

**Ocean Shore**  
**PTO Executive Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 • 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
**MEETING VIA ZOOM - SEE BELOW**

In attendance: PTO board members: Michele Tuman, Patricia Balmas, Virginia Clements, Cristin Fong, Stephanie Saylor, Jenny Abellana, Carnley Nee, Krissy Zimmer, Tanya Guido, Amanda Sandberg, Ana Brenner, Jonelle Chase Staff: Jeanne Bellinger (Principal), Seva Steel (Vice Principal), Natalie, Michelle, Marguerite, Virginia, Jennifer, Jessica, Jonathan, Sophie, Beccy, Sandy, Natalie, Jason, Renee, Katy, Natasha

- I. Welcome and Check-In Michele/Patricia
  - A. Michele and Patricia thanked everyone for their volunteerism, particularly the teachers present tonight.
- II. Minutes: Review and Approve - Oct/Dec Stephanie
  - A. Minutes from the PTO meeting on 10/13/20 and 12/8/20 approved.
- III. Teacher Report Sophie et al.
  - A. All the teachers voiced disappointment that funds for a PE teacher (John) weren't approved during the last PTO Executive Board meeting, both for teachers' schedule and curriculum stability and the children's physical and mental well being. Their thoughts are summarized below by teacher and essentially in the order they occurred.
    - 1. Jennifer: The kids love John, the littles especially. K-5 teachers have been teaching PE themselves. She has never worked as hard as she is now (nor the other teachers) at 10+ hours/day and just to have the little support would be appreciated. The kids would love it and parents would love it too - kids are driving their parents crazy. GoNoodle isn't enough physical activity.
    - 2. Jessica: Children are not getting a lot of activity. Older students that are required to have a PE teacher are having some live PE and self report assignments. Younger students need this activity from PE as well. She agrees with the benefit of having someone to teach PE and not having an additional thing for teachers to teach. Structured PE time is so important now since activity is no longer tied to socialization (e.g. running around on the playground, biking to friends' etc).
      - a) Budget question: PTO has an emergency/rainy day fund. If this is not an emergency what is?
        - (1) Patricia agrees. Yes this is what the rainy day fund is made for and we want to spend it for this emergency. We will be using it next year and for a number of years after as our families recover economically. The fund is full but will dwindle quickly, so if we can use the money budgeted in this year's budget efficiently first, it would serve the community better in the long term.
    - 3. Jonathan:

- a) 4 and 5 graders are not really compatible with GoNoodle, a live person is a lot better.
  - b) They know John and have a connection with him.
    - (1) History: John was a parent and started in spring 2005 and trained to work with our kids for PE. He was part of our community and a parent and has jumped in to save us year after year at a moments notice as a sub and with “that special OSS kindness”. The teachers consider him one of them and part of OSS.
  - c) If we go back to school we’re going to need a PE teacher. Keeping John around in the bridge is super important. If we lose John now and need a new PE teacher it will take at least 1 year to get them accustomed to the OSS way of life, and that’s hard on everyone. John understands the whole program and also can fill in all around campus in various capacities.
4. Virginia: The teachers are lacking balance. They are already stretched to present the curriculum that they feel is important. That curriculum is lacking a connection with John and continuity with students’ PE education for mental and physical well being. She’s seen lots of weight gain. It is invaluable having a teacher that the kids know and enjoy. She would hate to see us lose this connection. She would like to be made aware of and come to more meetings when the PTO makes decisions that affect our kids mental health and wellbeing.
  5. Marguerite: Diversity of contact - seeing a different person and perspective, is important to education and especially so right now. PE is education and a part of a well rounded program. Body and mind are both important. In that context, John teaches good sportsmanship while teaching people to be competitive and be their best. There is a SEL component to his PE in teaching, that kindness and competition are not mutually exclusive. Also, eliminating this part of OSS normal seems odd and like we’re not thinking long term.
  6. Michelle: She was surprised that PE didn’t get an approval based on last week’s discussion. She understands the added difficulty and complexity that AB5 brings to budget planning, but with the history of John’s program she knows he would come up with something worthwhile. The teachers think of John as part of their community, and not having been aware of the tenuous future of his position, teachers were caught by surprise by the majority ‘no vote’ last meeting. In her opinion the added step or burden of going through district or extra hoops/funds is worth it as he does a great job for the majority of the students.
  7. Sophie: Hard to replace John’s robust program piecemeal or John himself with all the different hats he wears.
  8. Natalie: John is happy to collaborate with other PE teachers in preparation for moving to an online platform.
  9. Jason: Had a recent conversation with an orthopedist and he said that the doctor is noticing a lot of problems with kids not moving because of Covid restrictions. PE is the best way to get the kids moving again. Also, Jason, Sophie, and Matt have a PE teacher from the district and appreciate the

instruction and the prep time. Teacher burnout is real and it's an added struggle to have to learn new programs day by day.

- a) Jason said that Patty was especially fond of the time afforded to her by John's PE class to connect with other staff and prep, and knowing that if John was there, it meant that there was one more adult who was there unconditionally for our kids.
10. Katy: She was really shocked that PTO wouldn't want to have John come back, especially given that there was likely money in the budget since we're not going on fieldtrips. John knows the kids. He's familiar to them and makes them feel good.
- a) She asked to hear from someone who was at the last meeting to shed light on why this happened:
    - (1) Vote was not about John not coming back ever, just now in DL.
    - (2) The vote wasn't about John per say. It was about a PE position that would have to be advertised publicly. We all assumed it might be filled by John but we were only voting on the position itself.
    - (3) It wasn't presented clearly what John could bring and provide for in the online PE paradigm.
      - (a) We've never had to do this before. Jeanne didn't provide a dog and pony show because she didn't think it was necessary, it was what the teachers wanted.
        - (i) PTO agrees and wants the teachers to have what they want. This year there were a number of unusual financial pieces to consider. Including: More site funds are spoken for this year than will be next year (to fund Seva), the special AB5 hiring circumstance, and in the special DL circumstance. So we requested to know what capacity he had, what was his plan, would it be live, would it be recorded etc. We needed to do our due diligence. The PTO isn't guaranteed funds every year and it is struggling this year. But contracting PE through the district we have a historical issue too because we don't know if we'll have the money for the whole year without hours and detailed predictions, so we just can't commit outright. Additionally, last year we didn't have to cover benefits. So these are all factors that we have to consider and nothing in any way related to John or the teachers. We trust John, everybody does but to vote and spend money we needed specifics. We needed more clarification because we have to justify to all the families what we are doing with their money.
    - (4) Concern for families in need and at the time it was not known if the emergency fund was full (it is now) or if we could afford the emergency \$5k paid to para at the end of last year (we could, books from last year have been closed and we only need to look forward).

- (5) Some members didn't know that OSS PE was taught K-5 no matter what, and so didn't know that PE then fell on the home room teacher.
  - (6) Teachers didn't come up with a schedule which made the financial piece hard to plan.
    - (a) Communication lost somewhere. Teachers didn't know they were supposed to. Patty was the main liaison and she was the one who came up with the PE schedule.
    - (b) Seva said that at the beginning of the year they didn't want to put PE on the schedule since they didn't even know if we could have PE. So the energy was put into making PE happen with PTO and in her mind scheduling would follow.
  - 11. Renee: D-wing has had a tough year. The kids don't need to lose another teacher this year.
  - 12. Natasha: As parent and teacher she is so impressed by John and shared a story of her kids putting on a John type PE class in the backyard. When she was new to OSS she went and did PE with the kids and it was a total work out and carefully planned and formulated. She said he knew how to take control in a class with a full gamut of motivation and engaged all the kids. As a parent and teacher she said it was so nice to see that kids can have a caring teacher in a rigorous program. Students loved going to PE, even the ones who pretended that they didn't.
  - B. Motion passed by majority for a budget line item of \$11k reserved for K-5 PE position for this year.
    - 1. Thank you teachers for all the discussion we want to be able to support you however we can.
  - C. Teachers would like to be on the PTO distribution list for meeting communication.
  - D. Teacher board position suggested
    - 1. There have been discussions over the years about having a designated teacher or two on the board (maybe 1 from lower and 1 from upper grade) rather than teachers taking turns as representatives and not having continuity from one meeting to another.
      - a) The current system doesn't adequately represent the teachers and only gives them one vote.
      - b) Going forward (and since Covid), we expect issues and changes benefiting from teacher input to come up regularly.
      - c) Jennifer suggests the teachers come up with 2 voting teachers for the position.
- IV. Principal's Report Jeanne
- A. Return to School Task Force
    - 1. Not going back anytime soon, we're in deep purple so pressure off a little not going back Jan or Feb and probably not March. Understandably, the district is unwilling to call it. If vaccines roll out quickly we could end up going back for part of the third trimester. A draft of hybrid and health and safety is being

finished for district report, but committee wants to have final draft approval before it goes to district.

- a) Talking about testing staff who come to school one day or more.
- b) LA county pulled their contract with Curative due to false negatives and we're keeping it. District is ok with that at the moment. Jonathan mentioned that the CDC has pulled their recommendations for Curative due to worse false neg rate than statistically expected.

B. Clearer communications from the District wanted: With the hybrid plan, if it happens, Dr. Olsen is reluctant to make a decision but she'll call it maybe if we're not back at spring break. It's apparent that the community doesn't truly understand that a hybrid plan will include 3 asynchronous days and how their structure might look different depending on the teachers. Teachers bring up communication too. They're fighting as well for it.

- a) Jennifer: Why do we have to wait to hear on facebook? Teachers are not prioritized like parents. Parents need to say something to the district. Administrators don't have a voice either, or anyone on the taskforce union etc. Putting together a plan without input from the community... part of health and safety negotiation for union is having classrooms cleaned everyday but still negotiating hiring more custodians. Other schools in the county have more funding, so they can go back to hybrid more easily.

#### V. Library

A. Barbara sent an email to Jeanne about library needs which she will forward to the board. The online book fair brought in very little money, and the state and district give us very little money. Consideration for \$5000, \$2500 for each book fair that we usually raise.

#### VI. Ombud/Parent Representatives Report

TBD

- A. Everyone had a holiday. Sophie and Jonathan and Jason working hard on MLK virtual celebration.
- B. Michele: Patty's celebration of life was amazing and we raised a lot of money. Thank you very much.

#### VII. Fundraising

Jenny/Gina

A. Read-a-Thon - Gratitude and Thanks

- 1. Jenny, thank you partner. Natalie, thank you for doing the website. Sophie, Michelle, Jason, and Lily, the Patty video was so great. Jeanne thank you for keeping the word out there and making our top readers feel so special, it meant so much to them. Love and appreciation to Lily every year for her readathon contributions. Thank you teachers for readathon support, you made it a priority and got the kids into it and really ran with it.

B. Fundraising Goals for Spring

- 1. How are we going to make some money? We do not want to over ask our parent community by hitting them repeatedly. We have to be even more sensitive to the situation our families and communities are in, focus more community building things.

- C. Spiritwear- Continued discussion from last meeting, will have something online for spring.
  - D. Dine out- Why do we have the partners we do: Asking only big companies because we don't feel bad asking them for more support (we don't want to feel like we're pursuing our community), want something in town and easy for P-towners.
  - E. Future Events (Paint Night, Spell-a-Thon, Plant Night, Cookie Kit): 1 per month? Things that are really fun that bring us together and maybe one more big fundraiser to help get closer to our yearly goal.
    - a) Amazon smile, get the word out, passive income and needs to be en mass
    - b) Alumni requests: maybe end of year or later, reach out get them involved, en mass adds up: plant seed for OSS 50 year anniversary?
- VIII. Treasurer's Report Michele/Patricia
- A. Current Budget: Took PE line item from held in advance
- IX. Presidents' Report Michele/Patricia
- A. Art-a-Thon Committee (March - Arts Educ. Month)
    - 1. Community building event like Move-a-Thon. Amy Cole Farrell (Sunset Ridge PTO president) has a connection with the Director of the Sanchez Art Center. They have appointment to talk on Friday to talk about the options.
  - B. PTO Handbook Update
    - 1. Ideas, take on a piece of it, let her know. Edits in One Note, has nice tabs go through can move things around
  - C. Curriculum Enhancement Committee
    - 1. Next deadline for submission is Feb 26 for the March 5 meeting.
    - 2. Michele would like to get a committee of more permanent voices, principal and teachers, maybe 1 for each grade group, anyone interested let us know. It would be nice to have a set number of people for clarity and scheduling. We have a \$20k line item for the year and have only used \$1600 now.
  - D. General Meeting Preparation
    - 1. Later this month another general meeting. Schedule includes budget update, standard announcements, and maybe breakout room or two.
      - a) Tanya wants a breakout room to teach TreeRing because parents have to do their own yearbook photo placement this year. She can do live or make video.
      - b) Natalie maybe restorative practices sessions
      - c) RTS: Talk will be focused on kids' online safety, what they're doing online and how to talk to them about it. They are non profit and send an invoice request but the school chooses how much to pay from our assembly budget.
      - d) DLG interested in presenting at meeting but may not be ready but can do another time
      - e) Jennifer reading education about how to read to littles
      - f) Cristin shares recent experience with social zoom lobby (maybe try for future meeting)
      - g) Jonelle video of garden
      - h) Pics of progress of portables?

- E. Rainy Day Fund
  - 1. Mentioned earlier in Jessica's comments, there is an extra fund put in place years ago with a significant amount of money. Bottom line there is money there and support for our teachers. It will be needed for years like this and to help keep us at normal working capacity in the next couple years of recovery.
- F. Jeanne wants to say thank you.
  - 1. This PTO is amazing. It's uncomfortable when disagreements arise, but everyone was amazing. The teachers were eloquent. PTO asked good questions. This is what government should look like. Respectful. And it's not easy, we're not always going to agree but at the end of the day we're here to help the kids and we still feel good at the end of the meeting.
  - 2. We have such dedicated committed teachers. It's so hard now. Interpersonal dynamic has been lost with no hallway chats etc, but we're all still here working together with a common purpose. We're here for you. We all have our responsibilities and have to make sure we're doing the right thing for everyone. We can hear you. It was so special to see everyone. We miss OSS.
- G. Thank you teachers for letting us hear you and for being here.

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

**General Meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2021**

**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

***Mission Statement***

*OSS's collaborative learning community of teachers, parents, students and staff form a working partnership to enrich the educational experience for the children. Because of this partnership, the school is able to provide an experiential learning process that is enhanced by cross-aged interaction, field trips, project-based learning, and community involvement. Each child's individual potential is maximized to foster a positive self-image, life-long love of learning, and strong critical thinking skills.*

***Vision Statement***

*Ocean Shore School students grow to be caring people who embrace diversity and are environmentally and socially responsible. They are curious and enthusiastic learners who develop strong academic and life skills. OSS students are critical, independent thinkers who are engaged members of society.*