

OWL PTO General Meeting Minutes  
9/15/15

Present: Kari Leifheit, Julia Hobday, Kristi Gile, Lisa Schibel, Kathy Brazel, Paul Bary, Donna Carlson, Debra Raysor, Mary Beth Leone-Getten, Carolyn McCarthy (member at large), Traci Hildebrandt-Smith (co-chair), Lisa Gale (treasurer), Zoe Gale (student), Theresa del Rosario (co-chair), Betsy Fabel (secretary), Mary Sellers (staff), Dave Gundale (principal).

Co-chair Theresa del Rosario began meeting

- Welcomed all.
- Thanked Mary Beth Leone-Getten, Lisa Gale for past/ongoing PTO service.
- Group introduced themselves.

Co-chair Traci Hildebrandt-Smith presented PTO mission/procedures per handout.

Principal's Report, David Gundale

- Reported excellent start to new school year as illustrated thus far by teachers' ability to move right into curriculum and collaboration (no unpacking boxes this year) and creative dance moves at school wide community meeting, and by students' inclusive play on Four Square court and general lunchroom stewardship.
- Reported 70 additional students at OWL this year, 420 total students. Building holds growing student body well.
- Invited all to OWL Open House Thurs., Sept. 24. 6-7 pm welcome for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families, 7-8:30 pm opportunity for all to follow child's school day.
- Explained challenge of applying general fund budget to fieldwork experiences. 2015 fieldwork cost is \$40,000, payments to date \$20,000. Further payments anticipated, but not in full.
- Presented his GiveMN/Direct Appeal goal of \$20,000. Work underway to secure challenge grant. Discussed importance of fundraising to ensure enriching and equitable fieldwork experiences for all students.

Committee chair Mary Beth Leone-Getten spoke to Fall Family Gathering

- Described relaxed nature of event.
- Explained Outward Bound Student Service Auction and Craft Sale.
- Directed volunteers to Sign Up Genius to help with event.
- Requested decorations coordinator to help decorate tables.
- Mary Sellers asked about introducing/identifying teachers at event. Will discuss at staff meeting.

Committee chairs Mary Beth Leone-Getten and Theresa del Rosario addressed GiveMN/Direct Appeal fundraising campaign

- Kick off to be at Fall Family Gathering.
- Direct donations allow full gift to go to OWL, GiveMN charges admin fee.

- Donations received other than Give To The Max Day can be backfilled into giving thermometer on that day to show growth and generate excitement.
- Sustaining monthly donations are accepted.
- Reminder to seek out matching gifts from employers.
- Alumni/former teachers will be reminded of OWL fundraising via facebook.

Member at large Carolyn McCarthy described PTO volunteer efforts per handout

- Committee chair Debra Raysor spoke to Box Tops collection.
- Committee chair Theresa del Rosario addressed coffee bean sales at events and via order form.
- Crews improving service component and overall content through mentoring.
- Reminder to volunteer with your child. They earn service hours and its good generally.

Co-chair Theresa del Rosario introduced new facebook group

- Open World Learning Community PTO group replaces former page.
- Group allows for posting to main page by all members.
- Advantages: real time conversations, increased dialogue amongst members.
- OWL also continues to have a Twitter feed, weekly email newsletter, monthly print newsletter: discussion re cost of 4 color newsletter and mailing and move to less frequent mailing, possibility of black/white newsletters, bundling mailings with district mail (ie report cards). Newsletter is not currently PTO expense. Continue to evaluate cost and value going forward.

OWL Spiritwear options presented for committee chair Ginger Carroll

- Option for PTO members to vote on preferred styles.
- Styles and prices similar to last year.
- Suggestion for logo bags/lanyards.
- Online ordering will be available this year.

Treasurer Lisa Gale gave budget presentation

- Remember Amazon Smile program.
- PTO expense reimbursements available.
- Differentiated community building from fundraising events acknowledging crossover, ie Fall event goal is to break even financially but build community.
- Discussion re how PTO chooses to allocate money it earns; potential impacts to current vs future fieldwork opportunities should funding be short; considerations for funding grant programs and/or supplementing fieldwork.
- Additional expenses: Meal cost new to Raffle-o-Rama with loss of Title I. Building of gaga pit in yard. Further discussion needed.
- Budget to be further discussed and approved in October.

Meeting concluded.

Mintues submitted by Betsy Fabel, secretary