

Open World Learning Community PTO  
640 Humboldt Ave, St Paul, MN 55107  
Google Hangout Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022  
6:30p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

Principal Report:

- Mask policy change: Change implemented yesterday - going well at OWL. The majority of students are continuing to wear their masks. We have recess time now at lunch (last 15 minutes), and kids can now sit where they would like in the lunchroom (which oddly has made the lunchroom quieter).
- Enrollment and budget process: We receive our budget on April 26 (a month later than usual). Anticipating a significant deficit for the district. We are one of only a few schools showing stable/growing application numbers. Enrollment projection is currently 510 (largest enrollment we have had). We expect some attrition. Dave will do a budget presentation once ready, in person, students are welcome to attend.
- Field work: Have a couple of great 8th grade trips coming up. We will not be able to go out to Lake Elmo on the last day of school this year due to bus availability. Transportation will be our biggest hurdle for any retreats going forward. Are sending Seniors up to Camp du Nord, and busing costs for that trip have tripled since 2017.
- Interim: Registration starts tomorrow (4/20). Fifteen classes to pick from, they list a top three. Outward Bound heading to Deep Portage for service work, otherwise all trips are local.
- Donut Declaration Day: Next Friday. Where Senior students declare where they are going to college.

Treasurer Report:

- The current balance of the PTO checking account is \$85,462.10.
- We only had two transactions since the last PTO meeting, both ongoing deposits from last November's Give to the Max fundraising campaign.
- We anticipate upcoming expenses for interim and spring community grants.
- The PTO Leadership Team met to assemble a budget for next year, and it will be ready to present and vote on at the next regular PTO meeting in May.

Student Report:

- Final quarter has started!
- Excited about prom coming up on Saturday, 4/23. 5 - 7PM (middle school) 7 - 10PM (HS)
- Spring play is next week! 4/27, 4/28, 4/29 at 7:00 PM each night at OWL.
- It is a busy time, but also exciting.

Family and Student Fall Retreat Survey Results:

- 96 parent responses.
  - How important to you think Fall Retreats are in enhancing your child's academic experience at OWL?
    - Very Important: 72%
    - Somewhat Important: 25%
    - Not Very Important: 3%

- Not At All Important: 0%
  - How important do you think Fall Retreats are in enhancing your child's social emotional experience at OWL?
    - Very Important: 87%
    - Somewhat Important: 12%
    - Not Very Important: 1%
    - Not At All Important: 0%
  - Would you be willing/able to contribute a fee to help OWL cover the costs of fall retreats?
    - Yes: 91%
    - No: 2%
    - Not Sure: 7%
  - How much would you be willing/able to contribute?
    - \$50 or less: 14%
    - Up to \$75: 7%
    - \$100 - \$200: 27%
    - \$200: 12%
    - \$250 - \$300: 8%
    - \$400 - \$500: 8%
    - Unknown: 6%
    - Whatever it costs: 18%
  - Asked more specifics about retreats.
    - Asked parents if they would chaperone, 53% said they would chaperone several nights overnight, 67% said they would chaperone an overnight, and 82% said they would chaperone a day trip.
- 75 student responses. [Questions are shortened below for brevity.]
  - What kind of experiences do you (or would you) prefer for fall retreats? (Could select more than one answer).
    - Experiences with the natural world: 88%
    - Service project experiences: 35%
    - College or career experiences: 24%
  - Would you prefer a fall retreat close to OWL in the local community or a retreat outside the metro area? (Could select more than one answer).
    - Local/near school: 12%
    - Outside the area: 41%
    - I enjoy both: 64%
  - Do you participate in sports or other after school activities that would make it difficult for you to participate in an overnight retreat?
    - No: 61%
    - Yes: 24%
    - 15% with responses similar to: "Yes, but I am okay with missing it"
- Dave: We know that overnights are highly valued by parents and students, but are hard on staff, and we have licensing requirements (requiring a certain number of teachers). We anticipate receiving 60% of the cost from fees paid from students. \$25,000 comes from the PTO and the remainder from the Principal's budget. This gets us about \$10,000 per grade.

OWL Spring Grant Awards:

- Five applications were submitted. Were able to fully fund four and partially fund the last. Funds come from the PTO. Proposals were discussed in a committee format to decide.
  - Inclusivity stairs. High school GSA will paint the stairs as different types of pride flags.
  - A program to support STEM careers - highlighting graduates that have gone on to STEM careers. (Tom)
  - A program for writing survival stories (Leo).
  - Funding to support a social justice magazine. (Leo)
  - Seed money to help with OWL students participating in Humboldt's band program.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Spirit Week — 4/18 - 4/22
- Prom — 4/23
- Play (Alice in Wonderland) — 4/27 - 4/29
- Teacher Appreciation Week — 5/2 - 5/6 – The committee has things planned for the whole week!
  - We need your help! A Google Form will be sent to gather gratitudes, community members are encouraged to write notes to teachers. Aiming to have a gift card for each teacher - please help by donating a gift card if you are able. These can be dropped off in the office with Tammy.

#### **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 OWL Community PTO for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested but have questions, please reach out to Mae (students) [mwrigley002@stpaul.k12.mn.us](mailto:mwrigley002@stpaul.k12.mn.us) and Kristin or Dave (adults). [kapeters500@gmail.com](mailto:kapeters500@gmail.com)

Anyone interested should plan to attend the May PTO meeting on May 17 or submit their intent via email to Kristin Peterson at [kapeters500@gmail.com](mailto:kapeters500@gmail.com). New members will be voted on at the May meeting to begin in September.

**Our next meeting is May 17 IN PERSON AT OWL at 6:30 PM.** At this meeting we will vote on PTO officers (including the Co-Chairs) as well as a vote on the PTO budget for the 2022-23 school year.