

## **Open World Learning Community PTO Meeting**

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via [Google Meet](#)

### **Welcome/Agenda/Introductions**

#### **Overview of Purpose of Community Group**

From our bylaws:

The purpose of the OWL PTO is to enhance and support the educational experience for all students, families and staff at Open World Learning Community.

The objectives of the OWL PTO are:

1. To build and sustain a strong school community by encouraging parent/guardian, student and staff involvement in Open World Learning Community activities.
2. To enhance the learning environment at Open World Learning Community through volunteer and financial support of educational facilities, programs or services not otherwise provided for in official school budgets.
3. To raise funds and promote participation in school activities beneficial to Open World Learning Community students.

### **Review of Agenda**

#### **Principal's Report**

- Good start to the year so far. Lots of grounding work (expectations, norms) has been accomplished.
- A lot goes into launching a new school year. The Leadership Team (administration and teachers) develops a plan for the next year the week after the school year ends.
- Doing credentialing this year with EL.
- OWL is a EL mentor school this year (other school is in Idaho).
- Goal with SPPS
  - Increase Math proficiency by 3%
  - Increase Literacy proficiency by 3%
  - Improve student/crew participation in school policies/procedures.  
For example, students have come up with norms for the school.
- Enrollment is 492 this year - highest ever - 20 students over projection. Over 100 new students. Dave prefers to start higher and establish flow rather than add students throughout the early weeks of the year.

- New classes for this year: [AVID](#), added another band section, as well as additional theater-related opportunities.

### **Student Report**

- Year started off HOT!
- Middle schoolers figuring stuff out, being helped by older students.
- New faces in crew and building relationships means a lot to the new students, and to current students.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Fall retreat week September 26-30
  - Students commented how fall retreats builds friendships and community, sets tone for the year.
  - Picture day is October 6 (packets will be sent out - there will be a retake day).
  - OWL Family Gathering is October 12 from 5:30 -8 at Harriet Island Pavillion.
  - Dia de los Muertos Celebration is November 1 at 6pm.
- See the weekly email for more details!

### **OWL Community Group Meetings**

All meetings will be hybrid - folks are welcome to come to the school!

October 17 (proposed canceling)

November 14

January 16

February 20

March 12

April 23

May 14

### **Committee/Volunteer Work at OWL this Year**

We need parent and family support to help accomplish all we hope to do this year!

Look for a sign-up genius in the next weekly email.

1. Fall Family Gathering - Jen Lodahl is looking for a partner or two or three as her youngest is in 11th grade to work on the family gathering and to work on passing the baton to another family. Contact Jen if you are interested - [lodahl.stp@gmail.com](mailto:lodahl.stp@gmail.com)
2. Potluck (April 17) - Coordination and signup.
3. Teacher Appreciation in May - need a team to work on that!

#### 4. Year End Dinner - May 31 (part of Celebration of Learning)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- The current balance in the PTO checking account at BankCherokee is \$61,650.73
- The current balance in the PTO paypal account is \$4,936.89
- Estimated combined balance is \$66,587.62 (still have a small expense ~\$200 for spiritwear re-order pending)
- Expenses since 5/30: \$829.66 community grants, \$213.20 teacher appreciation, \$4,395.21 spiritwear reimbursement, \$12,000 interim program
- Income since 5/30: \$539.85 donations, \$439 Velazquez Family Coffee fundraiser, \$72.52 from additional spiritwear orders
- The theater program used the PTO paypal account as a passthrough for concessions and 100% of that money was given to the theater program (\$907.43)
- We have budgeted \$25,000 for fall retreats
- We spent \$12,000 on interim expense at the end of 2022-2023 school year but have budgeted only \$10,000 for 2023-2024
- If we are not going to use all of our cash this year, we should consider moving some from checking into CD or money market account to earn 4-5% interest (For example, 4% interest on a \$30,000 deposit is \$1,200 a year)
  - A motion was made to allocate \$20,000 for this purpose. The motion was approved.
- Give to the Max Day is our only large fundraiser for the year and funds the fall retreat. This year it lands on November 16, 2023. In the past we have sent out information in the newsletter, in the physical mail, and on the facebook group

#### **Final Words**

Be kind and friendly. Take care of yourselves and each other, especially when it is difficult.