

Open World Learning Community PTO

October 2014 General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 7PM in the Kitchen classroom

Attendance: Crosby Sommers, Barb Sommers, Kari Leifheit, Carolyn McCarthy, Lisa Gale, Tricia H-Smith, Debra Raysor, Paul Koll, Rainbow Espinosa, Tim Leone-Getten (staff), Theresa Del Rosario, Betsy Fabel, Gretchen Sage-Martinson, Mary Beth Leone-Getten, Lisa Gale, Dave Gundale (principal). *16 members in attendance.*

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by co chair Mary Beth Leone-Getten

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

Treasurer's Report

- Lisa Gale reviewed the budget for the 2014-15 school year and the programs, events and initiatives the PTO currently supports.

Old Business

- **Fall Family Gathering**
 - Mary Beth Leone-Getten thanked everyone for attending, volunteering and donating cakes for the cakewalk.
 - The weather was ideal for us to spread out outside, so we still fit the venue. We'll have to evaluate year by year to see if things get too crowded.
 - BY the numbers: We had 40 volunteers, plus 20 Outward Bound student volunteers, we purchased and sold 425 pasties, 25 people signed up to bring cakes, 25 MORE people brought cakes, 335 participated in the cake walk, 60+ people used the climbing wall, more than \$1500 was raised for the Outward Bound Service Trip.
 - An evaluation was passed out for all to complete.
 - A motion was made and seconded to rent the Harriet Island pavilion for next year, Thursday, Oct. 8th, for about \$350.00. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
 - Mary Beth Leone-Getten thanked all the members who have stepped up to take on volunteer roles this year:
 - Theater Refreshments: Leslie Dwight
 - Box Tops/Labels: Debra Raysor
 - Beautification: Holly Windingstad, Mary Brownlow, and Lori Iwan (special thanks for getting the planters purchased and planted for the grand opening!)
 - FFG Decorations: Julia Hobday, Mary Brownlow, and Mary Brooks
 - Leadership Team: Theresa Del Rosario
 - A motion was made/seconded to elect Theresa to the Leadership Team. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Coffee Sales: Theresa Del Rosario

Principal's Report: given by Dave Gundale

- Explained the iPad rollout: parent/student meetings will be held at school next Monday, by grade, at school to go over iPad procedures. Staff made the decision NOT to hand out iPads until Nov. 6th at school, so as not to cause distraction right before the end of the quarter.
- Explained the school results for the Multiple Measurement Rating, including the reason OWL didn't get points for graduation (too small sample size). Explained OWL has the need to improved math achievement and has already instituted math every day for grades 6-9.
- Discussed the staff vision of a gifted education for all students – rather than an intervention model, and mentioned the book *The Pedagogy of Confidence* to guide this work.
- A question was raised about the building not being locked during the day. Dave said work on the entrance is ongoing and will be a locked front entrance where all visitors will must enter through the office. Exterior doors are locked at 4:30, and opened during meetings at night.
- Mentioned the need to raise more funds to guarantee that every student can participate in important experiential learning opportunities like fall retreat trips, etc. These are not inexpensive. Encouraged parents to donate through Give to the Max day (Nov. 13) to help us reach our \$10,000 goal. A group of 10th grade parents are working on a matching grant.
- A question was raised about adding a line to the fieldtrip forms about sponsoring another student or asking for a scholarship. Perhaps using a sliding-scale form as they do in ECFE? Parents will submit ideas to Tim to standardize the forms.

New Business

- Theresa Del Rosario explained the **Velazquez Family Coffee fundraiser**, ongoing sale at OWL events where we sell coffee from a local family with a farm in Honduras. Fair Trade, sustainable business. We will have the students sell coffee at some point during the school year.
- Mary Beth Leone-Getten showed potential **t-shirt/sweatshirt designs** for this year and ask parents to vote for a favorite new design. T-shirt orders will be mailed home with the Nov. newsletter and hopefully will have delivery before the winter break.
- Debra Raysor talked about the upcoming **Box Tops** deadline (Oct. 30th) and encouraged people to collect at work, from neighbors, parents, etc. She will see about getting collection receptacles that people can use at work. Debra will work with staff to get a crew to help with processing.
- **Give to the Max** – big push for online giving, is Thursday, Nov. 13th. We have a \$10,000 goal and will have a match. Mary Beth encouraged those who donate to consider an early donation to show momentum. Watch for the matching grant amount in the upcoming newsletter.
- Beth Kellar-Long sent word that Davanni's has an opening for OWL to have a **Dining out with OWL** fundraiser on Mon., Dec. 1, the day after Thanksgiving break. Other openings conflict with play tech rehearsals. The group agreed to book Dec. 1 as the fundraiser.

Announcements

- Tim Leone-Getten invited all parents to an education summit that is being organized by Megan Hall and Representative Erin Murphy on November 12 from 6-8 PM at Macalester College. More information will be coming in the newsletter.
- Darcy Dungan-Seaver has started a Twitter account for the school. Follow at [@St.PaulOpen](#).
- Thanks to the students, Kendall and Avery Koll, who provided childcare for the meeting!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the kitchen room opposite the cafeteria.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM

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