Parent Community Link  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 18, 2016

**Attendance:** Mo Copeland, Chris Schuck, Jordan Elliott, Ann Sulzer, David Lowell, Liz MacDonell, Madeline Pruett, Phillip Craig, Courtney Fitzloff, Kristen Bradley, Sally Waddell, Ruchi Prakash, Soolynn Chang, Michelle Fitzhenry, Hilary O’Hollaren, Kim Bissell, Lucy Shanno, Jana Reddoch, Laurie Price, Marguerite Kim, Georgina Miltenberger, Rico McIver, Kay Pinkava, Chris Gong, Michele Ackerman, Kysa Vassily, Jodi Wilkins, Mari Schwalbach, Michelle Tubbs, Brandie Ettinger, Kristina Davis, Kristin Barnett, Sandy Patrick, Dawn Swanson, Desiree Bliss, Sara Berglund, Jennifer Hapke, Chris Myers and Peter Buonincontro.

**Opening Blessing - Rev. Phillip Craig**
Quoting Calla Slayton, OES Senior and student speaker from MHCSD, Phillip helped us reflect on our call to service. “We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected.” He thanked us for our profound connection and service to OES.

**Courtney Fitzloff, Chair, PCL**
Courtney welcomed everyone, especially Jennifer Hapke, who will be 11th grade PAL Rep next year. Courtney also thanked us for our service this year and for our patience with her during her “rookie” year. Many of us will be leaving, but some will return.

**Mo Copeland, Head of School Report**
Mo also echoed her thanks for our service. We are a resource to her and the staff, a sounding board and good advisors. She praised and thanked Courtney for her leadership and is looking forward to working together again next year.

Mo reported on all the great happenings recently:
- One Act Plays were amazing. Kudos to all involved.
- Seniors have been frank and open in exit interviews with Mo. There is incredibly valuable information, which has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Corbet Clark will be the US Interim Head. He has 28 yrs at OES and his children are OES Alums. He is an Episcopal priest and has his PhD with a thesis on Service Learning. He has great vision and has articulated a theme of healing and bringing us together for next year. He will concentrate on bringing people on board and strengthening the bonds of the school. This is interim only, he isn’t a candidate for the permanent position.
- Tours of the new Lower School building are happening. Faculty, Staff, PCL have priority for now. If parents ask, you can say that the building will be open to parents for a tour on Sept 9th.
- There will be a Strings Music Program. More details to follow but there will be a program/opportunity for players of string instruments.
- Admin would like to start up Neighborhood Parent Meetings. A more casual place to hear the opinions and concerns and hopes for OES. The parent voice is an important viewpoint and we need more venues to access it. PCL members suggested that these should happen later in the Fall as opposed to beginning of school year.
**Peter Bounincontro, Presentation on Performance**

Peter framed the work they do in performing through the Essential Competencies.

- **Explore = Research**—the vital first step in the creative process.
- **Create = Response**—the shape of the story, type of character what should audience be left with.
- **Commit = Risk**—performance is that safe risk they can take at OES. Being on stage is a huge risk.
- **Connect = Reflect**—post production debriefing, audience feedback.

Performance, like play, keeps the brain open to the learning process. It helps students become adaptive problem solvers. Students write and create their own material. With this process, so little lines are memorized because they’ve been working so intimately for hours and hours with the material until it is completely known without memorization.

Nathan C., Elise K., and Ziggy B. spoke about their experience through all aspects of the performance process and how performance has helped them in other aspects of their OES careers.

**Administrative Team Reports**

Chris Schuck – The division heads will speak about transitions at OES. The obvious transitions are from LS to MS to US, but there are many interschool transitions, as well as, the experience of faculty transitioning through their careers to retirement. Keep in mind the generational span between pre-K to US Seniors—there are a lot of transitions there.

**David Lowell, Head of Lower School**

LS is ALL about transition. At young ages, the year to year transition is big. Each year is about reshaping the format of the educational experience for your child. LS follows a 5 step process for figuring out placements for the following year: 1) grade level evaluation with current teacher(s); 2) meeting with the student support team; 3) meeting with academic specialists; 4) back to classroom teachers with all the gathered info; and then 5) final placement meeting in August to transfer info to new teacher. It is a very thorough process to create that wonderful experience for your child’s new school year. Then there’s a very specific process for the big transition from 5th to 6th in conjunction with the MS. In the fall the student transitions are carefully monitored because some children are happy/excited, but some are scared and sad to be moving on, so LS keeps an eye out for situations that might need additional support.

**Ann Sulzer, Head of Middle School**

MS experiences the transitions of 5th to 6th to 7th to 8th to 9th. The process involves looking at the best fit in teachers and advisors—a similar process to LS. In addition, 5th grade parents hear from a panel of 6th grade parents to help them know what to expect. 7th grade parents meet about the relationship retreat to prepare them to help in the transition to speaking with their children about sex and relationships. 8th grade parents meet with 9th grade parents and US Head to prepare for that transition. At the end of May is an ice cream social for new MS families & buddies. Teachers are transitioning, too, from school year to summer jobs or conferences. In the fall the teachers sit down again to look at the class list and evaluate learning styles. Yet, at the same time, we try to give each child a “clean slate” to start the year. And like LS, students are monitored to make sure the transition is smooth, with extra support added where needed.
Jordan Elliott, Head of Upper School
US manages and monitors the transitions from MS to US, US grade to US grade, and US to College. For the MS to US transition, it actually starts in the spring of 7th grade when students are looking around at all the High School options. First, we try to help students with discernment to know what’s most important to each of them in order to make a high school choice. Then, once students have those qualities in mind, the US does recruitment to show the students how OES can fulfill their needs. Once we know who’s going to attend, then we can set them up for success. Forecasting is a big piece of the transition process, making sure students are aware of their choices and help them plan their course list for accomplishing goals like college acceptances. In transitioning Seniors, time is spent on reflection, so that the Seniors can articulate who they are for college applications. Then the US spends time in helping Seniors prepare for the transition to college with workshops. (Ex: session with Lawyer, workshop with Counseling Dept).

Mo then added that we will have a major transition with Jordan leaving. He’s been part of the school as a student, alumnus, teacher, dorm head, and US Head, for over 20 years and the impact of his transition to a new career will be huge. Hard on us, but great for Jordan! She thanked him and wished him luck.

GOBS Report, Dawn Swanson
Dawn reminded us that the Great OES Book Swap is happening May 25th and 26th with collection of books on the 23rd and 24th. She asked for more volunteers to signup in Volunteerspot.

Summer Reading List, Chris Myers
Chris presented his summer reading list suggestions for parents and gave some mini reviews. (The list he presented is attached below.) And here is the link to the Upper School summer reading list for students: http://www.oes.edu/page.cfm?p=1342

Courtney dismissed the meeting wishing everyone a great summer and hoping that those of us returning come back refreshed and rejuvenated for the new school year.

BOOK A TRIP TO YOUR LIBRARY! 2016 summer-reading recommendations from Chris Myers, Upper School Librarian / myersc@oes.edu

FICTION

Before the Fall, by Noah Hawley [ISBN 9781455561780; hardcover] $26 / published May 31

Dodgers, by Bill Beverly [ISBN 9781101903735; hardcover] $26

Eligible, by Curtis Sittenfeld [ISBN 978140006832; hardcover] $28


Jane Steele, by Lyndsay Faye [ISBN 9780399169496; hardcover] $27

Let Me Die In His Footsteps, by Lori Roy [ISBN 9780525955078; hardcover] $26.95


**The Sellout**, by Paul Beatty [ISBN 9781250083258; trade paperback] $16

**The Sport of Kings**, by C.E. Morgan [ISBN 9780374281083; hardcover] $27

**Under the Harrow**, by Flynn Berry [ISBN 9780143108573; trade paperback] $16 / published June 14

**The Versions of Us**, by Laura Barnett [ISBN 9780544634244; hardcover] $26

**Willful Disregard**, by Lena Andersson [ISBN 9781590517611; trade paperback] $15.95

**NONFICTION**


**The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and Their Race to Save the World’s Most Precious Manuscripts**, by Joshua Hammer [ISBN 9781476777405; hardcover] $26


**Life Without a Recipe: A Memoir**, by Diana Abu-Jaber [ISBN 9780393249095; hardcover] $26.95


