

Open World Learning Community PTO  
640 Humboldt Ave, St Paul, MN 55107  
In Person and Google Hangout Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 14  
6:30p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Welcome: Welcoming folks in person and online. Introductions were made, agenda was reviewed.

Principal Report:

- COVID Update: We have had an increase since December 1. We have had a total of 16 students test positive all year. We have seen no evidence of internal transmissions, and the vast majority are vaccinated students. We are seeing the impact of Thanksgiving. We are also seeing an increase of flu and cold cases, which combined with the increased number of family gatherings in the weeks to come, could result in a difficult few weeks when we return to school in January. There is a dashboard where you can see information by district and by school [here](#).
- We're doing pre purchase tickets for events like the The Play That Goes Wrong and Asian Family Night which help to limit and understand capacity.
- College March event went well. Instead of going to Wellstone we walked around Cherokee Heights. The event turned out as well as it could.
- We've had one open house so far (30 attendees) and some shadowing. Expecting strong interest in the school for next year.
- Long Crew Day shifted to the day before spring break. Could result in being able to get outside!
- First quarter grades: We have had one of our better quarters. 90% of students passing. Typical year is in the 80's.
  - Some students have struggled with distance learning. OWL is using additional funds to bring on an additional staff person who can help students who have credits to make up.
- Digital Learning Days: Reviewed responses. Responses were mixed, but generally more positive about how they are going. Generally respondents liked live crew, the flexibility of the day, the break from the commute to school, and time for students to get homework done during the day. Others disliked these days due to mental health issues, lack of structure, questions of productivity, and missed socialization. It is clear from the survey that there is a wide diversity of needs and what works for one family, may not work as well, or at all, for others.
  - April 15 will be our next planned digital learning day. We may also have digital learning days for snow days, or days when we have too many teachers who might be missing.
- February PTO meeting to discuss Fall Retreats. Concerned about constraints (especially transportation) continuing.

Treasurer Report:

- The current balance of the PTO checking account is \$78,058.62.
- Recent income came from AmazonSmile (\$73) and a really successful Give to the Max Day (\$20,300). Since some donors spread their donation out over the year we can anticipate a few hundred dollars more in donations from that event. Heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, the money is dedicated to funding retreats that will benefit all of our students!
- Anticipated large expenses include \$500 for reimbursements for Asian Culture Night, \$500 for library materials that came from a donation earmarked for that purpose, about \$1,000 for one of our Spanish classroom's libraries, and lots of money going in-and-out for sales of spirit wear.
- Discussed future collaboration with Humboldt's PTO over fundraising for shared programs like music or athletics.

Upcoming events:

- Picture Retake Day is this Thursday
- No School 12/20 & 12/21.