do for next Public PTO school meeting? Possibly invite Emilia Dahlin to talk about her work with OA students? Aviva will reach out to her.

Our next board meeting will be Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. From now on we will meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Lisa took a great class about Race for Portland Public Schools staff.

Julie explained her mini-grant idea about helping teachers diversify their classroom library collection. Board decided to move forward with this. Scott and Julie will work on making an online form etc.

Executive session: voted yes for magnetiles for K; ball requests for 4<sup>th</sup>, ELL Brain Pop, and Dr Coursey \$1000.

We had a little discussion about whether/when to use executive sessions; will discuss more later.