

OCC Meeting Minutes January 20, 2022

In attendance:

Scott Dafflitto (Chair)	Jessica Barton (Parent)
Kevin Kurzendoerfer (Treasurer)	Annalise Nelson (Parent)
Hilary Benson (Secretary)	George Vera (Parent)
Mark Bromley (Fundraising Strategy Chair)	Ashley Darcy Mahoney (Parent)
Catherine Depret (Fundraising Chair)	Megan Hustings (Parent)
Jen Jessup (Communications Chair)	Andrea Egan (Parent)
Francisco Serrano (Room Parent Chair)	Dan Gordon (Parent, LSAT Rep)
Jess D'Amico (Information & Process Chair)	Emma Arons (Parent)
Purnima Boominathan (Educational Investment)	Martha Valenzuela (Parent)
Eva Mazier (Teacher Rep)	Magdalena Laguarda Villagran (Parent)
Ana López (Teacher Rep)	Rosa Berrocal (AP, Oyster)
Julián Pineda (Principal)	Donnell Cox (AP, Adams)

Unable to attend:

Monique Worrell (At Large - Community Events)
Elizabeth Ruiz (At Large – Finance)

Opening & Welcome: (Chair)

- Call to order at 8:30 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.

Treasurer's Update: (Treasurer)

- Treasurer reported that while our cash position is fine we are \$80K behind in fundraising. Treasurer reminded the Board that the approved budget already assumes a \$17K budget deficit, and if spending catches up to the budget would end the year closer to \$50,000 in deficit.

Board/Business Updates: (Chair; quorum present)

- **Election Update:**
 - Chair noted that last year's election was postponed to give the board time for recruitment, and he proposed a question to the board: Should we push for an election soon or plan to hold it at the end of the regular cycle?
 - There was general agreement that holding the next election on the regular cycle (i.e. at the end of the school year) makes the most sense.
- **New Board Members:**
 - Chair noted that some parents are helping prior to the next election and that we are voting to make their positions official:

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- Megan Hustings has been helping the Treasurer with financial duties and we will vote on making her Co-Treasurer.
- Annalise Nelson and George Vera will be helping with fundraising duties and we will vote on making them Fundraising Co-Chairs; our current Fundraising Chair, Catherine, will move to an at-large position. Chair thanked Catherine for all her dedicated and imaginative work fundraising for OA over the years.
- Ashley Darcy Mahoney has been heading up the Health and Safety Committee and we will vote to make her an at-large member.
- New positions were voted on and **approved**:
 - Megan Hustings - Co-Treasurer
 - Annalise Nelson, George Vera - Fundraising Co-Chairs
 - Catherine Depret - At-Large
 - Ashley Darcy Mahoney - At-Large
- **Additional Supplies Requests:**
 - Chair asked Teacher Reps to remind teachers that they still have their full year OCC funds available for reimbursements; if teachers need more money they should come to the board so that we can accommodate as many requests as possible.
 - Treasurer noted that we have about \$40K left unspent of the \$55K budget allotted for teachers' supplies.
 - Chair asked for board vote for 3 specific teacher funding requests:
 - Our PE teachers requested \$700 for recess and PE equipment Oyster and \$700 for recess and PE equipment at Adams - both requests **approved**
 - Sr Salvador requested \$650 for additionally needed music supplies for Oyster - **approved**
 - Chair noted that Kevin & Megan will adjust the budget to reflect this additional funding, adding them to the designated teachers' budgets.
- **Black History Month:**
 - Parent Shawn Leonard has offered to head up events for BHM this year. She would also like to create a Pan-African Cultural Integration Committee with the intent to incorporate pan-African culture into the OA curriculum all year. Chair has two requests:
 - volunteers to help with planning OA's BHM celebration
 - volunteers to serve on a newly created PACI committee

Adams Update and OCA Support: (Dan Gordon)

- In the wake of a series of clashes between fifth-grade students at Adams during lunch and recess, Dan suggested that there is a need for additional staff to help with student oversight. He suggested that OCA counselors could be hired to supplement teacher oversight at this time. Dan noted that Connie Artigas confirmed that OCA has 4 counselors who could be available to help with this immediately.
- Information & Process Chair asked at what point a student who has been repeatedly involved in these conflicts would experience consequences? She noted that a student who has been behaving in a problematic fashion should lose the privilege of outdoor recess.

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- Principal Pineda confirmed that there are not enough teachers to provide adequate oversight for all student activities during lunch and recess. He noted that we have to rely on restorative justice and conscious discipline when we respond to student behavior.
- Chair noted that the OCC encourages the administration and parents to work together to ensure that all families feel safe. Chair asked whether Principal Pineda envisions OCA counselors as supplementing the number of adults at lunch/recess or as replacing the teachers currently doing this task. Dan Gordon explained that the 3 adults currently overseeing lunch/recess are not sufficient and Principal Pineda confirmed that any temporary staff hired to assist would be in addition to these three adults.
- Treasurer suggested that funding for additional staff could be moved from the budget for field trips; Teacher Rep Lopez noted that she does not want to sacrifice field trips for the entire year and Treasurer proposed using half the field trip budget to go toward this temporary staffing need. Fundraising Strategy Chair noted that with half the year over it makes sense to reassign half the field trip budget.
- Fundraising Strategy Chair moves for vote reallocating \$10K from the field trip budget lines for additional lunch/recess staff at Adams for Term 3, with amount to be drawn on for any similar needs at Oyster, funds to be administered by Dan Gordon with assistance from Teacher Rep Mazier. Board voted to **approve** this motion.

Campus Word: (Principal)

- Principal Pineda notes that PK has to be closed today due to a covid case. DCPS is providing tests for everyone at school.
- Principal thanked the OCC for staff holiday gifts.
- Treasurer asked whether we will be implementing test-to-stay: Health & Safety Committee Chair noted that DCPS expects to apply this soon.
- Fundraising Chair noted that there have been sports events recently where an OA team was playing against a team that did not following masking protocol: she stressed that athletes should be empowered to walk away from games where the other team does not mask indoors or we risk undoing all the preventative work done to that point.
- Chair asked Principal about his intentions re. incorporating STEM programs at OA: Principal Pineda noted that his goal this year is to explore OA's teaching practices with a view to enhancing STEM curriculum at the school. His long-term goal is to make OA a STEM-oriented school.
- Rosa noted that a double-digit percentage of students started the year at 3 grade levels below expectation; since August we have moved this to a single-digit percentage and we expect to close the difference by the end of the year. She noted that tutoring and in-class instruction are working to effect growth across the board.

Teacher Representative Updates: (Teacher Reps)

- Nothing to add to the items already discussed.

Action Items: (Secretary)

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- Volunteers to help with the BHM celebration and/or on the new PACI committee should contact the Chair or Shawn Leonard.
- Treasurer to provide funds for Dan Gordon to hire temporary staff to supplement teachers overseeing lunch/recess at Adams.

Adjournment: (Secretary)

- Next meeting will be held February 17; current meeting adjourned at 11:12pm.