

**OCE PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**October 12, 2021**  
**Olive Chapel Media Center**

**Attendance:** Mandy MacNaughton, Robyn Salzman, Julie Chase, Bethany Iannone, Carolyn Bentley, Allie Sandoval, Nikie Sarris Esquivel, Shannon May, Alice Seely, Kathryn B?, Amy Skorich, Jen Curtis-Maury, Bridget Robinson, Erin May

**Welcome/Introduction** - Mandy MacNaughton

- Shade:
  - Met with a WCPSS guru to chat about shade structures; he's been doing this for a long time. Currently: 1 structure in K, none in 1st, none on field, and none on the 3/4/5 playground. Suggestions: area with benches on the field could have a pole with a large umbrella, there is a place for shade on the 1st grade playground (not over the structure as the teachers feel it doesn't have to be over the play structure itself), we could add a structure where there is already a pole (old tether ball maybe?) on the other end of the large field. Each shade structure is approximately \$6K. Mandy is expecting a quote in the next 2 weeks.
- Landscaping
  - Landscape: focus is the cottage area. Mandy will meet with him to go over ideas today. Suggestions regarding helping with drainage, adding pretty things like hardy plants. Once Mandy has quotes we will go over them. Only one person has replied- Scott Patten (PlanTenders); many others are not responding. Some drainage was fixed by WCPSS; we plan to perhaps add plants that will drink lots of water and bushes to the muddy areas to cover them up. Perhaps also add river rocks in certain places. One issue is flooding in the grassy areas between trailers; Mr Arce is responsible for all work orders, so Ms May will talk with him about whether this flooding is an issue for which we can submit a WCPSS work order. Many teachers talked about wanting pavers/stepping stones between trailers (where there are no sidewalks) to help when changing classrooms. Note: concrete is cheaper than rock, which is cheaper than pavers.
- Picnic Tables

**Principal Report** – Ms. May

- Thank you for the lunch on October 1 for teacher appreciation (Tropical Smoothie)
- Recent teacher work day involved a book study on Crucial Conversations and curriculum training; felt like a well spent day
- Apex Fun Run Fundraiser - amazing! 72K profit to school, very happy with Apex Leadership. Thank you for all the donations and hard work to make this a success.
- Staff updates: Ms Amon retired (track 4 second grade), a new teacher was hired and will start Oct 21. Ms Bechard went on maternity leave early, and two subs will

cover the long-term leave. For second grade VA, a part-time retired teacher is currently covering this class but a full-time teacher is still needed. We hired an IA for the special needs classroom. There is a new head custodian (Stanley), and we are now looking to fill Stanley's old position. The previous custodian left for a better job. Patty (preK) got a promotion at the head office, but she will fill in while we try to hire her replacement.

- Clubs: Coding/Robotics and Girls Who Code both started, Landlubbers and Garden Club are ongoing, Kids Corp is starting soon, Lego Club is starting in January, and Student Council is starting Oct 22. We are trying to work with the arts teachers to get a club going.
- We are in the planning stages for an Arts showcase (drama, art, music): K-2 art club (still figuring out numbers, plan is this club will do the scenes for the show), 5th grade drama (capped at 30 participants), and chorus (can be a bit bigger than drama). The proposed theme is something around fairy tales. The plan is for these clubs to start in January, with applications going out in November and due at the end of November.
- OCE has been allocated 2 1-year contracts for VA teachers; it is unlikely that we will have these contracts long-term as it's been so hard to staff these positions, but things could always change.

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

- In September we had over \$115K come in and over \$74K go out. Fun Run accounted for most of the revenue. we had a few charge backs (we just let these go). Tax return is under way (has been submitted to the accountant for filing next month). We submitted our first sales tax refund of the year (PTA is exempt from sales tax; we submit twice per year).
- Goal for this year - create and implement a policy for returned checks (text to include on communications for anything for which we might collect checks) - email Julie if you have experience/knowledge with this.
- Book fair and movie night coming up - if you need cash for a cash box or cash register, let Julie know at least 1 week in advance. Banks are short on cash and coins, so 1 week lead time is needed.
- Clubs have lots of money available. Ms May will contact club leaders to let them know about funds available. Cultural Arts - can contact Bethany with a wish list; this is still in the planning stage. Funds can be paid out of pocket and reimbursed, or an invoice can be created for larger amounts. Funding will mostly go toward classroom supplies (primarily art and music as these are fixed specials; drama is not a fixed special, so drama teacher will use funds for supplies that could be used for art or music as well).
  - We could communicate to parents through the Beacon to request costumes, etc., from home.

#### **Committee Reports**

#### **Family Movie Night** – Rachael Nichols

- Friday October 22nd, Movie: Coco
- Bach to Rock will be there with music playing before and after the movie. They will also be providing the speakers for the movie.
- Bowman Theatres is providing the screen.
- I will have a Fall/Coco themed photo spot set up for families to take their own pictures. I will have a few games set up for kids to play
- Concessions will include snacks, candy, and drinks.
- Pizza is all done by pre-order (currently no cut-off date for pizza orders)
  - Need a cut-off date for pizza and shout-out orders
- Book fair will be open (Need to connect with **Angie** and **Ms May**)
- Doors open at 6 pm
- **Mrs. May: Can we use one of the courtyards for the movie setup?**
  - Mandy: doesn't think courtyards are good; on the field will be better. Rachael says that's fine.
  - Book fair has to have timed entry - how to work the flow of people into the book fair and through the building?
  - How many people usually come to movie night? Last one didn't have too many people as it was a cold night, but this year people are super excited to come to school, so we should expect more people. Mandy and Ms May will chat about traffic flow; it is probably ok to have people walk through the building, as long as we have volunteers to control the number of people in the building and signs to direct people out to the field.
  - Movie to start at 7pm.
- Bach to Rock will play some music and help make announcements at the end for everyone to pack up, clean up and leave.
- Volunteers needed (**Lindsay**)
  - 5 for set up from 5-6 pm (photo booth, concession stand, entrance)
  - 4 at concession stand from 6-7 pm
  - 2 at concession stand 7-8 pm
  - 4 for clean up 8-9:30 pm
- Communication:
  - Flyers went home already
  - After Culver's spirit night, reminders will pick up on social media. Facebook, Twitter, IG until event – thanks **Allie**
  - Will be in the Beacon on Thursday.
  - Yard signs in the bus loop (**MANDY, IS THAT OK TO PURCHASE A FEW – I'll get them made to be reused**) - ok, let's get ones that we can reuse.
- **Mrs. May: Can it be on the news station? If the kids know about it, they'll bug their parents to come 😊**
  - Yes both are taken care of.
- Who does the website? Can this please be added if it;s not already there?
  - Yes, Jen C-M can add this information to the website.
- Shoutouts:
  - It costs \$20 to purchase a shout-out for your family/kid/neighborhood.

- I need to check with Jen again. Last I heard, we had received only one order for a shoutout.
- I'd like to offer a \$10 option to everyone on this email who would like to have a shoutout up on the screen. (Jen, can you do a coupon code for certain people?
  - Jen C-M can chat with Rachael about this.
- Two corporate sponsors (Keith O'Hare and F45) can set up a sign.

### **Walk to School Wednesday** – Alison Alcaine

- First Walk to school Wednesday was a huge success (the mayor came!!) (over 100 kids walked to school), and we look forward to the November/December dates, at which we will collect food/canned goods in partnership with Western Wake Crisis Ministry.
- F45 was a huge help, and the music was a bonus. Do we want to ask them to come back?
  - Sure.

### **Spirit Wear** - Alison Alcaine

- I'm finalizing the details on hoodies/water bottles with Jody, my contact, and info on ordering will go out at the end of this month so we can have orders ready before Christmas.
- Shannon May: ornaments - Lou Wilson (painted school pictures and ornaments) would like to advertise again. Wwe could perhaps advertise in November after the book fair. All purchases are handled through their website, and they send us checks occasionally.

### **Family Marathon** – Amy Skorich

- Will send email to parents of all registered children to remind them to submit the logs and remind the teachers to turn the logs into Ms Roberts. no log = no medal.

### **Staff Appreciation** – Laurie Jendrasiak

- Staff lunch in October was from Tropical Smoothie Café. They were fabulous to work with and gave us a discount. They went above and beyond to be helpful.
- Upcoming November lunch is from Scott Saltzman from Crossroads Ford Cafe. He is always so generous to our staff!
- F45 plans to bring some snacks for our staff on Monday, 10/18. No idea what, as their communication is pretty poor. But, I'll be meeting them at the school when they drop off. I'll bug them to give me more details so I can share with staff.
- May try to squeeze in something Halloweenish the last week of October depending on our track out travels.

### **Membership / Volunteer Coordinator** – Lindsay Newman

- no updates per email

### **Book Fair** - Angie Kirkland

- Book Fair starts next Friday! I will need a few volunteers to help with setup on Thursday October 21 at 1:00. I will also need a few volunteers to work the fair during the day on October 22-28. I will be creating a signup genius and sending it out by the end of the week.

### **Additional Information:**

- F45 (one of our corporate sponsors) would like to do an awareness week. They have lots of ideas for partnerships (e.g., wellness blurbs in Beacon). One idea is an awareness week with flags in the carpool lanes.
  - Free Saturday workout Oct 23 for all OCE-affiliated people at 9:30 am on the field, and the following week, they will have OCE families in for free trial classes.
- Soccer goals - Ms May: yes, please dispose of the current soccer goals. Mandy will get rid of them. Mandy will check with Melissa about any warranty (did PTA purchase these?). Can we pour concrete or somehow anchor new soccer goals? Do we need to check with WCPSS about policy for soccer goals? The landscape company can help ground the soccer goals. Ms May will check about WCPSS facility modification rules.
- Spruce up day: 4 parents helped out. One mom will head up a gardening/spruce-up position/committee on the PTA; she will schedule a few yard work days over the year on weekends to have volunteers help with yard work. WCPSS only mows, they don't take care of bushes or anything else.
- In front of the cottages, Ms Ferreiea and Ms Barlow are collaborating on billboard-style murals. Currently working on putting in posts for this.
- Water fountains: Jen C-M is struggling to contact person to replace broken water fountains by cottages with water bottle filling stations.
- Jen C-M: Is it possible to switch lunch sign-up slots to 1 h instead of 2 h?
  - Ms May has to make a new one soon and will consider this.
- Jen C-M: Some grandpa helped out and all the kids loved him. Can we encourage grandparents to help out with lunch? Yes.
- Jen C-M: Track 1 4th grade had a playdate, and there was discussion that kids feel disconnected socially and are sad. They are currently stuck in one place for recess; they made all these friends with kids on other tracks last year and miss them now. Could we have one day with masks at recess to allow mixing of classes? Ms May will check with her principal group about returning to normal recess anytime soon; could potentially mix at least among tracks.
- Lots of handy volunteers helped put together the picnic tables. Mandy Wagstaff is super handy!
- Bees at lunch - sprayed lots, pest control in the lunch area, seems to be working. Ms May has gotten lots of bee advice from bee experts.
- Field trips: all are in the planning stage, final submission date for approval is at the end of October. 5th grade is trying to plan something exciting to make up for the loss of the DC trip. One idea is zMAX dragway and Charlotte Motor Speedway (STEAM activity in conjunction with the force and motion unit). Some

grades are opting for in-house field trips. Field trips will start around February; no overnight or out-of-state field trips allowed this year.

- Lindsay Mahaffy was at Walk to School Wednesday - she usually comes to these events. She's super approachable. Could she come to our PTA meeting some time?
- School assignment draft: only 5th graders and siblings can stay at OCE for one year. What happens to children at overflow schools? Do they come back to their base school?