

SEPTEMBER 2023

OPR PAC MEETING

September 21st, 2023 @ 7:30pm via Zoom

All Parents and Guardians are invited to attend the PAC meetings at OPR.

7:30pm: Meeting Agenda

Welcome!

- Review hand raising feature for meeting
- Overview of how to add agenda items for future meetings and general meeting etiquette

PAC Business

- GRANT REQUEST: Outdoor Team Building Event at Hale Reservation
 - Total Request: \$5085
 - PAC Points to Consider
 - Q&A/Discussion
 - Call to Vote

Adjourn Meeting

Summary of Grant Request

This grant is to support the 5th Grade of OPR to participate in an Outdoor Education Team Building Event at Hale Reservation. The event will be facilitated by outdoor education professionals who will support fifth grade students to complete team building challenges working towards the creation of a cohesive community.

To Benefit

5th Grade

Please describe your project

The OPR Cultural Arts Committee (David Barner, Adelene Greene, Erin Boyd) began discussing different options to enrich the OPR community experience in 2020. One idea was to explore different outdoor education challenges in an effort to incorporate nature-based learning into some educational experiences. Based on this research, we found several programs that offered team building experiences in support of cohesive community development. The program at Hale Reservation in Westwood, MA was deemed the best fit for OPR given its reputation and proximity. The team building experience is expected to support OPR students to engage with one another outside the classroom, in nature, and share perspectives, build trust, and facilitate the creation of strong, collective classrooms for the school year.

This grant is seeking funding for the 5th grade to participate in the Outdoor Education Team Building Event at Hale Reservation in October 2023. The program will consist of students being challenged through both group elements and individual low and high rope to work on building trust, community, and support one another. Students will arrive by bus at Hale reservation in Westwood and be greeted by the facilitators who will give a safety briefing, introduce them to the different challenges and do some warm up games. Following the introduction, classes will be split into two groups (7-8 groups total) and meet their outdoor education professional. Students will then work on teambuilding challenges or low and high ropes activities. The low ropes are existing built elements to facilitate team challenges, which will be adapted based on the group's skills. The high ropes activities take place in the trees up to 40 feet above the ground. Classmates support one another with encouragement to complete the challenges. If successful, OPR parents will work to plan for next year's 5th grade to also participate in an Outdoor Education Team Building Event by facilitating a 4th grade fundraiser at the end of the 2023/24 school year. There is no expectation that this activity would be funded by the PAC fundraising activities moving forward, but we also see significant value in not ask families to pay for participation. If the PAC grant can cover this pilot year, we will create a committee outside the PAC to work on the planning of this type of outdoor education team building event for the future to ensure that all students can benefit from such an exciting experience.

How will this project benefit OPR Students and/or the OPR Community?

The OPR community will benefit from an Outdoor Education Team Building Event in several ways. First, an inclusive and cohesive 5th grade is beneficial for the entire school since the oldest students at ORP are the role models for younger students. The skills that students will be exposed to during the challenges will help them to better serve as community leaders at OPR. Second, the team building challenges will facilitate trust and support meaningful relationships that may not form in the classroom. This is beneficial for the 5th grade students to help ground their friendships beyond elementary school. Finally, OPR students will be exposed to different natural elements and physical challenges that will build their confidence in themselves and support social emotional learning.

Total funds requested:

\$5085

Additional Cost Details (itemized cost, timeline, structure, etc)

Bus round trip: \$900

Nurse: \$160

Hale cost per 12 students: \$575x7 groups= \$4025

Total: 5,085

Future PAC meeting dates:

October 11th

November 8th

December - no meeting

January 10th

February 7th

March 13th

April 10th

May 8th

June 5th

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