

Open World Learning Community PTO
640 Humboldt Ave, St Paul, MN 55107
Google Hangout Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
6:30p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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

Principal Report:

- COVID Update: The last six weeks have been the hardest part of the pandemic. 32 cases in January, though only 5 so far in February. Optimistic about the weeks and months ahead. Looking to restart evening events soon, and outdoor field trips. Other field trips are still on hold. Do not think we will be allowed to do overnights at all this year.
- Working on plans for Spring Interim (May 23-27). While no overnights, working on project-based options. Proposals are being gathered now, with a "course catalog" expected to go to students before spring break for them to choose. Will come back to PTO for cost. Expecting range of \$15k-\$20k.
- Course Registration: The week before Spring Break will be the time to register for next year's classes.
- Long Crew Day: planned for April 1 (no joke). Long Crew Days are meant for students in crews to bond with one another, do service work together, and then end the day with a fun activity.
- This year's budget has been positive for OWL. Was able to carry over some funds from last year as well as use federal funds to make this year work out well. As a result, there are 60 laptops available for use, and we have purchased new computers for the media center, school newspaper, and robotics.
- Expect to hear about events like prom in early March.
- Entering into the final phases of teacher negotiations. We hope that a deal can be reached, but if a strike were to happen it would begin in early March. Working on planning.

Student Report:

- Student morale is higher this month than last.
- Walk out for Black Lives Matter last week.
- Spring play and sports start soon - it is a time where some programs are ending and others beginning.

Treasurer Report:

- The current balance of the PTO checking account is \$85,788.11.
- Recent income came from additional donations from last November's Give to the Max Day fundraiser (\$4,250), a donation earmarked for the art program (\$1,000), and an additional private donation (\$1,000). Thanks again to our donors!
- Recent expenses include a check written to the school for physical library reading materials at the donors' request (\$500) and money spent on postage and envelopes (\$18). We are still waiting to hear how much of the \$20,000 that we budgeted for the school's interim program will be needed.
- Next month up to \$2,000 will be awarded by the Community Grant Committee to fund teacher- and student-led projects.
- Next month the PTO Leadership Team will start discussing a proposal for next year's budget. A budget needs to be approved at the regular PTO meeting in May.

Spring Grant Information:

- Grant funding covers things not otherwise covered in the school budget. For example Grant received funding to in the past expand the Spanish library to include more representation.
- The Grant Committee reviews applications and has \$2,000 total to distribute.
- Applications are due March 1. Contact Diana Ditsch with questions. dlditsch@gmail.com

Leadership Team Openings (Adult & Student Co-Chairs) beginning September 2022:

- Mae is graduating, and Kristin will be stepping down so we are looking for an adult Chair and student co-Chair for the 2022-2023 school year.
- If you are interested but have questions, please reach out to Mae (students) mwrigley002@stpaul.k12.mn.us and Kristin or Dave (adults). kapeters500@gmail.com
- Goal is to have someone in place by our May meeting as that is when elections are held.
- Please spread the word!

Upcoming Events:

- PSEO Night 2/16
- Prospective Family Showcase 2/17 & 2/22 (virtual)
- No school 2/21 (Presidents Day)
- History Day 2/23 (virtual)
- No school 3/4 (PD day for staff)
- No school 4/4 - 4/8 (Spring Break)