

Oxford PTA Meeting
11/20/15

Meeting convened at 8:10, approximately 15 people in attendance, including PTA co-presidents, secretary and principal.

Betsy Maisl reported that Sach was unable to print and distribute update on fundraising-to-date but that overall income has been good. Betsy noted that she is still working to understand why total income appears lower than it did at this time last year despite fundraising goals for specific events have been exceeded. She will be checking in with Sach to better understand the discrepancy.

Sabrina Leunig reported that personal setting for the donation link on the school website can be modified to be a recurring payment.

Jos provided a quick update about the success of the book fair using Mr. Mopps as the vendor. Betsy reported that movie night was a big success, executive committee discussed continuing with more of these, paying afterschool staff to be present so that Ms. Rhine does not have to stay so late.

Aida began discussion of auction planning and distributed volunteer sheets for upcoming events to begin gathering names and getting commitments for volunteers (Auction, Spring Dance/Raffle, Prize Procurement).

Sabrina noted that auction volunteers from the prior two years are still interested in helping but need a coordinator to lead. She also noted that they are considering using an online program to help reduce overall workload. Kristen Takakuwa offered her thoughts having used a similar online auction program in the past (namely, to consider cost vs. benefit and to make sure that information added to the program can be gathered after the auction is over – in case the online program is not going to be used again the following year).

Principal Rhine provided a report:

-Teachers are working on creating additional math challenge following from parent feedback and known need. Ms. Vines is currently organizing materials (Marcy Cook tile math and Logic Links) so that each class can have the additional materials for students who finish early. Beth will also be following up with a parent about Red Bird, a computer-based program, as an option to add. Alecks Math is currently being used for intervention, but they are exploring the possibility of making it available in the classrooms. K-2 is also going to be engaging in the Builders program. Nina Cohen and Jamie Vines are coordinating to use targeted funds gathered at last year's auction.

-Sabrina asked whether there was a need for a designated parent volunteer at each grade level to support teachers in making copies of math challenge

worksheets available on websites recommended by the district math specialist last year. Beth agreed to talk to teachers about this.

-Grants committee is very organized this year and is doing well. Kristin Takakuwa noted that Nina's update about grants received was very encouraging and would likely inspire more parents to get involved in grant writing. Beth noted that she often asks teachers for updates to add to the school newsletter and agreed that making these kinds of projects more visible is a good goal.

-At most recent SGC meeting, they agreed to use an additional \$5000 from rollover money to increase time for instructional support staff in the classrooms. Beth is predicting that most of the school year will be covered at this level. Some rollover money remains, but Beth would like to keep this as a cushion for unexpected increases.

-Beth noted that she is happy to provide an overview of the site budget at any point if desired.

-School tours are ongoing and Beth is trying to consolidate them into fewer days overall. Volunteer spots are currently filled.

-Beth explained letters going out regarding Plan of Improvement (P.I.) status. Overview of how Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) is measured had inherent flaws, compounded by changes in what assessment measures are used. New metrics to measure AYP are going to include daily attendance and participation in SBAC/CAASPP testing. Amy Feldman shared a concern that opt-out movements (like in Seattle) might gain traction in Berkeley this year and that this would have a negative impact.

Families who are low-SES status with children who are not meeting standard received letters entitling them to tutoring (provided through outside agencies) as a result of our P.I. status. The money to cover this does not come from site funds or the district, but Beth is not sure where it is drawn from.

-Beth feels like she has a strong handle on the budget currently.

PTA minutes approved as distributed with the following correction: Kristin Gross is a pediatric neuropsychologist (not pediatric neurologist).