

FEBRUARY
OPR PAC MEETING
Thursday, February 4, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING

7pm: Meeting

- Meeting minutes from January 2021 meeting accepted via unanimous vote.
- Treasurer's Report presented by Genevieve Jolley: Nothing other than January coffee truck expense and one cashed check.
- Current School Business – Mr. Barner
 - Thank you very much to the PAC for the coffee truck, it was a nice surprise for the teachers upon their return from break.
 - School Council met again recently and is charged with a new task: to partner with corporations to move learning forward and support teachers. They are looking for suggestions with respect to the approach to business partnering and welcome any contacts the community may have. Please email Mr. Barner if you have any, providing as much information as possible. At this point they are not sure what they are targeting, but Mr. Barner will consult with the staff in this regard.
 - Last Monday was an exciting day as OPR welcomed back the second-grade class to full in-person learning. Because the classrooms did not have much furniture, they were able to spread out within the classroom using the old fashion row style of seating.
 - Next week is School Spirit Week. We are encouraging remote students to send in pictures displaying their school spirit. We will flip days the following week in order to hit both cohorts.
 - Mr. Stefanowicz, PAC Teacher Representative, talked about his goal to shift OPR from content consumption to content creation. Prior to his current role, he spent 22 years as a third-grade teacher. Teaching is his background and passion.
 - Moving from content consumption to content creation has been a gradual shift for teachers in thinking.
 - This year has turned everything upside down, for obvious reasons, and technology is allowing it to happen much faster, engaging kids at home or at school.
 - Mr. Stefanowicz views his role as a Digital Learning Coach more as teacher support than tech support and hopes that you have seen the teachers' familiarity with the tools increase as the year has progressed.
 - The second grade coming back in person will be another transition. This time of year is always difficult, but the addition of bringing an entire class in for full in-person learning makes it even more so. Tech savvy tends to take a back seat to teach savvy. Hopefully everyone is seeing tech get in the way less.
 - I also hope to swing tech integration through media. We have been talking about digital citizenship. I am able to control students' screen to the extent that they can interact with me during the presentation. This provides formative data for the teacher to ensure live feedback and level of engagement.

- Increasingly synchronous provides for home and in-person learning in completely different ways.
 - Digital learning is not about the technology or the tools. It begins with the curriculum and the instruction and is layered with innovation. We have not been able to bring the children back to use ispace this year, but we are in the process of reconfiguring it for next year by creating ispace to go so that it can be brought into the classroom.
 - Question Meredith McCabe: Do you think there will be a permanent change in that Chrome Books will become more of a part of the homework process post Covid where they were not pre-Covid? Mr. S: The Chrome Books have become a natural tool, especially in the upper grades. Gone are the days where 10AM is technology time. Tech is now embedded throughout the day. The focus is on common collaboration and critical thinking – using it to elevate the students’ work instead of substituting for it.

- PAC Business – Meredith McCabe
 - This is probably a great time to talk about the fact that the school is looking to buy some technology. Specifically, a monitor for the lobby that will be used to show slideshows and current events, as well as an additional monitor in the media center for the ispace.
 - Although PAC has the funds, there is no expense line item for technology, so we would like to vote to put the cost into a newly created line item. \$2,800 spend. Any questions? No questions. Motion to create new line item for technology and add \$2,800-\$3,000. Unanimous vote.
 - Mr. Barner: we are also looking forward to being able to easily do something on a computer and display what is done on the computer on the monitor. These will be 55” monitors mounted, online and will afford classes virtual access to do presentations, have a place to display work and be used for anything that has sound – e.g. PAC events, announcements, etc. It will be a nice feature to add to the lobby for the benefit of the students and everyone else. Thank you.
 - Mr. Stefanowicz: it really is amazing to see the changes that have taken place at the school – the media has become an innovative space. We really appreciate your support.
 - Meredith McCabe: a big thank you to Ana Barros for the restaurant nights which were very successful. As Mr. Barner mentioned, the coffee truck was a huge hit with the teachers.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Direct donation flier going home – we think the timing is good for this given there is a bit of a lull in PAC activity;
 - Multicultural Books has partnered with an Unlikely Story for a book fair from 2/11-2/14/21.
 - Jake and Joe’s Restaurant Night is next week to be followed by Crisp in March.
 - Michael Dornisch is putting in motion a televised talent show – details to follow.
 - Any other questions? No. Meeting adjourned.

- Next Meeting: March 4, 2021, 7:00PM