

Oxford PTA Meeting Minutes November 19, 2014

- I.- Meeting called to order, approximately 20 people in attendance including Principal Beth Rhine, PTA President Sabrina Leunig, PTA Treasurer Zoe Scheffy, PTA Secretary Amy Feldman.
- II.- Zoe shared information including distributing and conducting a brief budget review. Information shared:
- taxes have been filed and can be made available to interested individuals upon request
 - official California State raffle number was received (a legal requirement for holding a raffle, good for one year from date of issue)
 - PTA's non-profit status has been formally renewed
 - PTA Council membership, dues and insurance are up-to-date
 - recent fundraisers have brought in \$450 (Crepevine) and \$1,765 (Harvest Faire) and additional funds raised will be reported on as totals become available

A question was raised about how to make Paypal option for donations for Spellathon more user-friendly because some donations have accidentally been submitted to the district rather than to Oxford directly. Principal Rhine noted that BUSD will be writing a check to reimburse for those mistaken donations.

- III.- Sabrina shared the executive committee's idea to use a \$500 surplus from last year's holiday food basket collection to purchase gift cards (Safeway, Target) for families in need that Beth can provide on an as-needed basis. This will happen after this year's food basket collection to ensure that we raise enough to cover that cost.

Motion to approve the purchase of gift cards with the surplus was approved.

- IV.- Sabrina shared results from the online Winter Faire survey. Approximately 2/3 of responses indicated a desire to keep the Winter Faire, so the decision to cancel it entirely was taken off the table. A discussion ensued about changes that might address some of the concerns (busy time of year in general, activities too food/sugar-based, regular volunteers/room-parents feeling tapped out) and parents and teacher shared their opinions and ideas.

A vote was held with the following question. 'Should the Winter Faire be moved to late January?,' with the following results: 19-Yes, 0-No

Motion to move the Winter Faire to late January was approved.

Additional discussion about shifting the focus to a Valentine's theme, maker-faire style projects and/or something similar to the literacy night was opened but not resolved.

- V.- Lori MacDonald, BUSD's Teacher-on-Special-Assignment as the district's K-8 math specialist presented on the Common Core math curriculum the district is currently using (Engage New York's A Story of Units)/

Please note: A link to her PowerPoint presentation is available on Oxford's website or can be requested by e-mailing Lori MacDonald:
lorimacdonald@berkeley.net

This PowerPoint summarizes the bulk of her presentation and includes useful links to resources.

In addition to topics covered in the PowerPoint, Ms. MacDonald shared the following:

Lori advocates for a shift from task-bound to time-bound approach to homework, reframing it as 'practice,' but that putting this into practice is going to take many conversations and some time.

Lori also emphasized that teachers were provided with ways to access math challenge work but that school-level efforts to make sure each teacher knows how to access these materials is ongoing. Beth and Ms. Vines noted that this information would be discussed at upcoming staff trainings and parent comments about the need for this to happen were shared.

Lori also highlighted some shortcomings of the curriculum due to the fact that it is being created from the ground up in response to Common Core standards. Of particular note, materials and adaptations needed to link A Story of Units to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principals in order to ensure that it is accessible to all children, including those with learning differences and/or disabilities, are not yet available.

- VI.- Motion to approve October meeting minutes as distributed was approved.

Meeting adjourned