

**Oxford PTA Meeting Notes**  
**PTA Meeting**  
**9/28/16**

*Meeting called to order at 6 pm. PTA Co-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, BSEP Representative Judy Appel, and Principal, along with 8 additional PTA members were present.*

**Financial Goals 2016/17** - Kirsten Tobey gave an update about financial priorities for Oxford this year

- Budget spreadsheet (see attached) presents whole-year view of everything we're planning to spend and money we're planning to raise this year.
- Balance sheet: we have about \$60K in the bank.
- We've already raised about \$24,000 toward our back-to-school fundraising goal. Aiming to raise \$25,000 through this campaign.
- As long as we stay on track with all our other fundraising goals this year we'll be on track.
- Discussion of budget line for book fair (\$2000 profit) and what we've made various years through the book fair. Harvest fair is not a money maker—should be budget neutral.
  - o This year we're considering taking money from book fair and using some of the money to make up teacher request list.
  - o Mr Mopps might close and then we'd use Books Inc. in the future.
- Discussion of auction dates—decide to change the date to one week later (March 18) to give us an extra week to gather donations, etc.

**Discussion of Winter Fair** - It isn't on the calendar for this year.

- Some people felt like it was asking too much from volunteers to make it happen, and difficult to organize right around the holidays.
- Only way it is going to happen is if some volunteers/room parents decide to step up and organize. We could add it back.
- We could streamline craft projects by grade level.

**PTA Goals 2016/17** - PTA Co-Presidents Betsy and Aida presented their goals for the year.

- **Fundraising**—Aida gave a brief description of the fundraisers Oxford does each year. Auction organization begins early—solicitation begins in January.
- There are lots of small fundraising opportunities throughout the year—Office Depot, Sports Basement, Amazon.
- Community fundraisers—shop and give, dine out, book stores

- Discussion of best way to organize book fairs so that we get the best promotion and teachers get what they need. Discussion of when to do book fairs versus teacher book needs.
- **Community Building**—Aida gives description of events that help build community at Oxford—back-to-school picnic, new family lemonade, Harvest Fair.
- **Communication**—Biweekly newsletter, emails, Facebook page, school website (event calendar is on website), pta@oxfordelementary.org

**BSEP Info** – Judy Appel discusses Ballot Measure E1

- BSEP is a parcel tax that Berkeley property owners pay to support our school
- The tax pays for more teachers, which means smaller class sizes
- Pays for one-third of our teachers
- One-fifth of our entire budget is paid for by BSEP
- Pays for our library program
- Pays for our music program
- Pays for supports for struggling students
- Pays for all professional development in our schools—we prepare our teachers well and the only way we can do that is with extra funds.
- Pays for half of parent engagement program
- Without BSEP, we'd be in huge trouble—every class would be more than 30 students, and a lot of things we're paying for with other funds would go away because we'd have to use them to cover things that BSEP now funds.
- BSEP needs help—people who are willing to put lawn signs up, walking every Saturday.
- Someone asks what's the risk it won't pass?
  - o There is not organized opposition this time. It needs 66% percent
  - o We started having a parcel tax in 1986 and it's changed a little bit every time it comes up for a vote. Business owners pay more right now in Berkeley and residential pay less per square foot. That was challenged and found unconstitutional, so now everyone has to pay the same.
  - o We have a shifting population and we don't know their voting history.
  - o We mostly just need to get out there and make sure people who are supporting it are voting.
- After Prop 13, any additional parcel tax needs a two-thirds majority to pass
- Discussion of whether we can contribute a bit to the BSEP campaign.
  - o Can money that's raised specifically for Oxford be donated to something outside of the school?
  - o Question of campaign costs—\$75,000 mailings cost a lot of money
  - o Gaby moves that our PTA donates \$500 to BSEP campaign on condition of review of our by-laws to make sure it's ok. Kimberley Gregg seconds. Three abstain, the rest in favor.

**Harvest Faire Intro** – Gaby got all classes signed up as of today.

- Wonder how we can get kids who don't live as close to Oxford to attend.
- Maybe have room parents offer a ride when they ask for volunteers
- Beth thinks that a flyer with just a mention of Harvest Fair would be important
- We've gotten all sorts of donations
- She's still looking for musical acts

**School Governance Council Reminder** – Aida reminds people to go online and vote for SGC members—they help the PTA see where money is needed. They do the school survey and analyze results.

**Meeting Minutes** – Minutes from the May meeting were approved as distributed.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.*