

**Old Post Road  
Parent Advisory Committee  
October 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

7:00 PM Start – Old Post Road Cafeteria

***Acceptance of September Meeting Minutes***

President, Meredith McCabe opened the meeting with a vote to accept the September 2021 meeting minutes. Accepted unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer, Genevieve Jolley was absent from the meeting due to illness. The Treasurer's was presented by Vice President, Margo Dornisch.

- School supplies (thank you Carolyn Henjes!) yielded a profit of \$476;
- Pocketbook Bingo (thank you Liz Scott and Colleen Gray!) yielded a profit of over \$7,500;
- Flocking (thank you Meg Bissante and Colleen Gray!) yielded a profit \$590.
- Mums sale (thank you Colleen Gray!) yielded a profit of \$500; and
- Jimmy's Restaurant Night was packed (thank you Ana Barros!), numbers are not in yet, but we are certain it made a ton relative to last year.

Restaurant Night for October will be at The Chateau, flier to follow shortly.

***Principal's Report, Mr. Barner***

We are now into the school year and things are going very well. Today was day 25 and the students and staff are getting settled, everyone is happy to be here. We have spent a significant amount of time working on our schedule and classroom routine; time that is spent being around other kids and collaboration – these skills have regressed a bit – as a result, foundation skills are our focus right now.

Each year at the beginning of the school year the OPR School Advisory Council is established. The Council is comprised of myself, teachers and community representatives. Meetings are public and discuss many items including, but not limited to the school improvement plan, anti-bullying plan and suggestions for change. It is a wonderful vehicle for communication between the parent community and the school. Parents on the Council are available for outreach from the school community and it has resulted in many ideas that have been vetted, such as the composting project that was discussed but ultimately not pursued.

The topic of physical space (or lack thereof) came up at our most recent meeting. We are jam packed in OPR as evidenced by the fact that the cafeteria stage is currently doubling as an office for both our Title One and ESL specialists. The Council will be

making recommendations on how to deal with the issue as we want to be innovative going forward and need the space.

The Cultural Arts Committee has reviewed their budget and planned school assemblies for the school year. Brian Shaw came in today and the students seemed to enjoy the presentation immensely. The Committee is also looking at grade level assemblies and STEM shows for each grade as well as arts for social emotional learning.

### ***PAC Business***

Meredith talked about the PAC implementing a program to assist incoming kindergarten parents with their transition to OPR. Elementary school is very different from preschool and the PAC feels incoming families would benefit from more support and connection with families who are already in the system. PAC is working on a more formalized process which will use parent volunteers from the older grades to be a resource. PAC will be sending out a poll in the future asking parents of current/older students what they which they knew as incoming parents – details to follow.

Jamie Hauge asked why there is no band program at OPR or throughout the elementary schools. Mr. Barner said there is interest in getting it up and running again. The Music Coordinator for the schools recently left and there have been logistical issues the schools have been trying to overcome, but the hope is to get it up and running soon.

### ***Fundraising***

- Flocking has begun.
- Designer Bag Bingo was a huge hit – so much so that we may be having another night in the spring.
- The mums sold out the night of Open House.
- PAC provided breakfast for OPR staff as a kickoff to the 2021-2022 school year – thank you Tastefully Done!
- Thank you to Kathy Martinez for coordinating the Friendship Directory!
- Humble Pie Fundraiser has kicked off nicely – Jamie Hauge and Laura Hearn (thank you both!) are taking no prisoners so get your orders in!
- Coreen Jackson (thank you, Coreen!) will be holding her Fall Photography Fundraiser this month.
- Carrie Rendall and Monier Gulla (thank you, ladies!) have stepped up to coordinate the Booing Fundraiser – there was an error with the signup genius and there are actually a few more spots open – Margo will post an update.
- Marie Dooley (thankyou, Marie!) will be coordinating the Sweetheart Dance – all children are welcome and can bring their favorite adult to accompany them. Date to follow as we are unable to hold it right now because of limited capacity due to Covid restrictions.
- There is no Gingerbread Festival this year for the same reason.

- Please keep the Teacher's snack cart in mind – any and all donations are welcome. Margo will post to ask for donations on the social media channels and possibly create a Signup Genius.

Next meeting – Thursday, November 4, 2021, 7PM.

Thank you everyone! Meeting adjourned.