Minutes of Parent Common Link ("PCL") Meeting
October 8, 2014, 8:05-9:30am

Attendees: Mo Copeland, Chris Schuck, Jordan Elliott, Scott Hardister, David Lowell, Liz MacDonell, Marty Jones, Phillip Craig, Alicia Morissette, Kristin Bradley, Clare Rathbone, Ruchi Prakash, Soolyn Chang, Lisa Kellogg, Diane Polscer, Jana Reddoch, Kay Pinkava, Jan Massaro, Sally LeFeber, Michele Ackerman, Courtney Fitzloff, Madeleine Menashe, Jodi Wilkins, Mary Lou Green, Ann Perry, Brandi Ettinger, Kristina Davis, Kristin Barnett, Sandy Patrick, Margueritte Kim, Jennifer Baumann, Janet Duffie, Michelle Tubbs

Opening Blessing:
Philip Craig opened the meeting by reciting the prayer of St Francis of Assisi in honor of St. Francis’ birthday on October 3rd.

Welcome and Introductions:
Alicia Morissette welcomed everyone and invited roundtable introductions.

Student Research
Alexandra U. and Sarayu C., both Seniors, have been working on their science research project for 3 years. They thanked parents for allowing their children to participate in their study, and faculty for their support throughout the process, particularly Chris Mader, Scott Hardister, Jordan Elliott and David Lowell.

The students are looking to collect data from parents. They could not tell the parents exactly what would be involved in collecting the data to avoid potentially skewing the data set and results. However, they are planning on collecting data on the morning and/or the afternoon of November 14th and/or December 5th and would need parents for about 30 minutes.

They opened up for questions. There was a question about anonymity and Ulmer and Caulfield confirmed that all responses would be anonymous. They described awards the project had won and that this weekend they were travelling to San Diego to present at American Association of Pediatrics. Their immediate goal is to publish their findings.

Head of School Report – Mo Copeland
Mo attended an NAIS supported Symposium on diversity as Head of School along with a member of the Board of Trustees, and Jordan Elliott as a diversity practitioner. The conference was held at another school, and it is always interesting to be in another school’s facility and to see the strengths and challenges faced by that school. During the Conference, time was spent discussing work that schools are doing on the issue of diversity. Half of the time was spent on the process of the Conference, and half time on actual content. This was an unusual focus, to spend so
much time on issues surrounding the process, but Mo found the experience very interesting and informative.

**Chris Schuck**
Chris attended an “On-Line” education symposium for independent schools in Boston. Representatives from 200-300 schools attended. Everything that the Conference outlined schools should be doing in the area of technology, OES was doing. He has found that OES has a very open atmosphere to professional growth.

**Jordan Elliott**
Jordan attended the NAIS sponsored symposium on diversity with Mo. When engaging in change, they were led to think as much about the process as the outcome. Jordan gave the example of an “unconference,” when everyone comes together and then decides what to talk about. This ensures that the group is committed to and vested in the conversation and participants can leave if the subject matter is not what they want to talk about.

**Scott Hardister**
Scott participated in the NWAIS Leadership Institute. He has been on the planning committee for the past 2 years. This has enabled him to connect with division heads in the region, to visit other schools, and to connect with his cohorts. The Leadership Institute caters to “middle management” – department chairs or team chairs. It has provided access to great growth opportunities for leaders.

**David Lowell**
David has taken Lower School team leaders up to the Leadership Institute and it is a great conference.

In the Lower School, professional growth is seen in how we are inspiring teachers to reach out and nurture their interests, to see what they can do to support Lower School initiatives and what they can do to support All School initiatives. Teachers should come back from these opportunities inspired and that, in turn, will inspire what happens in the classroom, which in turn will inspire their colleagues. This Friday, at the NWAIS meeting, Lower School teachers will be leading sessions, and this growth has come from attending workshops. A good example of this is Tracy Arensberg and Karen Seder leading a session on Math Strings.

David is also working with Cadwell Collaborative, an outside consultant who is providing inspiration as to what the new building could be and how David can continue to guide the faculty in the question of what inquiry-based learning looks like. Louie Cadwell is coaching LS teachers asking where they are with inquiry-based learning, where they are heading, and finding the growth point.

David emphasized that the Auction is a big part of supporting OES’ professional growth opportunities. The Auction support is also the reason that teachers like to
work at OES, they know they will have the opportunity to grow and develop professionally.

**Auction (Lisa Kellogg and Michelle Fitzhenry)**

Lisa Kellogg is the Auction Chair and Michelle Fitzhenry the Co-Chair. Lisa introduced the Auction theme as a James Bond/spy theme - Operation OES/Mission Possible. She presented a video produced and directed by Ted Morissette (Class of 2015) introducing the Auction which will be sent to the whole school. Lisa reminded everyone that the Auction date is Saturday, March 14, 2015 and that it sells out each year!

**OES Fund Michelle Tubbs**
The Fund and Development Office have been busy getting ready for October. Margueritte Kim came up with the idea to give away chocolate to mark October 1, which was a fun way to introduce the start of the OES Fund month. They have been active in places and venues in which they can engage and connect with parents -- PAL meeting and Parent Partnership coffees. They have also hosted 1869 coffees as a way to connect with parents in more informal setting, engaging in conversations about why families are here and what children are learning. Mo has joined these coffees which has been great. Letters have been mailed out with contribution envelopes. Grade Level volunteers will be sending e-mails to each parent in his/her grade advertising the Fund. Parents continue to receive e-mails until they have donated! October 16th is the 1869 Society dinner. It is not too late to RSVP so please donate and come and help us to celebrate all that we do with our time, treasure and talents. The Phoneathon is October 27 and 28 – if you have donated, you do not get a phone call. Also, look for “OES Fund in Action” motif in the newsletters.

Michelle gave huge kudos to her volunteer team and recognized that we are now not afraid to have conversations about the Fund. Parents can articulate why they are supporting the Fund. A huge team of volunteers have been involved, including the Grade Level Fund Representatives each of which Michelle named.

The Development Office staff has been great and we are now only 1 faculty member shy of 100% participation. Very inspiring!

**Book Fair -- Chris Myer**
Everything you need to know about the OES Book Fair can be found on the OES libraries webpage, including book recommendations picked by the divisional librarians. Books recommended for teens are suitable for 7th-12th grade but be careful about ensuring the age-appropriateness.

Chris handed out the pre-order form (which is also on-line). If you pre-order a book you have to go to pick it up yourself at Annie Blooms.

You cannot charge your school account, you have to use cash, check or charge card.
The Book fair is at Annie Blooms. There are trade-offs with the fair not being on campus but one of the advantages is that we have a whole bookstore to browse. The Book Fair is Friday through Monday and Annie Blooms has long hours and is open 10pm. There will be OES musical groups performing. OES will be running a bus for parents that will go over Friday morning at 8:30am and Monday afternoon at 1:30pm to encourage parents to attend as a group and not worry about parking.

Chris gave the following book recommendations for the OES Book Fair, all of which can also be found on the OES Library Webpages:

*Indonesia, Etc: Exploring the Improbable Nation* by Elizabeth Pisani

*Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir* by Roz Chast– a memoir of dealing with aged parents.

*Women in Clothes* edited by Sheila Heti, Heidi Julavits, and Leanne Shapton–

*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

*A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James– will become the great novel of Jamaica.

*The Secret Place* by Tana French recommended by Debby Schauffler – also great audio books.

2 cook books coming out on October 28th

*Heritage* by Sean Brock (Husk) – low country cuisine from south Carolina.

*Prune* by Gabrielle Hamilton – from restaurant in New York.

BOTH coming out October 28th


*What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions* by Randall Munroe

Chris’ favorite book so far – appropriate for Middle schoolers and up.

*Noggin* by John Corey Whaley YA fiction 9-12th grade

*To All The Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han – YA fiction 9-12 grade for girl.

*Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh* by John Lahr
**The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell** – author of Cloud Atlas and a similar format.

Even though the Book Fair is not at OES, we still need volunteers to serve 2 hour windows. Volunteers no longer have to deal with money or charge accounts but will just serve to greet people and reminding people to identify themselves as an OES parent to ensure that OES gets its 20%.

Alicia Morissette entered the dates of the State of School addresses into the minutes.

Alicia Morissette closed the meeting at 9:30am.