

OWL PTO General Meeting Minutes
11/10/15

Present: Kari Leifheit, Donna Carlson, Leslie Dwight, Paul Bary, 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), Tim Leone-Getten (staff), Dave Gundale (principal).

Theresa del Rosario began meeting:

- Welcome and a deep breath followed by circle of introductions.

Principal's Report, David Gundale

- Reported on successful College Knowledge/Senior Family Night. Looking forward to the first annual College March to the Mailbox on Dec. 11. This is a nationwide event at EL schools to symbolically acknowledge the college application process and the journey it takes to get there.
- Expeditionary Learning schools are officially changing their name to EL schools—same great stuff, shorter name. Four OWL staff recently attended an EL conference and returned enthused.
- OWL's first Open House of the school marketing season is next Tues, Nov. 17. Help OWL spread the word by sharing your experiences with prospective parents. Current OWL families are encouraged to attend next Tuesday to help with that effort at the Open House.
- SPPS is hosting a budget meeting Sat. Nov. 14. Budgeting remains challenging for all and particularly so for secondary schools. Consider attending this or future SPPS budget meetings to advocate for secondary school funding.
 - A sizeable shortfall still remains for this year's Fall Retreats and funding is slim for additional programs such as jazz band.

Give to the Max Day, Mary Beth Leone-Getten:

- Give to the Max Day is this Thursday.
- This year's goal of \$20,000 is a big leap over last year's goal of \$10,000 but the need is big.
- Donors on GTTM Day will be eligible to be entered into several drawings for this year's We Are Crew shirt.
- OWL received a \$3000 challenge grant and has raised \$1650 via the direct appeal envelope campaign.
- OWL facebook pages and twitter accounts will update throughout the day. Appeals to the various OWL alumni facebook pages will also appear.

Theater concessions, Leslie Dwight:

- OWL PTO will sell food and drinks at the OWL play the nights of Dec 9-11.
- 3 adults plus students are needed to staff the concession stand each night. Contact ldwight129@gmail.com to volunteer. Student volunteers earn school service hours.

Parent Seminars, Mary Sellers:

- Wed. Nov. 11, 5:30 pm, is the 2nd of 3 Parent Seminars held at OWL. The meeting will focus on responsible technology use for students. The first Parent Seminar was positively received. Please consider attending. Dinner will be served and childcare and transportation are available.
- The final seminar in December will feature a speaker from the Office of College and Career Readiness. Contact mary.sellers@spps.org for more information.

*Mary also reported that OLPA testing will take place for 6-8 graders next week.

Dining Out For OWL, Carolyn McCarthy

- Upcoming dates and locations: 11/30 at Davannis on Grand; 12/8 at Applebees on Robert. Download a flyer from the school website and be sure to show it at the respective restaurants in order for OWL earn 20% at Davannis and 15% at Applebees.
- Prospective OWL families are being invited to attend these events as another way to meet and talk with OWL families. Wear your OWL spirit wear when you attend so interested folks can strike up a conversation.
- Truberry on Grand offered another venue for Dining Out for OWL. All in attendance discussed and voted to hold the event on Saturday, January 23, 2016. 20% of the entire day's proceeds will be donated to OWL.

Budget update, Lisa Gale

- Fall Family Gathering is officially in the black this year.
- Coffee sales and spirit wear sales are going well. OWL will realize a greater profit from OWL spirit wear this year over last due to a change in vendor.
- Target's Take Charge of Education program will be ending in May 2016 but is still an avenue for directing a portion of dollars spent to OWL until then.
- OWL PTO might want to consider investing in an ipad so credit cards can reliably be accepted at events. Discuss at future meetings.

Program Grants discussion, all present

- Application deadline will move to February for this year.
- Two application periods will be put into place next year—first deadline will be November. PTO will add a December meeting next year to review applications.
- More discussion about the program will take place at future meetings.

Meeting concluded.

Mintues submitted by Betsy Fabel, secretary