

**OCE PTA Meeting Agenda  
July 12, 2022  
Conference Room**

**Attendance:** Erin May, Mandy MacNaughton, Robyn Salzman, Carolyn Bentley, Allie Sandoval, Kelli Joyner, Laurie Jendrasiak, Ed Hornbeck, Julie Peterson, Beth Lavin, Bridget Robertson, Raunaq Soin, Jen Curtis-Maury, Anne Miller

**Introduction** – Mandy MacNaughton, President

- New Committee Heads
  - Ed Hornbeck: Walk to School Wednesday
  - Kathryn Broaddus: Spirit Wear
    - A bunch of spirit wear was preordered at the end of last school year, and we sold over 150 shirts at Meet the Teacher. We will order more this week to replenish our stock. Kathryn will send home an order form for families to order spirit wear. The PTA will have tables to sell spirit wear at any events (Meet the Teacher, Open House, etc.). PTA plans to give t-shirts to children on the free and reduced lunch program (will coordinate with the counselors).
  - Rebecca Patel: Cheddar Up
  - Raunaq Soin: Go Play Save
  - Yogesh Soin: Website
  - Beth Lavin: Loyalty awards
- Tissue and Tea: Thursday July 14, for new K parents
- Open House: July 26
  - PTA will sell t-shirts; Will need volunteers to help with this!
  - Budget approval
  - Membership/Volunteer Sign Up
- PTA Copy Machine Badge is at Regina's desk if you need to make copies for PTA purposes
- PTA Office (on the right toward the gym) is back and no longer shared! Please try to keep it nice and neat.
- Eagle Scout Project Update: He will come on July 19 to build and install 3 benches under the new shade structure.
- Sean Kernick, Mural Artist: He did the murals at the Apex Friendship schools. He met with Mandy and submitted a proposal for painting murals on the sun shade sails on the street-facing side of the cottages (approximately \$9000)
  - Q: What is the longevity of the paintings? Is any maintenance required?
    - Mandy will reach out to Sean to ask.
  - Q: Do we have other big-ticket ideas for the 22-23 school improvement category?
    - No, not at this point; many of the issues with the cottages that have come up are maintenance issues that the PTA has no control over.
  - Q: Do we need a creative team of teachers to brainstorm ideas for this mural?
    - Ms May has people in mind, and the teachers would love to be involved.
  - Another potential area for painting a mural is between the cafeteria and gym, where there is currently a painting from when OCE first opened. Ms May will talk to the leadership team and gauge whether there is nostalgia regarding this painting (i.e., let's leave it) or whether teachers/staff are open to having a new painting in this location.
    - New murals inside the building could be a focus for Apex Leadership
- Kiln: This was confirmed to be a WCPSS issue; WCPSS will replace it since it's broken, and this process is underway.
- ULine Benches have been delivered; we will need help assembling and placing these benches on the playgrounds.

- Is it year 25 here at OCE! Any ideas? What can we do to celebrate?

### **Principal Report** – Ms. May

- Smooth start to the school year; teachers and staff had lots of preparation
  - Staff kick-off training: July 1-6
  - Laurie mentioned some staff feedback that it's been an amazing smooth start to the school year
  - Expect some delays as K and track 4 start
- Meetings/training have focused (and will focus) on culture to promote academic growth through community building exercises, etc.
- On K staggered entry days, teachers/staff will continue to meet parents and students at the door, as this has worked better for everyone.
- Love the New Spirit Rock and “rent the rock” that’s now live
  - Q: Can we have an option to hire an artist to paint your vision?
- **Thank yous**
  - Thank you to our wonderful PTA for the First Watch breakfast and Namoli’s lunch on July 5!
  - Thank you to the PTA for funding new staff shirts and staff mugs!
  - Thank you to the PTA for funding the photo backdrop! It has been a hit!
- **Upcoming dates**
  - July 14: First day of school for Kindergarten Tracks 1, 2, and 3
  - July 26: Open House for Tracks 1, 2, and 3
    - 6:00-6:30 pm: First Session
    - 6:35 pm: PTA Meeting in the Gym
    - 7:00-7:30 pm: Second Session
  - July 28: Early Release for Tracks 1, 2, and 3
    - Dismissal at 1:45 pm
  - July 28: Meet the Teacher for Track 4 grades 1-5 (3:00-4:00 pm)
  - July 29: First day of school for Track 4 grades 1- 5
  - August 5: First day of school for Kindergarten Track 4
  - August 16: Open House for Track 4
    - 6:00-6:30 pm: First Session
    - 6:35 pm: PTA Meeting in Gym
    - 7:00-7:30 pm: Second Session
  - Book Fair
    - 9/3-9/16
  - Apex Leadership Fun Run!
    - 10/3-10/14: Tracks 1, 2, and 3
    - 10/25-11/4: Track 4
- **Updates**
  - Meet the Teacher for Tracks 1-3 went well!
  - What’s new this year in terms of enrollment?
    - We went from 1,030 students to 980 students; OCE is not whole-school capped anymore; OCE is fully staffed for 980 students so we can call students on the waitlist whenever a student drops.

- We have room in grades K, 2, 4 and 5.
  - We are capped in grades 1 and 3.
- We have 250 new students! (not including K) - makes for a total of approximately 420 new students this school year.
- VA students are back in the building! We have NO Virtual Academy this school year.
- DC Dates (5th grade field trip)
  - Tracks 1 and 3: October 6 and 7
  - Tracks 2 and 4: October 27 and 28
  - Note that these dates overlap with the Apex Leadership fundraiser, but this will not be an issue as the dates fall in the middle of the fundraiser weeks.
- Cottages: two have been fixed, but two remain unusable due to AC issues
  - One AC unit was not properly installed, and one went out recently.
  - No need for parents to fuss at this point as the problem is being addressed.
- Lunch-related changes for the 22-23 school year
  - Parents are welcome to visit for lunch starting after the second week of school for grades 1-5, and they will use the outdoor courtyard.
  - Q: Do we still need volunteers for lunch time?
    - We are waiting to see how things look mid-track, most likely yes but Ms May will communicate the need (or not) for volunteers soon.
  - No longer doing outdoor lunch (too many complaints, bugs, etc.)
- Family Engagement Survey results are in! The results are positive, but there is always room to grow. Here are the results for the [OCE 2022 Family Survey](#).
  - OCE had 377 responses, which is way more than other local schools. Our scores are higher than those for the district/region/previous years.
- Our new AP, Ashley Charles, is being held by Chatham County Schools for up to 60 days. She will not be released until Mid-August (latest date: Aug 23). A retired AP will serve as interim AP during the month-long vacancy; this will most likely be approved by the Board on July 19, and Ms May will send an email to the parents afterward.
- We are doing a Farewell party for Mrs. Smith at our staff meeting on July 15.
- Q: Will kids be able to play with other tracks at recess?
  - No, it is quite challenging to supervise ~150 students at recess. We will keep the zones to improve supervision, and students will stay in zones with their track.
- Q: For older kids with a single class per track, could we perhaps have two classes mix?
  - Yes, Ms May will look into this but thinks it's a good idea.
- **New Recent Hires**
  - Matthew Falcone: 2nd, Track 4
  - Shveta Malhotra: K IA, Track 2
  - Erica Manning: Building Sub
  - Kalli Prince: PreK Teacher
- **Farewells**
  - Ms. Somoso: moving to Illinois to be closer to family; her last day will be Friday July 15; a permanent position for a Music teacher at OCE has been posted (11-month schedule).
  - Mrs. Smith: becoming a principal; last day will be Friday July 15.

### **Treasurer Report** – Julie Chase

- We ended the 21-22 school year with just over \$17,000 in available funds to roll over into our new year's budget. Here is a link to the DRAFT 2022-23 budget:  
[https://docs.google.com/file/d/1ZJ-8o9v\\_NI8\\_1DSiBoyVL4m\\_buvm\\_3xl/edit?usp=doclist\\_api&filetype=msexcel](https://docs.google.com/file/d/1ZJ-8o9v_NI8_1DSiBoyVL4m_buvm_3xl/edit?usp=doclist_api&filetype=msexcel)
- The numbers in the DRAFT budget are not final quite yet, so please use for general planning purposes only at this point. We will vote on (and hopefully approve) our final budget at the general membership meeting in a few weeks.
- As we did last year, all invoices that need to be paid or reimbursement requests should be submitted through this google form:  
<http://bit.ly/OCEPTAchecks>

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Staff Appreciation** – Angie Kirkland

- Clopening Details
- Updated staff favorites list: Ms May will try to get more responses
- Q: Is Angie doing the Tuesday treats again as they were super popular?
  - Yes, pretty sure that is the plan.

#### **Membership/Volunteer Coordinator** – Anne Miller

- Membership forms went out to Staff/Parents
  - Teachers pay \$4 and get a \$50 gift card from the PTA (the first batch of gift cards will go out this Friday)
- Volunteer Sign-up Listserv
- Coach Roberts reached out with a list of volunteer opportunities
- Will need weekly help to distribute GoPlaySave starting in a few weeks

#### **Go Play Save Fundraiser**

- July 19: Set up/Initial Distribution Date
- Only sending home envelopes
- Will need volunteers weekly to help with the distribution of books

#### **Cultural Arts** – Bethany Iannone

- Contacted some artists and waiting to hear back about assembly dates, will run those by Ms May
- Will attend the August United Arts Council Training and Expo (Aug 6 and 20)
- Assemblies:
  - October: Transit Vocal Band
  - November/December: Antonio Rocha storyteller
  - February: Carlota Spanish Dance (flamenco)
  - late Spring: Donna Washington storyteller or a Puppet Show

#### **Spirit Wear** – Kathryn Broaddus

- Sold over 150 shirts at Meet the Teacher!

#### **Loyalty Cards** - Beth Lavin

- Q: How many flyers are needed for loyalty information?
  - The number of children in each class is listed somewhere in the office.

#### **Communications** - Allie Sandoval

- New look for the Beacon as the program has changed (now using Smore)
- Q: Can the Beacon links be updated on the PTA website? Is there an easier way to link from Smore to the PTA website?
  - Beth is willing to update the Beacon information/link
  - All information in the Beacon is also posted to social media (e.g., the OCE twitter feed)
- Q: I have signed up for the Beacon but don't receive it; help?
  - Allie will look into this
- Q: Can Mandy print QR codes for Beacon sign-up?
  - Ms May says yes! Can we make one flyer that has all the things (social media, etc.)? Yes! Ms May prefers twitter :)

### **Walk to School** - Ed Hornbeck

- First Wednesday of each month
- Starts in October: Oct 5
- May 3 is bike to school day
- Last one is June 7

### **Additional Information:**

- Q: Where can teachers/staff sign up for the PTA?
  - Ms May will plug this when she asks for staff favorites.
- Q: Can we send out a welcome email when people join the PTA?
  - Would be great to send something as it sets a nice tone; maybe send out one batch of emails per week; Mandy will chat with Anne to figure out this welcome letter.
- We will highly advertise all future PTA meetings.
- New OCE parents event (aka parents social): Vicious Fishes/Piranha Joes, thinking of two dates, maybe a morning time and an evening time; aim for after Aug 16 (but that week)
  - Aug 18 morning (9:30 am)
  - Aug 24 evening (6:30 pm)
- Q: When will construction on Kelly Rd be done?
  - Huge AC renovation at OCE is underway that will take one year
  - Ms May will check timeline for when the sidewalk might be functional again
    - This work is being done by the Town of Apex and is not related to the school AC renovation; Town of Apex anticipates this work will be done in the next month.
  - Safe schools/safe paths contact (Jen House from Town of Apex) could help ensure their are safe routes to walk to school
  - Trucks are parked such that they obstruct the view of traffic for vehicles exiting the school; perhaps they could park elsewhere during arrival and dismissal. Ms May will reach out to the Town of Apex.
- Live sign-up for the spirit rock!
- We will discuss big asks for the Apex Leadership Fun Run at the next PTA meeting.
- Q: Are we planning a gala for this school year?
  - Yes, we are in early stages of planning; want to drop the price to make it more accessible; no fundraising goal for this event
  - Suggested idea: free tickets to gala as a raffle at other events
  - Julie P. has lots of ideas and would like to be involved but not lead
  - Potential theme: 25th anniversary of OCE