

OCC Meeting Minutes September 22, 2021

In attendance:

Scott Dafflitto (Chair)	Julian Pineda (Principal)
Hilary Benson (Secretary)	Alejandra Catacolí (Parent)
Mark Bromley (Fundraising Strategy Chair)	Michele Ceribelli (Parent)
Jessica D'Amico (Information & Process Chair)	Christina Hsiao (Parent)
Catherine Depret (Fundraising Chair)	Ashley Mahoney (Parent)
Jen Jessup (Communications Chair)	Beatriz Pineras (Parent)
Francisco Serrano (Room Parent Chair)	Emma Arons (Parent)
Purnima Boominathan (Educational Investment Chair/LSAT Liaison)	James Gledhill (Parent)
Elizabeth Ruiz (At Large – Finance)	Kim Montgomery (Parent)
Eva Mazier (Teacher Rep)	Paula Geardino (Parent)
Ana López (Teacher Rep)	Cristina Melendez (Parent)
Andrea Egan (Former Chair)	Patrick Masterson (Parent)
	D'Arcy Kemnitz (Parent)
	Christina Galindo (Parent)
	Nina K.

Unable to attend:

Kevin Kurzendoerfer (Treasurer)

Opening & Welcome: (Chair)

- Call to order at 8:35 pm.
- Chair reminded attendees to assume the best of others' intentions and efforts, to practice patience with ourselves and others; and to remember that we are here for the best interests of the children who attend Oyster-Adams.
- Chair welcomed Principal Pineda; encouraged family annual giving and Support A Tigre program.

Budget Update: (Chair)

- Chair noted absence of our treasurer tonight and reviewed OCC's current financial position preliminary to vote on approving budget - noted budget is currently about \$16K short but will be updated as we fundraise. We need at least two-thirds of families to participate in the annual donation. The Schwab account can backstop any shortfall but we will concentrate on fundraising in order to avoid one.
- Classroom supplies, specials, extracurricular activities, trips are all funded at pre-pandemic levels; tutoring, teacher appreciation, teacher professional development are being funded at increased levels; funding for tutoring may be decreased if federal funds are available; OCC is buying RAZ Kids for all students and exploring purchasing other learning software.
- Principal noted his interest in the budget ensuring access for all stakeholders equitably.

Business: (Quorum Present)

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- **Approval of past minutes:**
 - Minutes from 5/20/21 and 6/17/21 moved for approval, seconded and approved.
- **Approval of budget:**
 - Budget moved for approval, seconded and approved.

Committees Update: (Chair)

- Each committee should have a board member as chair and at least two other members; we strive to have both languages and both campuses represented on each committee:
 - **Elections Committee** - Mark Bromley, Andrea Egan - election by end of October, beginning of November
 - **Nominations & Recruitment Committee** - Francisco Serrano
 - **Social Engagement Committee** - Purnima Boominathan, Catherine Depret, Francisco Serrano - a new group to improve our OA community
 - **Health & Safety Committee** - no members yet - should be a group to partner with the school community to address COVID concerns

Fundraising Update: (Information & Process Chair, Fundraising Chair, Room Parent Chair)

- Information & Process Chair noted donation requests this year have been personalized and that we are working with school to avoid requesting donations from families that are financially strained; Room Parent Chair noted we currently have 44% family participation.

Teacher Representatives Updates: (Teacher Representatives)

- Ana López said she is trying to assess teacher interest in online professional development programs as well as the training DCPS is offering; Chair noted that the OCC wants to cover whatever DCPS does not cover, if possible.

Campus Word: (Principal Pineda)

- **Health:** We have had a low number of COVID cases and; our protocols and practices are working and we will continue to reassess them in light of our ongoing experience.
- **School Year:** We began with an emphasis on social-emotional support; we're now able to focus more on academics.
- **Staff:** We have 100% of staff in-person.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Will be in October and be virtual.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month:** Principal is working on a yearlong appreciation.
- **Testing:** BOY data should be ready by the first week of October.
- **Playground:** No update yet on procurement process or installation timeline.
- **Outdoor Lunch:** Currently 100% at Adams; about 75% at Oyster.
- **COVID Testing:** Goal is 10% asymptomatic testing any given day and 20% after a long weekend/holiday.

General Discussion: (Everyone)

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- I&P Chair requested social media volunteers for promoting school & fundraising efforts -- parent Ashley Mahoney volunteered.
- Room Parent Chair noted that he has no room parents for 6th, 7th & 8th grades -- parent Andrea Egan volunteered for 8th grade and Christina Galindo volunteered to co-room parent with her.
- Communications Chair called for volunteers to support OCC communications especially with translation -- parent Beatriz Pineras volunteered to help with this.
- Chair noted that the OCC is working with the APs to fund outdoor lunch set-up at both campuses. General agreement that DCPS will not be assisting schools in funding expenses related to COVID.
- Parent Susan Klein noted that she would be happy to help with supporting families who need warm clothes for winter and the Fundraising Chair suggested that she should contact the school social worker regarding a coat drive.
- Parent Christina Galindo noted that in some classrooms desks at Adams are still pushed together into groups facing each other, a violation of COVID-prevention protocols; she questioned why this is in the context of a significant outbreak in 4th grade. Principal Pineda noted that DCPS recommendations are not obligatory and that some teachers may be creating pods; social distancing is the most important part of preventing classroom spread.
- Fundraising Chair raised the issue of close quarters on cross-country bus, and also wondered about student social distancing during OCA activities. She suggested that the school should communicate to families that they should be consistently assessing their family risk level prior to including their kids in group activities.

Kudos: (Everyone)

- Thank you from Chair to Jess, Francisco, Jen and Catherine for standing up our targeted fundraising.
- Thank you from Chair to all our teachers for all you do, OA staff for managing an impossible situation, our board members for stepping up, OA parents for muddling through another day.
- Thank you from Purnima to Chair for his time and effort on the OCC.

Adjournment: (Secretary)

- Board meeting adjourned at 10:45pm.