

**OCE PTA Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
Olive Chapel Media Center**

Attendance: Mandy MacNaughton, Carolyn Bentley, Bridget Robertson, Jen Curtis-Maury, Shannon May, Robin Salzman, Erin May, Loretto Ewen, Julie Chase

Welcome/Introduction - Mandy MacNaughton

- Shade Structures
 - We bought 3 single-pole 18-foot shade structures: on the first grade playground, on the field by the benches, and between the field and the older kids playground (\$23,500 total). Will take approximately 10-12 weeks to arrive.
- Landscaping
 - Only one company responded to our request for information/proposals. They provided ideas for the cottage area, and we are thinking of doing landscaping in 2 phases as this company doesn't have a long warranty. The plan is to place a crepe myrtle between each cottage facing Olive Chapel Road, to plant a loropetalum in front of the two cottages facing the school that don't have a ramp, to plant two trees to create an outdoor space by the bathroom cottage, to place a big green tree somewhere, and to add a crepe myrtle to give shade for carpool. The quote for this work is \$3739. Will move forward with this.
 - Need a gardening committee to help take care of the school grounds
 - Murals for the cottages are still being worked on; these murals will be painted on sails that will attach to the cottages (sails have been purchased already).
 - We are planning to paint clipper ships in different colors at each walkway by the cottages for identification purposes (we have the stencil)
 - We are thinking of getting teacher identification plaques/signs that can be placed on the cottages and moved with teachers to different cottages. Ms Davis's daughter does fancy handwriting, she may be able to help. Need to think about weather proofing for these signs.
- Storage Shed for Cottages
 - Another storage shed was purchased and will be here in December.
 - Ms May: Is this shed for 5th grade? Will 4th grade want one too?
- Outdoor Water Fountain
 - Quote for a freeze-resistant one is \$4000
 - Does it need to be freeze resistant?
 - Water fountain must be wall-mounted, facilities manager has recommended a website for ordering

- Please copy Ms May on emails with Ms Smith regarding this topic
- The plan is to remove the old fountains, add one new water bottle filling station, see how it works, and then add another in a few years.

Principal Report – Ms. May

- Last Friday time - staff/teachers were grateful for the time last Friday (no school for students)
- Nov 2 workday had no required meetings (optional meetings), optional professional development, PTA provided lunch
- Staff: doing ok at OCE in terms of staffing levels, morale is good despite issues. IAs are still subbing a lot, leading to a lack of support for teachers. Ms May is considering allowing volunteers for lower grades (right now volunteers are only allowed for lunch duty; Ms May has the discretion to allow for other things but it is nice to align with other schools). The building sub is used every day, Ms Rogan (office staff) is pulled almost every day--we need more subs. There are still some vacancies at OCE (VA, work from home position; special education for general education K-5 students; IA positions). Ms Nordahl is leaving at the end of month, a new counselor will hopefully start in January. Ms Corder will cover Ms Bechard's class for December, and another teacher will cover January (during their track outs).
- Sick-outs in WCPSS: our region had minimal impact regarding bus driver sick-out; for cafeteria workers, our manager is here today and is very focused on the children. Hopefully this will lead to better pay; there is another WCPSS board meeting tonight.
- Trying to support teachers and staff, who love the support of the PTA
- Pressure washing, painting, rusty doors, etc for exterior cottages: we can do all. Suggestion is to first file a work order to see what the cost and timeline are if WCPSS will address the issue; then we can proceed ourselves if the time/cost are not ideal. Lattice won't be patched; they'll replace it from here on out. We can paint the lattice.
- Mr Brown - teacher of the year!!
- Kids loved the playtime before the movie night

Treasurer Report – Julie Chase

- Filed taxes yesterday, we don't owe anything, all looks good

Fundraising Report – Shannon May

- November: ornament sales from Lou Wilson Art, we get 20% of all sales with the OCE code, all orders need to be placed by Dec 10 for shipping, Dec 15 for pickup in Apex
 - Let's do another social media blast - could Ms May add this to her emails? Teachers could add the info to their newsletters, pointing out that the ornaments and art are personalizable. This is a rolling fundraiser

- Gala is still an option for later in the school year, there was some feedback to have this at a brewery to reduce formality and make it more accessible to more people.
- Maybe an outdoor carnival in the spring - family carnival, lots of face painters, bounce houses, etc. Lindsay Newman can no longer lead this event. May add a silent auction with this event too. Maybe add food trucks.

Committee Reports

Spirit Night / Book Fair - Angie Kirkland

- Book fair night was a huge success. We could merge the spring book fair with the carnival or an outdoor grandparent's breakfast. May 5 - 12 are the tentative dates for the spring book fair
 - Other scholastic flyers should not go home right before or during the book fair so as to not confuse parents/students - will tell teachers this for spring
- Grandparent's breakfast May 5 and May 12, two tracks per date.
- Carnival tentative date May 6 to coincide with book fair
- \$18,662 total sold for fall book fair
 - Can we add boxed sets? How was the size of the fair this year? general feedback was good. Limiting the use of cash made the book fair much easier to run. We could use more volunteers for the spring book fair.
- Can we have the book fair open for longer before the carnival? Maybe open right after school?
- Will we organize book fair shopping days by tracks again? worked well this fall.
- \$4658 in cash from book fair goes to Casey (librarian)
- Culver's night: \$70 profit
- Papa John's spirit night is this Thursday
- Five Below spirit night (requested Dec 4-11, waiting to hear back)
- Panera Bread spirit night will be Jan 27

Staff Appreciation – Laurie Jendrasiak

- November lunch went great! Thanks again to Crossroads Ford! (One teacher said she specifically went car shopping there because of how much they support our staff! Thought that was pretty cool!)
- Working on holiday staff gift- always do something small for everyone. That all has to go out before track 1 leaves.
- Will be doing a Staff Lunch on December 3rd.
- Going to grab some treats/donuts/something to pass out to bus drivers to give them a little extra love. - Mandy will make sure all staff (Cafeteria, IA, etc) are all covered

Advocacy – Bridget Robertson

- Lindsay Mahaffey quarterly meeting: administrators, PTA, and principals across District 8. Some open discussion, she fielded lots of questions about masks-she is supportive of masks and bus drivers. The speaker for the event was from

Wake Ed, talked about Leandro (court case going on for almost 30 years, low-funded school boards sued the state saying they are not fulfilling their constitutional mandate for education; a judge recently ordered NC to implement the plan and pay the money but the NC general assembly said no; the issue is that money in NC reserves (\$1.7B) should go to education, but implementation is unclear and a contentious issue; a resolution has already been passed to stipulate how this money should be spent). Other states have fined their state legislature for each day the money is not spent, not sure what the plan in NC is going forward.

- Wake Ed partnership is creating a store for teachers with donated supplies at which teachers can “shop” for free. It is slated to open in January in Cary, and delivery to other locations will be offered. A good opportunity for OCE parents to help lower-funded schools. Perhaps donations can be collected as a Kids Corp or walk to school Wednesday activity.
 - Add the flyer to the Beacon - matched monetary donations through the end of the year.
 - OCE has a storage room for supplies

Walk to School Wednesday – Alison Alcaine

- November walk to school was great, will collect donations for Western Wake again in December.

Spirit Wear

- Limitations with supply chain issues mean limited choices; we were hoping to offer long-sleeve shirts and hoodies.
- People have expressed interest in the new tie-dye shirts, should we do a single order in Jan? yes
- Will call one other company to see if they have better supply, if not, then we can just wait for January and hope the supply chain has resolved to give us more options in terms of color and style.

Additional Information:

- Christmas gifts (for OCE students)
 - Counselors met with social worker to get info
 - Will do a holiday surprise with gift cards
 - A form will go out in the Beacon soon
- Can we identify a “sister school” to support?
 - school supply drive, monetary donations
 - Can we ask the Wake County PTA group about sponsoring another school?
 - Ms May can ask her principal group about sponsoring a school