

Friends of the OES Libraries

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Platt Global Classroom

In attendance: Rebecca Thompson (FOESL co-chair), Carol Bull (FOESL co-chair), Julie Solomon (FOESL Treasurer), Lara Ingham (OES Head Librarian & LS Librarian), Gisela Walitzki, Elizabeth Hutchins, Lucy Shanno

Minutes submitted by: Rebecca Thompson

Welcome & introductions

Author visits:

- Kathryn Otoshi's visit 9/19 was a great success! See postings in OES Aardvark Newsletter. The spirit bird made with the LS community handprints hangs in the LS library as a memento of the day and of the inspirations and lessons we have taken from her beautiful stories.

Summer reading programs:

- LS: tote bags have been distributed, program was a big hit with the kids

Treasurer's report/finances:

- Opening balance: appx \$5150
- Julie will confirm this amount with the business office (and is waiting on a reply from her recent e-mail to them to confirm our calculations)
- Discussion focused on financial coverage for the recent LS author visit (above) and upcoming author visit (with Adam Silvera)
- Lara met with the admin team last April and they had supported the request for \$2500 for 2017-18 author visits. Funds did not come through in the approved budget and librarians have been advised now that funds will not be available to cover these visits after all.
- Business office has directed libraries to request that FOESL spend down its funds until depleted, and business office has committed to then operationalizing funds for author visit allocation going forward
- It was noted that Julie, Diane, Lara, and Becca met with Chris Schuck last year as well and received verbal commitment that FOESL budget would be operationalized once funds had been spent down, as this was part of the plan and agreement in the decision to discontinue the annual book fair fundraising efforts
- After reimbursing the \$250 previously committed to Bev Shue's memorial book collection, FOESL expects to have a balance of appx \$4900. Committee moved and approved to allocate \$1500 toward LS Sept author visit and allocate remaining \$3400 to US author visit with Adam Silvera. This will leave an appx \$100 gap, which will need to be covered for Silvera's visit. Librarians will need to determine if business office will come through on funding this, or what other options may exist to cover this discrepancy.

Libraries

- Parent committee members noted new concerns that US library now closing at 5 pm and LS library is not freely open for student visits during the school day due to decreased library hours brought by recent staff cuts
- Gisela offers that there are study locations in Farriss Hall that students can use, particularly between 5 and 6 pm, but notes that families and students may not yet be aware of this option
- Q: How can libraries and Farriss Hall be working together and be involved in collaborative conversations about allocating resources toward research and inquiry spaces?
- FOESL is concerned about a disconnect among the business office, admin team, library staff, tech department, FOESL, and families about the direction of resources being allocated for the vision of the community toward research and inquiry.
- As much as forward-thinking technology is important, it is FOESL's position that libraries and paper books will continue to play a vital role in any community of readers, thinkers, and learners, especially at a school with the strong academic environment that OES wants to continue to foster.
- FOESL would like parents and students to be kept more up to date about changes in availability, especially as they affect students who don't live close to campus and need a place to work on homework between the end of the school day at the start of sports practices and other meetings.
- Transparency about where funding is allocated, particularly with regard to ongoing tuition increases, was raised as another more overarching concern.
- Julie will stop by the business office after this meeting to try to clarify some of the budget/funding questions noted above.

GOBS updates:

- GOBS is scheduled to be held during the week of April 9th, to coincide with National Library Week; FOESL does not need to reserve any budget for this free event (no snacks this year)
- Becca checked in with Ann Sulzer again yesterday to be sure nothing to do to prepare at this point, and to see which space (Commons versus MS library) would best to use to avoid disrupting MS activities; Ann thinks either should work with some advance planning, and we'll touch base about this again over the next few months.
- Becca will send a follow-up email to confirm that Patrick is up to speed about GOBS in the middle school venue
- Schedule is expected to be the same as previous years, with book dropoff on Mon and Tues and student book selection on Wed and Thurs.
- Intention is for event to rotate to different spaces/divisions over subsequent years, to promote all-school inclusion. Was held in LS 2016, US 2017; plan MS 2018.

Lou Fernandez Literary Festival updates:

- Likely tabled for this year due to Chris Myers' departure
- While this event has lost its champion with Chris' departure, we all agree that we would like to preserve the spirit of it going forward, and will keep it on the table to discuss integrating into future activities. Will need to work closely with the LFLF committee to see what we can do to help and support their vision of how they want to honor Lou.
- We will revisit this and what it might look like going forward at next meeting

Upcoming Meeting Dates (all planned for Platt Global Classroom, Tuesdays @ 8:10 am):

December 5, January 16, February 20, March 20, April 3, May 15