

OCE PTA Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022
Olive Chapel Media Center and Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/qcq-uiqu-jeg>

Attendance: Mandy MacNaughton, Carolyn Bentley, Erin May, Julie Chase, Jen Curtis-Maury, Kelli Joyner, Shannon May, Ashley Privette, Jeanie Noon, Bridget Robertson, Bethany Iannone, Tiffany Rainey, Laurie Jendrasiak, Robyn Salzman, Amy Skorich

Welcome/Introduction - Mandy MacNaughton

- Cottage interior painting was completed over Winter Break. \$6200 total for the 9 cottages and 2 bathrooms. (a total of 14 cottages, some teachers did not want paint and walls were in good condition, and the walls were fine in a few other cottages)
- Outdoor Water Filler Fountain arrived and work order has been put in to get it installed at the bathroom cottages. We ordered the freeze-resistant ones so they should be usable year round.
- Question: Can we get new soccer nets? Answer (Mandy): We are open to purchasing, Mandy is happy to hand this project off to someone else. Needs: one set on the kindergarten playground and another set on the older grade playground. Budget perhaps about \$500 per set - need a middle ground set that will last longer than the cheap ones.

Principal Report – Ms. May

- Positive start to the second semester despite storms and COVID surge. School still feels safe, good monitoring of mask wearing and such, too cold for outdoor lunch right now (if it's nice weather lunch will be outdoors).
- Change is constant right now regarding COVID guidelines - admin is doing their best to stay up-to-date on current guidelines; please be patient with everyone. Mr Arce (covid coordinator) is tracked out right now, Ms Smith has taken over as coordinator for now (along with someone else in the front office). Patience needed with staff (no current positive staff cases at OCE), bus drivers, etc. Ms May is covering lunch duty today, and everyone is working together to cover duties (please volunteer for lunch duty - this is the only parent volunteer opportunity available right now). Could be new changes regarding classroom volunteers coming soon - OCE will allow them as soon as they can.
- Sub shortages are not too bad right now - perhaps because track 4 (most classes) is out right now. A sub shortage is expected when track 4 tracks back in.
- Thank you for painting the cottages and bathrooms!
- Lego Club started this semester with Track 1 - Mrs Cabaleiro. Chorus club started yesterday. Art club will announce a start date soon.

- Ms F is having health issues but is not taking leave; will need to step back on some school activities. Volunteers and admin will help with clubs (e.g., robotics will be shared with a parent who is an engineer). Need some parent volunteers for robotics and garden clubs.
- Vacancies: Ms Diaz resigned, but Ms May has offered the job to a wonderful candidate; hopefully the paperwork will go through soon, and the new teacher will be able to start soon (she comes from a WCPSS school with a decreased student count so she lost her classroom but wants to stay with kindergarten). Special education, CCR (general support pull-out) openings, and one ECS2 teacher out right now. One prior sub, Aaron Gann, is now an ECS IA. Front office (Melissa, Allie and Regina) are great at recruiting people!
- Two kindergarten/first grade IA positions are open: Track 1 first grade, Track 1 kindergarten. \$16/hour pay.
- COVID support role open, funded by the state or district; this is a new position. This person will work at the cottage care center for students with COVID symptoms while they await pick up and help with COVID-related things at school. No nursing/medical skills required.
- \$20K allocated for new smart boards: there will be quite a cost to remove the old ones and then install the new ones. The new smartboards will be paid for by a refresh from Wake County, and all classes at OCE will get one. We were going to purchase some but then found out that the county was purchasing them. Question: Do the new smartboards have integrated sound? Some teachers have smartboards with good audio and some don't. Answer (Ms May): Angela Johnson was at the smartboard fair and would know this.
- Arts program: They are using the \$6K given to them by PTA (from the cultural arts budget, which we are not using this year for in-school programs). The teachers did not ask for a sound system, but Ms Somosa is looking into one.

Treasurer Report – Julie Chase

- Good month for spending! Added a column showing the remaining budget for the year for each category. It's to be used as a ballpark.
- Checks for loyalty cards have been coming in, keep it up!
- Initially set a \$45K budget for school improvement projects. We have spent all the money allocated, and we are going to go over as we brought in more money than expected. (big numbers in the red are expected and not a concern).
- Question: Is there a running list of projects? Answer: Not really, we discuss ideas as they come in. Shade structures have been ordered.
- Landscaping: Going to start in the next two weeks.
- Ms May: a maintenance man arrived today with landscaping rocks - what was the work order for rocks? Dr S maybe had ordered rocks when there was flooding near the cottages... Ms May will text her and ask about this, and has a question in to the lead maintenance person.

Committee Reports

Jump Rope for Heart – Amy Skorich

- Kids Heart Challenge (new name). Met with Coach Roberts and Michelle (American Heart Association contact) to discuss the timeline to kick off this challenge. There will be an email soon from Coach Roberts to the teachers for distribution to parents. Blue save-the-dates showing the prizes for different donation amounts will be distributed soon. Amy needs the number of students per classroom.
- Kick off date: January 24, 2022. Goes through March 4 to include all tracks. Each Friday, Amy will need help (perhaps one volunteer) to distribute small prizes. Larger prizes come later when donations are finalized (after March 6). Decided to send all paperwork/flyers home at the same time. Amy will put up a few posters around the school with information, etc.
- Social media things will go to Allie for posting regarding Kids Heart Challenge.

Staff Appreciation – Laurie Jendrasiak

- So much was done in December! Everything went so well (12 days of Christmas, etc.)
- Next big thing is Staff/Teacher Appreciation in February (as opposed to the traditional May to spread out treats). Let's do March!!
 - Dates TBA
 - No decision yet on themed days, etc. Any ideas? trying to include ideas that allow all children to be involved.
 - For example: Monday: PTA provides something; Tuesday: Something with your teacher's favorite color
 - Pair each staff member with a classroom to cover all staff/teachers.
 - Information should include the link to staff favorites.
 - This link needs to be updated with information for some new teachers/staff.
- We need to fill the dates that PTA will cover all lunch duty. Jan 21 and Feb 11. Please see the sign-up genius to sign up for this.
- Will send an email to all IA/TAs on Jan 18 to let them know about lunch duty being covered on those two days.
- Talked about doing a special lunch for TA/IAs, but would be difficult to not have it be for everyone.

Spirit Night – Angie Kirkland

- Next spirit night is January 27th at Panera

Spirit Wear – Alison Alcaine

- Supply Chain issues. Hesitant to place another order as there are issues with sizes/colors. Contacting other vendors but having limited success. Might do another t-shirt order for the bright neon shirts.

Additional Information:

Rachael Nichols:

- We have decided on the material (a light metal good for outdoors), size (18x24), text (name and grade), number of signs (19, all teachers who are ever in a trailer, including AIG teachers and bathroom), hooks and installer (Shawn Trawinski). These are removable so teachers can easily move them when they change cottages.
- I'm ready to put in the order. I'll get the final proofs, and we can have these printed and up before the end of the month.

Who is doing the carnival? Rachael Nichols is leading this event. Contender Esports gave us a gift card, which we will use for the carnival or a gala. No decision has been made on these events yet. An outdoor carnival of some sort is absolutely on the radar.

Question: How will covid testing at school work? Ms May: based on slides from Dec 8, there will be an option for rapid test at care center (test to stay option). At middle school, they may be doing pooled routine testing. For more information:

<https://www.wcpss.net/Page/50523>

COVID-19 / COVID-19 Testing

Yes. A parent or guardian must register any K-12 student under 18 years old in order for a COVID-19 test to be administered. Pre-K students who attend school within K-12 school buildings are eligible for the state-approved vendor testing with Mako.