



OCES PTO MEETING MINUTES

11-17-15

Place: OCES Café
Start Time: 6:30 pm
End Time: 7:08 pm

Welcome/Introduction: Jean Ricciardella, President, welcomed all to the PTO meeting. A moment of silence was requested for all who need a little extra support. She introduced Julie Rozum – Co- President, Sharon Lee – Vice President, Melissa Portuondo – Treasurer, and Michelle Sargis – Secretary.

President's Report: Jean discussed that the PTO has been very active and has accomplished a lot since the beginning of the year. This year so far, OCES has had the highest financial success they have had in the last five years!

- Our school profit from the Yankee Candle fundraiser was \$30,000 with only 45% participation! Christine Vezzola did an amazing job coordinating this fundraiser. Thank you!
- **PTO membership:** 87% - staff and 49% - families. Membership is truly a sign of your investment in the parent-teacher relationship and it also comes with some perks. To name a couple, members get first choice of volunteer opportunities and students can wear a free shirt once a month on the day of their choice.
- **5th Annual PB&J 5 K:** This event raised \$600. These profits will be returned back to our OCES families through Thanksgiving baskets. We will be helping 20 families enjoy their holiday this year. There is still need of non-perishable food items and gift cards for contribution.
- **Teacher conference meals:** Jodi Walls did a great job with this. Thank you! It was a successful event and the food was enjoyed by all.
- **Holidays for Heroes:** Maria Penta organized the candy donation for the troops. Thank you! We have collected a lot! Each grade level is requesting donations of different items, such as toiletries, that will be included with the candy.
- **Sign-Up Genius:** Heather Dinkle is the PTO Volunteer Coordinator. She has set up the Sign-Up Genius for our events and has hit the ground running. There is still some tweaking and streamlining to be done, but it has been quite successful and all has worked out well. Thanks, Heather!
- **Other Schools:** OCES PTO has overcome many triumphs and struggles with diverse activities, events, etc. over the years. Numerous local schools and clubs are now utilizing some of these ideas and processes which in turn is benefiting even more students in our community. While “imitation is the the highest form of flattery” , it also is an amazing

opportunity to improve community relations and positively impact more students. Thank you to all of the volunteers that continue to give so much time and effort!

Principal's Report: Principal Hook announced that it has been an awesome start to school.

- Tomorrow (11/18/15) is early release day (12:30) and is also the kick off for Luau for Life and Wounded Warriors.
- Mr. Hook and Mr. Fennell promised to spend the day on the roof if we reached our \$30,000 goal with the Yankee Candle fundraiser. This Friday, November 20th, they will fulfill their promise and will spend the day on the roof! Hope they remember their sunscreen!
- This year, OCES will partner with Sip n' Send to get the donations of candy and different items to our troops.
- Mr. Fennell is in charge of the website for OCES. It is kept updated and engaging! He also facilitated getting the Face Book page and QR code up and running! Thank you!
- CAR – (Charter Authority Rally) We are going to re-involve ourselves with the Rally this year. OCES and the other 3 schools in the system will sell raffle tickets and the foundation will be involved with the event receive some of the profits. This will take place on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at the German-American Club.
- The \$30,000 raised from Yankee Candle is once again being spent on technology for our school with a STEM focus.
- Mrs. Martin had a baby girl today at 5:45 pm. 6lbs 10oz. Congratulations!!
- Mr. Hook reminded everyone that his door is always open.

Treasurer's Report: Melissa Portuondo provided the current bank balance as \$58,713.05. These funds were generated in some of the following ways: Membership - \$1,635.00, School Tool Box - \$432.74, Yankee Candle - \$30,000, and Fall Festival - \$9,459.29. Records are always available upon request.

Committees: Julie Rozum provided information about committees and events.

- **Box Tops/LFE/Tyson** – \$1800 was raised in the first collection. Numbers were down this year. This is FREE money for our school! The more we get turned in, the more money we get. Please spread the word to family members and friends and keep collecting! The next collection will be in February, 2016.
- **Fall Festival** – This seemed to be the best attended festival yet! It was a great turn out and there were many volunteers. Jen-Hope Belis was the chairperson again and did an amazing job! Thank you to all who made this a success!
- **Staff Appreciation** - Conference meals were successful. The holiday brunch for the teachers is scheduled on December 15th. This is a great opportunity for us to honor our teachers!
- **Breakfast With Santa** – Saturday, December 12th in the OCES Café from 9 – 11am. There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast, games, crafts, an opportunity to make holiday cards for the residents of Gulf Coast Village, a Toys for Tots collection and pictures with Santa. All of this is FREE! Please bring your family for some holiday cheer!

- **2nd Annual Have a Heart Dance** – This will be held on February, 5th and will support HOOTS (Helping Our Own Through Service). Funds raised from this event will go to Luau for Life and ForTheKids.org. (These are OCES family-run organizations)
- **OCES Spring 5K** – This will be held on March 19th and will be a true-timed run on Oasis Blvd. More to come on this event.

Charter Authority Governing Board OCES Parent Representative - Jennifer Lucas-Keesler – Jennifer is a non-voting member and a voice for Oasis. Jennifer was not able to attend the PTO meeting, but information was provided by Mr. Hook. As promised, \$100,000 of the City funding was allocated to our budget for building maintenance. We are currently in the process of trying to renegotiate our lease. If successful, this will alleviate about \$500,000 of our expenses. All are invited to attend the meetings. They are usually held the second Tuesday of each month at 9 am and can be watched on Cape TV. The next meeting will be 12/8 at 9 am in the City Chambers.

SAC Committee – (Student Advisory Committee) – This is a group of parents, teachers, staff members, etc. who discuss topics that range from uniforms to curriculum. Please help get the word out. The next meeting is December 1st at 6:00 pm in the Media Center.

Open Discussion – No questions or comments were raised.

Next PTO Meeting – Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm

If you need to contact PTO, e-mail us at: OasisE.PTO@capecharterschools.org

Find out what is happening! Visit the PTO section on the Oasis Website and you can also find us on Face book! PTO will post events and other communications.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Keezer and seconded by Jami DiMaria. The motion was approved by the majority.

Submitted by Michelle Sargis