

Open World Learning Community PTO November 2014 General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 at 7PM in the 1st Floor Conference room

Attendance: Lisa Gale, Jennifer Stevenson, Mary Beth Leone-Getten, Mark Scott, Theresa Del Rosario, Muhamad Abdulla, Kari Leifheit, Carolyn McCarthy, Betsy Fabel, Scott Antin, Mary Brownlow, Donna Carlson, Rainbow Espinosa, Leslie Dwight, Beth Kellar-Long, Mary Sellers (staff). *16 members in attendance.*

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by co chair Lisa Gale

- Group went around the room and introduced ourselves, names and ages of OWL students, previous schools

Title 1 Annual Meeting

Mary Sellers (staff) gave a presentation about Title 1 at OWL. More information can be found on the school website about Title 1 at OWL. At OWL, Title 1 covers:

- 1 FTE staff position
- \$1500 for transportation (for parents who need this service for conferences, meetings, events)
- \$1500 for IXL math software
- Project Reach (services for homeless students)
- Interpreters for school events
- Family involvement activities

Treasurer's Report

- Lisa Gale provided a quick update to the budget. Of note: Give to the Max fundraising brought in \$8145(!) including \$1075 from 10th grade families to provide a match, as well as \$2000 in an anonymous match. Although short of the goal, this was WAY more than the \$1800 we earned last year. Using GiveMN site for donations cost about \$200 in fees.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Give to the Max**
 - Mary Beth Leone-Getten reviewed our successful fun drive:
 - 8145 raised
 - 1075 from 10th grade families for a match
 - 2000 anonymous donor
 - about 75 distinct donors online
 - The Give MN site was stressed for much of the day and donations were not uploading in real time. This situation makes it hard to build momentum.
 - Theresa Del Rosario introduced the idea that perhaps we should look into a different kind of fund drive to avoid the 4.9 percent in fees we pay Give MN.
 - Some think using the GiveMN site is a great convenience, given that if we do our own drive we have to send out donor tax letters to each donor – takes a lot of time to administer.
 - It was noted that Dave's letters added a nice touch and it is nice to have admin support for this effort.
 - Some would have liked to donate offline if they would have known about the fees.
 - Theresa formed a committee to look at this topic and make some preliminary plans for next year. The committee will meet soon so the topic is fresh.

- **Box Tops**
 - We raised \$60 in the first Box Tops collection attempt. Parents were asked to keep collecting and send in to the school office on a regular basis. It is easier to process them as we go, rather than all at the end. You can send them sealed in envelopes of 25 or 50 box tops. Cheryl will put them in the PTO mailbox.
- **Coffee Fundriaser**
 - Theresa Del Rosario reminded folks that November coffee orders were due that night for delivery before Thanksgiving. This is a fairly easy fundraiser and has already made nearly \$200 for the PTO, and a nice service to families.
 - We will send a December order form home with the newsletter—which includes seasonal flavored coffees. We will also have coffee by the bag available for purchase during the nights of the play. December coffee orders are due Dec. 12th for delivery before break.
 - We will decide if we take orders monthly, quarterly, etc. in the new year.
- **T-shirts**
 - Orders are due to the school office on Nov. 24th. Orders will be delivered the week before break.
 - Thanks to parent Tom Gau for creating the new designs.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Dining out with OWL**
 - Beth Kellar-Lon reminded the group that our first event is at Davanni's on Dec. 1st from 4-8 PM. Bring the flyer that was sent home with report cards. Make copies and give them to friends. OWL earns 20 percent of profits that night. Not the best night given that we are just back from a long weekend, so encourage people to come! Last year we made more than \$1000 on restaurant fundraisers, so these events are worth it!
- **Theater concessions**
 - Leslie Dwight circulated a list for volunteers to help sell concessions during the fall play nights on Dec. 10-12th. Shifts run from 6-9 PM and students can volunteer with their parent. Contact Leslie at ldwight129@gmail.com.
- **Raffle-o-Rama /New fundraising idea**
 - Tabled until January meeting
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- **Beautification**
 - Mary Brownlow will change up the planters for winter. She is looking for living greenery that could possibly be replanted in our outdoor gardens come spring. The PTO budgeted \$100 for this expense.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the kitchen room opposite the cafeteria.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Minutes compiled by Mary Beth Leone-Getten, OWL PTO secretary