

**OCC Meeting Minutes**  
**February 17, 2022**

**In attendance:**

Scott Dafflitto (Chair)	Shawn Leonard (Parent)
Hilary Benson (Secretary)	D'Arcy Kemnitz (Parent)
George Vera (Fundraising Co-Chair)	Amy Kravitz (Parent)
Mark Bromley (Fundraising Strategy Chair)	Eva Salvetti (Parent)
Catherine Depret (At-Large)	Jon Wheeler (Parent)
Jen Jessup (Communications Chair)	Cristina Morando (Parent)
Magdalena Laguarda Villagran (Room Parent Chair)	Jessica Barton (Parent)
Francisco Serrano (Information & Process Co-Chair)	Edward Keefe (Parent)
Jess D'Amico (Information & Process Co-Chair)	Andrea Egan (Parent)
Ashley Darcy Mahoney (At-Large)	Gilda Verbal (Parent)
Purnima Boominathan (Educational Investment)	Emma Arons (Parent)
Eva Mazier (Teacher Rep)	Maria Fernandez Lopez (Parent)
Ana López (Teacher Rep)	Pam Castillo (Parent)
Lauren Pena (Teacher Rep)	Elizabeth Vaquera (Parent)
Rosa Berrocal (AP, Oyster)	Nina K. (Parent)
Julián Pineda (Principal)	M. DeJesus (Parent)
Mati Sarmiento (Teacher, Adams)	Stephanie Bekhor (Parent)
Nikki Roberson (Teacher, Oyster)	Christina Miranda (Parent)
Veronica McKillop (Teacher, Oyster)	Michelle Boorstein (Parent)

**Unable to Attend:**

Kevin Kurzendoerfer (Co-Treasurer)	Martha Valenzuela (At-Large)
Megan Hustings (Co-Treasurer)	Annalise Nelson (Fundraising Co-Chair)
Monique Worrell (At-Large, Community Events)	Donnel Cox (Acting AP, Adams)
Elizabeth Ruiz (At-Large, Finance)	

**Opening & Welcome:** (Chair)

- Call to order at 6:00 pm.

**Board/Business Updates:** (Chair; quorum present)

- **Teacher Representative Updates:**
  - **Tutoring:** Chair noted that with the OCC funding, OA has retroactively increased tutor pay to \$50/hr and will pay tutors \$50/hour moving forward; the OCC will continue to work with the school to ensure that all tutoring needs are met.
  - **Professional Development:** Chair noted that teachers have been using funding for PD and he asked our Teacher Reps to encourage their peers to apply for expense reimbursement. Chair said he would investigate whether the OCC can reimburse out-of-town travel expenses for professional development and let our Teacher Reps know.

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- **Raz-Kids:** Chair noted OCC is buying more Raz-Kids licenses for teachers who have requested them. He asked Teacher Reps to amplify Raz-Kids availability to their peers and suggested that the administration could canvas teachers to find out who needs access and bring that information to the OCC.
- **TAG Resources:** Chair noted TAG teachers are receiving more library resources and curriculum development assistance through the OCC.
- **Augmented Staff at Lunch/Recess:** Chair noted that OCA staff have been hired, trained and deployed to bolster adult oversight of students at both campuses at lunch/recess. Teacher McKillop mentioned how helpful this has been already.
- **Safety Committee:**
  - Chair stated that there have been behavioral issues reported at both campuses since the beginning of this school year; the OCC takes the safety of students and staff seriously and we want to be the voice of parents to the administration. Chair has heard from parents that there is a lack of transparency in the way behavioral issues are addressed and that both parents and students are starting to feel there is an emerging school culture of ‘no consequences’.
    - Three parents of students at Adams told stories of their children being assaulted physically or verbally, including with racist epithets, or of witnessing such assaults. They voiced concern that there appeared to be no consequences and that while administrators listened to their initial concerns and appeared to take them seriously, there was no follow through with disciplinary action and some students have been made to feel that they were at fault when protecting their friends.
    - Chair acknowledged the parents’ concerns and asked anyone with further information to share it with the board. He proposed the following actions:
      - To split the Health and Safety Committee into two: a Health Committee and a Student Safety Committee – Chair requests that anyone willing to serve on these email him.
      - To create surveys for students, faculty and staff to assess the prevalence and tenor of safety concerns.
      - To create a webform for sharing issues.
      - To develop and host an open forum for airing community safety concerns.
- **New Board Members:**
  - Chair proposed voting on 2 new board members:
    - Martha Valenzuela will be an At-Large member for the remainder of the term.
    - Magdalena Laguarda Villagran will take over as Room Parent Chair and Francisco Serrano will move to become Information & Process Co-Chair.
    - New positions voted on and **approved:**
      - Martha Valenzuela - At-Large

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- Magdalena Laguarda Villagran - Room Parent Chair
- Francisco Serrano - Information & Process Co-Chair
  
- **Previous Minutes:** Minutes from 1/20/2022 voted on and **approved**.

### **General Discussion:**

- Chair acknowledged the administrators present and gave Principal Pineda the opportunity to respond to parents' comments. Principal Pineda stated that he had heard all the comments but that he was not prepared to address them since the subject had not been on the agenda; he proposed scheduling a Town Hall meeting and noted that "every issue has two sides".
- AP Berrocal noted that she has been unaware of the problems at Adams but she apologized and said she hears that there is repair work that the school needs to do. She noted that any incident is an opportunity to teach a child a missing social skill and that OA uses restorative practice in its disciplinary choices. Parents supported learning more about conscious discipline as it applies to middle school and wanted the school to schedule the Town Hall soon in order to allay parents' fears that their concerns could be set aside again.
- A few parents noted that they were generally aware of concerns, but unaware of any pervasive problems at the school.
- Chair noted that the high level of participation and the anguished voices at this board meeting indicate frustration at feeling powerless while also fearing that our children are unsafe. He stressed that the board is not antagonistic toward the administration but rather wants to seek solutions in collaboration with it. AP Berrocal mentioned that our social workers and counselors will need to be involved in this process; she noted that for a child's mistake the consequences arising from any disciplinary action also need to be considered. At-Large member Depret thanked AP Berrocal for being a partner in this process.
- Teacher Nikki Roberson noted that if just one of the episodes mentioned at this meeting had happened it would be a big deal. She wants to help in whatever way she can.
- One parent mentioned that she is optimistic about the utility of the Safety Committee; another parent mentioned that she does not expect much from a Town Hall as she has seen a pattern of minimizing parent concerns throughout the year.
- One parent asked when parents could have more face-to-face access to other parents and the wider school community. AP Berrocal noted that Mix & Mingle events are being planned.
- Information & Process Co-Chair D'Amico informed parents in attendance of the OCC's support of efforts to arrange auxiliary support staff for lunch and recess. She noted that the OCC is here to be a partner. I&P Co-Chair Serrano noted that the OCA counselors hired for this are trained in conscious discipline.
- At-Large Rep Depret encouraged our teachers to talk to their WTU reps about their concerns. She raised the questions of whether OA needs a code of conduct and how our older kids are being taught about conscious discipline. A parent affirmed that the kids do need a code of conduct, agreed to by all and with real consequences for breaking it for all kids

### **Action Items:** (Secretary)

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- Chair - to inform OCC Teacher Reps whether teachers can expense out-of-town travel for professional development opportunities.
- Chair - Formation of Safety Committee. Anyone interested in joining should email [chair@oysteradams.org](mailto:chair@oysteradams.org).
- Safety Committee - Creation and circulation of community-wide surveys on safety concerns.
- AP Berrocal - collect names of teachers who still require a Raz-Kids license and advise the OCC.
- Principal Pineda, AP Berrocal, Adams AP's - Scheduling, promoting and holding Town Hall for face-to-face communication between concerned parents and administration.

**Adjournment:** (Secretary)

- Next meeting will be held March 17; current meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.