

OCE PTA Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022
Olive Chapel Media Center

Attendance: Laurie Jendrasiak, Shannon May, Mandy MacNaughton, Erin May, Carolyn Bentley, Robyn Salzman, Bethany Iannone, Jen Curtis-Maury, Bridget Robertson, Tiffany Rainey, Ashley Privette

Welcome/Introduction - Mandy MacNaughton

- Eagle Scout Project
 - Eagle Scout wants to build benches; Mandy sent an email to the grade level chairs to determine desired locations; Mandy will meet with the Eagle Scout this afternoon to determine the scope of the project-teachers requested 5-12 benches; PTA can provide some funding for this project.

Principal Report – Ms. May

- Mr Boyer - new assistant principal starting May 9
 - He comes from Scotts Ridge ES, which is decreasing enrollment due to AFES opening and thus lost an AP position
- Thank you for the staff appreciation weeks - staff was super grateful for the appreciation and the half day for LETRs training
- Thank you for the cultural arts (Donna Washington) assembly; teachers liked it being on a Monday
- Wonderful in-person Arts showcase; lots of new equipment provided by the PTA
- Lost and found needs to be cleaned out - once per quarter will be taken to a donation center
 - Retired music coordinator for a county emailed Ms May to say it was the most amazing performance she has seen; dynamic, complex, culturally appropriate, engaging.
- Field trips are running again
- Family survey - please fill it out, closes May 6
 - Could we add a QR code at the carnival for people to fill it out?
- Updates:
 - A church is renting OCE space on Sundays. A good church renting space from the school can help with structural/land updates (income goes into building funds)
 - Haven't done for a while due to a bad experience
 - Ms Cogswiff (Track 2 IA in K): Craft club proposal; she ran staff care during remote learning and has proposed a craft club; Asking for about \$500 to get it started - Julie is going to look at moving funds from clubs that aren't currently running (will look at this at the end of the school year) or use Art by Me funding; proposed to start at the beginning of the next school year (around September)
 - Retesting: This is a county-wide change; the goal is to improve proficiency. There is no negative implication for a student who does not do well on the EOG; parents have to opt-in for students to re-test; parents are sent a

letter from state with the results, although parents will get a letter informing them that a student is eligible for re-testing on the last two days of the school year.

- What is the impact of the EOG on the school's image? Are there negative connotations for not scoring well?
 - OCE is usually an A school (high proficiency and high growth); WCPSS is hesitant to label schools based on letter grade, even though the state gives these labels. WCPSS publishes a report card that shows growth, culture, and proficiency scores - OCE is doing very well; EOG scores do not impact funding unless they are so low as to impact the receipt of federal funds; OCE tries to advertise more about growth than proficiency (growth asks did students track average growth as their like-peers from BOG to EOG).
- The two days for re-testing were banked days
- Clopening has begun (data manager team Linda Bryant and Kathryn Broadus have contacted new families, and about 300 new families plan to attend OCE next year
 - There will be a new family orientation night.
 - OCE depleted the waitlist for grades 2-5 but a waitlist remains for K-1.
 - There will be a small 4th grade next year (one class each for tracks 1, 2, and 3 and two classes for track 4), so as of now, OCE will lose 3 classrooms for 4th grade (enrollment: 180 this year, 98 next year); the teachers OCE lost were able to transfer to other schools (staying: Berg, Chaffey, Bishop, Brown, and Szaz).
 - Other changes: Ms Ford is transferring to AFES (wanted traditional calendar); Ms. Bossman is leaving; Ms O'Hare is leaving to stay home.
- OCE enrollment will drop from 1030 students this year to 950-980 students next year
- More discussion of K: OCE needs to call students on waitlist first so Turner Creek ES can plan
 - Then move to siblings and precap kids
 - Then identify students based on registration timestamp and other information to decide who will get in to OCE for K (enrollment: 170)
 - Ms May will add the date for K orientation to the OCE website
- May 10: Ms May would like to do a PTA lunch

Treasurer Report – Julie Chase

Committee Reports

Staff Appreciation – Laurie Jendrasiak

- Staff appreciation weeks just ended

- This week there will be popcorn from the Mad Popper, will provide small bags on Thursday
 - Next month: Sunset Slush (family at AFHS - football coach - is opening a location in Apex), will set up a few flavors for staff on May 2 (work day for all but track 3)
 - Will also do a lunch on a track in/out day in May

Spirit Night

- Mustang Charlie's Diner Raised \$50.
- Next Spirit Day is at Kwench all day on April 20 (in Harris Teeter shopping center).

Spring Carnival / Book Fair / Grandparents Breakfast:

- Carnival: Cleared out the shed and found all sorts of great Carnival items! Games and activities galore.
 - Shannon May got the Communities in Use form filled out to be able to use school grounds after hours. Approved by Ms May.
 - Rachael created a sign-up genius for Carnival Needs that was emailed out to Deck Hands.
 - Need volunteers beforehand and day-of
 - Carnival will involve bounce house, face painting, food trucks, small raffle, a few auction items (on-line)
 - Ms May: Can we book many face painters for the carnival and set limits on what can be done (one cheek maybe?)?
 - Every kid will get some free tickets for the carnival, can purchase more
 - Should we do something other than Beacon or FB to get volunteers for the carnival? Perhaps the sign-up genius could include more detail and fewer positions; Rachael will edit when she returns and will send any text we want distributed to Ms May
 - One idea is to have a quick meeting before the carnival to go over activities, duties, etc.
- Book fair: going to have preview days this time; will run May 3-13; set up on April 29; sign-up genius coming soon for volunteers

Cultural Arts

- Bethany Iannone organized a story teller (Donna Washginton) to come to our school for our first assembly in years! The event was no cost to our school, and the children and teachers LOVED it.

Field Day:

- Everything has been purchased for field day, working with Coach Roberts to plan
- Need freezer storage for ice pops; Mandy and Laurie will clean out the freezer

Additional Information:

- Amy Skorich: Kids Heart Challenge - large prizes arrived and will be distributed next week

- Amy Skorich: Cheddar Up for 3rd grade field day shirts has been setup
- Mandy Wagstaff: Yubbler for school kits for next year is live (for all grades except K)
- Shannon May: Lewis art for graduation - announcement to promote will be coming.
- Ms May: Would PTA be interested in finding a photo backdrop for when students visit the school? with school logo, etc. Would need for K orientation on May 10 at 6-7:30 pm for parents and students. YES!
- New Life Church: spring beautification event at OCE on June 4-5 (Sat/Sun)
 - shrub cleaning, power washing, etc. Any requests?
- Bethany: The small K playground section turns to mud, could we do something to fix this, like hire a landscaper to level the land or something? Answer: Perhaps we can add this as a budget item for next year.
- Bridget: Advocacy update, board meeting with Lindsay Mahaffey
 - Virtual academy will not exist next school year
 - Pleasant Plains ES will open just behind Scotts Ridge: Baucom will use the school while its campus is undergoing renovations, new students will matriculate at Pleasant Plains ES in 2025
 - Feeder cap for AFHS: Lindsay Mahaffey is not supportive of it but doesn't have ideas for another option; it has been announced but there are not many published details (the take-home message is if you move within the district, your date starts over for high school)
 - School construction bond on ballot in November, supported by Lindsay Mahaffey
 - WC student support services team talked about how they are providing mental health and such services
 - Lisa Mead is opening the Tools for Schools supply store, which is now open for teachers at under-funded schools; teachers have been getting their free supplies; Bridget asked about OCE doing a supply drive but received no response; however, there are volunteer opportunities. This may be a great way we at OCE could help support other schools. Lisa Mead is running for Wake County Commissioner.
- Robyn: How many tickets do you get for graduation? Ms May: There is no limit, all are invited, one track will Sail up at a time in the gym, there are no current pandemic restrictions
- Jen: Should we sell a morning golden carpool cone? Ms May: Sometimes we use that zone if it's hard to get children out of the car. But it's an option that we can look into.