

**OCC Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021**

In attendance:

Scott Dafflito (Chair)	Jessica Barton (Parent)
Kevin Kurzendoerfer (Treasurer)	Stephanie Bekhor (Parent)
Hilary Benson (Secretary)	Martin Hermosilla (Parent)
Mark Bromley (Fundraising Strategy Chair)	Ashley Darcy-Mahoney (Parent)
Catherine Depret (Fundraising Chair)	Bettina Hetig (Parent)
Jen Jessup (Communications Chair)	Cristina (Parent)
Francisco Serrano (Room Parent Chair)	
Jess D'Amico (Information & Process Chair)	
Elizabeth Ruiz (At Large – Finance)	
Eva Mazier (Teacher Rep)	
Ana López (Teacher Rep)	

Unable to attend:

Monique Worrell (At Large - Community Events)
Purnima Boominathan (Educational Investment)
Julian Pineda (Principal)

Opening & Welcome: (Chair)

- Call to order at 8:34 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 invited participants to speak in the language in which they feel most comfortable and committed to pausing periodically for translation to Spanish. Room Parent Chair volunteered to translate for this meeting.

Treasurer's Update: (Treasurer)

- Treasurer noted that we have \$200K; we are under budget on spending but we still have to raise a good deal of revenue to fund our budget: Chair noted that we are \$72K short of our budgeted expenses.
- Treasurer noted that the OCC is starting to pay on tutoring and aides.

Fundraising Update: (Fundraising Chair)

- Room Parent Chair reported that the annual fund has 56% of families participating after 3 rounds of email solicitations.
- Fundraising Chair stated she would like to start a phone bank to reach more families. Board Chair noted that past fundraising phone calls have made some families uncomfortable - e.g. an out-of-boundary family felt that they might be kicked out of the school if they did not contribute. Fundraising Chair noted need for script to avoid confusing ad libbing.

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- Information & Process Chair noted the need to differentiate between families who don't have the means to pay vs. those who could pay but don't open their email, etc. -- Room Parent Chair and Information & Process Chair noted that they can pull the stats from Constant Contact on recipients' degree of interaction with emailed solicitations.
- Ashley Mahoney noted that confidentiality agreements should be in place for volunteers making solicitation calls; she also notes that alumni or current students can make compelling pitches for donations. Chair noted that OA theater students now at Ellington H.S. could make great representatives.

Business: (Quorum Present)

- **Approval of past minutes:**
 - Minutes from 10/28/21 moved, seconded and approved.

Committee Updates: (Chair)

- Health & Safety Committee (Ashley Darcy-Mahoney)
 - Ashley noted the pop-up vaccine clinic has been approved, likely in December -- this will be publicized as soon as we have a date.
 - Next week Ashley will be standing up judgment-free question zones at both schools.
 - Ashley stated OA will be providing rapid COVID tests for families that we support in various ways for use around the holidays. We will not be involved in managing the results.
 - Outdoor lunch is proceeding successfully. Lunch has to be moved indoors if the temperature is below 40°, however as the weather gets colder we will also have more students vaccinated.
 - Chair noted that the traffic flow at drop-off/pick-up is dangerous and should be rethought. He notes that the school staff cannot be responsible for this: MPD, the OCC and parents must address this problem. Ashley notes that getting multiple parent volunteers on a daily basis (as is done for outdoor lunch set-up) is difficult.
 - Chair asks for volunteers to work on this question; and asks if the OCC should fund this project (personnel, permitting, etc.) -- At-Large Representative Ruiz asked if other schools spend their own funds on things like this and Communications Chair suggested soliciting input from parents at other schools.

Tutoring Update: (Chair)

- Chair notes that our teachers have stepped up and over 100 students are receiving high-impact tutoring across both campuses.
- Chair notes that the Principal is concerned that students receiving tutoring need after-school snacks. Teacher Rep Mazier noted that most teachers buy snacks for the students they tutor. Teacher Rep López noted tutoring at Oyster is mostly 2 days a week. Both teacher reps said they felt that a fridge was not necessary for providing healthy snacks.
- Chair asked the Board if they would support funding healthy snacks for after-school tutoring: Board confirmed that we would.

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- Fundraising Chair noted that the OCC rate for tutoring is \$40/hour and needs to catch up to market rate, i.e. \$60-70/hour.

Kudos: (All)

- In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Chair thanked,
 - Jess, Francisco and Jen for their efforts to boost family donations.
 - Stacia, Sarah, Evelyn and Francisco for standing up the pop-up gear sale which raised \$6K in 2 hours.
 - George Vera for applying for a \$2500 'Joy Grant' and Purnima and Mark for helping with technical aspects.
 - Megan and Hilary for helping with OCC bookkeeping.
 - Stacia Ardille and leadership for their work on the Oyster playground renovation.
 - Brian and Angela for tracking down trees for the Christmas tree sale.
 - Ashley and the Health & Safety Committee for working on outdoor lunch, pop-up vaccine clinics, no-judgment zones, resource compilation sharing and more to come.
- Jen thanked Jess for connecting with OA to improve the website.

Action Items: (Secretary)

- Francisco suggested standing up another pop-up gear sale in spring. **OCC Action:** Identify day(s) for sale, assess inventory and restock as needed, publicize sale, identify volunteers to run sale.
- Appeals for family donations need to be targeted to those who can afford to pay but haven't. **OCC Action:** Jess & Francisco to pull stats from Constant Contact for Catherine so that she can organize plan for targeted fundraising.
- Need to raise \$72K to meet our budget. **OCC Action:** After Thanksgiving, Catherine to put together proposal and timeline for rest of year's outreach.
- Pop-up vaccine clinic to be at OA this winter. **OCC Action:** Ashley to send details to Jen and she will publicize over email and social media when details are finalized.
- Ashley wants to make a video to promote vaccination and requests help in collecting photos of students getting their shots. **OCC Action:** Jess to put out a call for images and assist with technology.
- Safety of pedestrians at drop-off/pick-up needs to be improved. **OCC Action:** Scott will communicate to Julian and investigate possibility of closing 29th Street with ANC. All OCC members asked to put forward names of parents who may be willing to help with traffic safety efforts.
- Principal concerned that students receiving tutoring also receive healthy snacks. **OCC Action:** Scott to contact Julian to advise that OCC will support funding for this. Eva & Ana to communicate with Rosa & Julian regarding plan for snacks.
- Scott is concerned that we not burn out our teachers who are already tutoring and that we increase our tutoring pool with any teachers who are inclined to tutor. **OCC Action:** Ana to poll teachers to find out who might consider tutoring in the spring.

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- The OCC wants to promote teacher appreciation in ways most agreeable to our teachers. **OCC Action:** Eva to poll teachers on whether they would attend a party as a component of teacher appreciation.

Adjournment: (Secretary)

- Board members mutinied at the lateness of the hour and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm.