

## OCC Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021

### **In attendance:**

Mayra Cruz (Principal)	Elizabeth Ruiz (At Large - Finance)
Scott Dafflitto (Chair)	Eva Mazier (Teacher Rep)
Hilary Benson (Secretary)	Veronica McKillop (Teacher Rep)
Kevin Kurzendoerfer (Treasurer)	Lauren Peña (Teacher Rep)
Jessica D'Amico (Tech & Operations Chair)	Matilde Sarmiento (Teacher Rep)
Catrin Morris (Communications Chair)	Andrea Egan (Immediate Past Chair)
Francisco Serrano (Room Parent Chair)	Jan Schuettpelz (Adams science teacher)
Catherine Depret (Fundraising)	Zaneta Han (DCPS)
Mark Bromley (Fundraising Strategy)	Kiery Viera (DCPS)
Claudia Aguilar (At Large – Community Events)	Jessica Barton
	Rob Meisnere

### **Unable to attend:**

Carla Ferris (Community Events)	Monique Worrell (At Large – Community Events)
Purnima Boominathan (Educ. Inv./LSAT Liaison)	

### **Opening & Welcome:** (Chair)

- Call to order at 8:35pm.
- Chair reminded attendees to assume the best of others' intentions and efforts, practice patience with ourselves and others; remember that we are here for the best interests of the children who attend Oyster-Adams
- In the wake of the recent violent insurrection at the Capitol, please reach out should you need support. The Chair encouraged the Principal to share resources with OA families and remind them about the counselors and social workers available at the school.
- OCC is always receptive to parent community feedback and will channel it to the right places. The Chair reminded attendees that questions and feedback specific to ReOpening should be directed to the ReOpening Community Corps (OA LSAT) at [LSAT@oysteradams.org](mailto:LSAT@oysteradams.org).

### **Campus Word:** (Principal)

- Principal reported that parents were mostly happy with how teachers helped students process the events of Jan. 6; next week school will be closed M/T/W and in-person learning on Th/F will depend on how peaceful Inauguration Day is.
- Principal will circulate a wellness survey to get a sense of what families currently need -- there have been recent asks to do with medical bills as well as ongoing anonymous donations for families. There has been a significant amount of COVID in the OA community, including multi-generational households.
- Teacher Rep Sarmiento asked if parents are receiving communication about the wellness survey beyond just an email - Principal will refer this concern to the social workers/counselors.

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- Principal noted the staffing challenges that will result from the 7 current pregnancies; she will also need to figure out how the school can celebrate them.
  
- **ReOpening Update:**
  - The school community is torn over if and how quickly to reopen -- we will continue to move forward as DCPS allows.
  - DCPS is vaccinating the 65+ community -- any OA community member with vaccine questions will be able to talk with an OA parent who is a doctor.
  - Chair asked how many families are accepting seats in the reopened classes: Principal noted 38% have accepted, 20% have declined, 42% are pending and families have 48 hours to decide whether or not to accept a spot.
  
- **Teacher/OCC budgeting:**
  - Treasurer noted that we have not yet disbursed the amounts that had been approved for Ms. McKillop's first-grade aide and funds for other aides doing extra duty -- Principal said that we have over spent with Mr. Flores (first-grade aide) and underspent for the other aides.
  - Principal noted that Ms. Fridley will be moving from FMLA to retirement -- this will open up a vacancy to get Mr. Flores on the DCPS payroll; Treasurer noted that under the current budget Mr. Flores will be working without a path to payroll; Principal will try to find out from HR/DCPS how long Ms. Fridley's mid-year retirement will take to finalize.
  
- **2021-2022 SY:**
  - Principal is working on hopes & dreams for the fall: budget activities for next SY will be discussed at the next LSAT meeting; class structure (e.g., in-person, virtual, hybrid) for Fall is still unclear as of now; as of yet, Chancellor Ferrebee has not even started talking about Term 4.
  - Communications Chair suggested raising funds to purchase tents for outdoor learning, supporting OCA counselors, etc. in an environment where more students will be back on campus.
  - Principal emphasized that she wants and needs OCC's support for long-overdue upgrades to the playground: the Board took the Principal's request regarding the playground for action.

#### **Business:**

- Declaration of voting quorum with more than two-thirds of elected Board present.
- **HER Initiative Club Proposal (Jan Schuettpelz):**
  - HER Initiative requested a budget line to deposit funds raised from their activities, which will then be used to support students with STEM kits over the summer. It is a budget neutral request.

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- The Board discussed several issues including accounting mechanisms and feasibility, alignment with school and OCC mission.
- Fundraising Chair moved & Former Chair seconded to approve proposal: addition of HER Initiative Club budget line **approved**.
- Approval of past minutes moved and seconded: minutes from meeting on 12/17/2020 **approved**.
- Approval of Hilary Benson as Board Secretary for remainder of 2020-2021 SY **approved**.

### **2021-2022:**

- Chair outlined four priority initiatives to begin in the next couple weeks. Each of these will ideally be composed of both Board members and OA parents. Please be generous but realistic about your volunteer commitment. Please contact Chair with recommendations for potential participants in any of these four initiatives.
  - Organization and Recruitment - Consider and provide recommendations on whether and how to modify the OCC's structure and functions; develop a recruitment plan for next year's Board.
  - Finance Working Group - Develop recommendations for short, mid-, and longer-term financial goals to help guide next year's budget development.
  - Fundraising Task Force - Identify and implement three, short-term priority fundraising strategies for the remainder of the year.
    - 1) Highly targeted, high dollar appeals to individuals. Principal is on board, so we have her fire power to help push this along
    - 2) Corporate fundraising/matching
    - 3) Leveraging data from targeted fundraising to inform ongoing, specific appeals
  - Communications and Community Engagement Committee - Identify highly targeted, quickly implementable actions and develop actionable recommendations to improve the communication and engagement with all OA families.

**Teacher Rep Update** -- no updates

**LSAT Update** – deferred until LSAT Rep present

### **Treasurer Update:**

- Treasurer's report will be available next week: OCC has received some contributions this past week and as noted previously OCC needs a plan for continuing to fund Mr. Flores' position.

### **Fundraising Update:**

- Fundraising Chair noted yoga benefit for Oyster raised \$550; she suggests doing another yoga class paired with a cider happy hour.

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- Fundraising Chair received a proposal from Mathnasium for a virtual math night on either 2/4 or 2/11 with 2 sessions of up to 30 kids in small breakout rooms - it would be managed by their Miami office and bilingual employees would be involved.
- Fundraising Chair noted that Technology Chair did a great job of pushing out dues reminders and she suggested we should move to in-class reminders with a more targeted approach through room parents; she noted we should also make sure families are aware of classroom amenities that are OCC-funded; Board Chair noted that OCC should identify which families it is appropriate to ask repeatedly and which it is not.

#### **Room Parent Update:**

- Room Parent Chair is not sure how to set up the meal deliveries for teachers for Teacher Appreciation: Does the OCC fundraise with room parent help and then distribute the funds?
- Chair noted that OCC has exhausted its budget allocation for teacher appreciation; Fundraising Chair offered her personal Venmo or PayPal accounts for community contributions.
- Teacher Representatives prefer to receive gift cards/credit to buy their own meals rather than having food provided.
- The Board discussed the creation of a resource list that would provide information about our own OA families that own or work for businesses, offer professional services, or work in trades that the OA community could support. Room Parent and Technology chairs agreed to coordinate on this project.

#### **Kudos:**

- Fundraising Chair to Principal - For making us safe and seen: Please take care of yourself and thank you for being an amazing leader.
- Communications Chair to Room Parent Chair - He has been so awesome about organizing room parent stuff!
- Room Parent Chair to OA LSAT Rep Sweta Shah - She did awesome in the LSAT meeting! Principal seconds this saying that Sweta was able to lower the temperature of the meeting.
- Fundraising Chair let us know that she just learned OA custodian Mr. Moore has COVID and to share this in the community. Zaneta Han noted Mr. Moore's wife has lost her job and their family can use whatever support our community can provide.
- Teacher Rep McKillop to Room Parent Chair: Thank you for collecting for teacher gift cards - it was such a generous treat.
- Zaneta Han thanked the room parents for gift cards for auxiliary staff: It's a special treat to know you're being thought of even though you are not a classroom teacher.

#### **Action Items and February Meeting:**

- Zaneta Han will adjust her proposal to the Board re. stopgap funding for first-grade aide.
- Chair will send out an email regarding next steps for the four working groups.
- Chair will follow up with Principal on OCC support for playground renovation.

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- Technology Chair and Room Parent Chair will collaborate on a framework for a community resources list.
- The next Board meeting will be held February 18 with agenda proposals due February 12.

**Adjourn:**

- Board meeting adjourned at 9:57pm.

## HER initiative Club Budget Line Proposal

Submitted by Jan Schuettpelz – 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher and advisor for HERinitiative and MidiHER

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### **Background of HERinitiative** (<https://sites.google.com/view/her-initiative>):

Established 5 years ago, HER has and continues to be a club that seeks social justice and empowers girls and women in our community and around the world. HER is a fully inclusive teacher sponsored club for students in grades 6-8. The HER students meet each Monday for 1 hour and the leadership team meets each Friday for 1 hour. In addition, we have a 4-5 grade club called MidiHER that meets every other Wednesday for 1 hour. In preCOVID times we would offer an afterschool enrichment to students in 1-3 grade called mini HER and hope to do this again in the after times. There are currently 27 active members of both clubs.

### **Proposal:**

I am proposing that the OCC creates an active budget line for HERinitiative. This budget line would be budget neutral, it would be a place where we deposit funds from fundraisers and then request checks from those funds to send to charities or to pay for our initiatives. We would not expend any funds that we did not raise. We are not asking for OCC to give us any money. Currently, HERinitiative is sponsoring a virtual run to raise money for reusable summer inquiry STEM kits. We would love to be able to deposit the profit from the run into this line item.