

**JANUARY**  
**OPR PAC MEETING MINUTES**  
Thursday, January 6, 2022 @ 7:00pm via Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

Meredith McCabe ("MM"):

Thank you for joining - back to Zoom, hopefully short term. We are skipping acceptance of the meeting minutes until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Gen Jolley ("GJ"):

Not too much going on for November and December.

- Elf'ing was successful. We had not budgeted anything for the event and made \$750.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Flocking has completed but we received four (4) additional payments).
- Holiday Greens came in a little less than last year but that was a function of a short turnaround time for the orders and supply chain issues which impacted the rate we received.
- We did not have as much fundraising for this period. We were unable to do Stay on the Half Day ("SOHD") or the Gingerbread Festival ("GF"). In the past these two events have brought in approximately \$5K, so we have been brainstorming ideas for the spring and welcome any suggestions anyone might be able to offer.
- We have plenty of savings right now and are not at a crisis point, but need to be mindful of the events we have lost and try to replace them.

Current School Business - Mr. Barner ("DB"):

Happy New Year! Thank you all for being here.

*Staff Professional Development*

There is no school for the students next Friday. The teachers will be engaging in professional development by attending educational camp this year, as they do every year. The camp is more impactful in person but will need to do it virtually again this year. The day will include a full slate of workshops which staff throughout the district may attend. A menu is sent out to ahead of time and staff choose how to spend their day. Courses include, but are not limited to reading, literacy, diversity, equity, self-care, math, collaboration, diversity, equity and inclusion.

The workshops are run by a facilitator who works throughout the day to keep the groups on task. There are also some workshops with presenters who guide the study.

The staff takes great enjoyment from the educational camp given their ability to choose how to spend their day and connect with one another.

We have many different professional development programs throughout the year in addition to the educational camp. In the past few years there has been an emphasis on literacy - reader and writer workshops. Recently we have been expanding to math - tightening up the curriculum and instruction - and social/emotional learning.

We are always looking to learn and improve.

### *Peacebuilder Program*

As many of you know, the Peacebuilder program is an incentive program which recognizes students for demonstrating positive behavior. Recognition can come from a staff recess aid to a teacher, etc. If recognized a student's name is written on the back of a sticker and every Monday during morning announcements ten (10) or more students are acknowledged and given a prize for such behavior.

An OPR Frisbee has been the prize up until recently. However, we are always looking for ways to keep the program fresh and will going forward will be using OPR Spirit Sticks - which include a positive statement, can be attached to the backpack and students are able to collect as many as they want, filling up rings on their backpacks.

I will be distributing the remaining frisbees (we have in excess of ninety (90)) to any students that have not yet received them.

### *Q & A:*

A member of the PAC asked if, given the Omicron variant, remote learning was a possibility?

There is nothing official other than a very strong "no". The Governor has been very clear the students should be in school, and he is right. We are working towards one hundred eighty (180) in-person school days.

The Leadership Council is looking for a better way to report cases as some people feel the current approach is causing anxiety while others feel it is needed.

### PAC Business - MM:

- *Flocking*: thank you to Meg Bissante and Meredith Gray!
- *Humble Pie*: thank you Jamie Hauge and Laura Hearn!
- *Holiday Greens*: thank you Amy Weddleton and Kathy Anderson!
- *Crisp Restaurant Night*: thank you to Margo - we made \$159 and Rob donated \$250 - thank you, Rob!
- *Apparel Sales*: thank you Mary Ellen Gray and Kristin McGovern! Even though we were challenged by inventory issues we did well and are able to turn it back on in the spring. Thank you, Mr. Barner for the BSN referral.
- *Elfing*: Thank you Hannah Bruce!

- *Sunshine Committee*: coordinated by Jennifer Dragonetti put on a fabulous luncheon for the staff just before the holiday break - thank you as well! We are looking for another Sunshine Coordinator - if you are interested please message us through Facebook.

Jen Barone sent a message through the chat that she is interested. MM let Jen know PAC would be in touch, thank you!

#### *Upcoming Events:*

We have been unable to do SOHD in the current environment. Because of Covid, we need to obtain certain approvals for different events, the students need to be grouped, etc. It is a lot more legwork. We would be interested to hear if anyone feels strongly about having it inside or if we should just wait until the spring.

GJ: hopefully we will be able to have one for February or March with contract tracing becoming easier. A different approach may change the grouping requirements.

MM: Liz Scott and Colleen Gray have suggested doing a Bingo Night in the spring for the whole family which would be coordinated with classroom raffle baskets. We have been getting tripped up on a venue because we cannot have a bar if kids are present.

GJ: Maybe we could do it at OPR and do it in shifts like it was previously done for the pancake breakfast.

DB: whatever is proposed will need to be presented to the nurse director for approval.

MM: we also have a Fun Run scheduled for May 21, 2022. Carolyn Henjes ("CH") is coordinating (thank you!).

CH: A company will be coming in to set everything up. It will consist of a one (1) mile run down Emerson, etc. Perhaps we can get sponsorship from places like Wegmans, have people dress in costumes and even have t-shirts made up by BSN - first one hundred (100) to sign up get a t-shirt? In the process of vetting different ideas. Open to suggestions.

MM: we are also discussing the idea of a spring carnival, maybe the same day as the Fun Run? We understand it may compete with many spring activities.

We would also like to resurrect the Sweetheart Dance - either in the gym or outside on the basketball courts. We would like as many people as possible, welcoming both parents and/or guardians.

Parents Night Out is on the books for May at the German Club. The band Fast Times will be playing for 80's Night - start planning your outfit!

Last, Jamie Hauge is in the process of planning a Red Sox/Woo Sox Night.

Thank you for the response on the Teacher's Bulletin Board!

Margo Dornisch ("MD"): keep the donations coming for the Teacher's Cart - may be a good idea to add a line-item to the budget for next year.

*Next meeting February 3, 2022, 7PM*