

OES PTO Minutes for October 22, 2020

- ★ Welcome & Introduction of Officers: Jess Marshall & Michele Hildebrand-Co-Presidents, Jeannette Blaustein -Vice-President, Janet Blanco-Treasurer, Aimee Aubry-Secretary

- ★ Guest Speaker: Melanie Klages: safety update and Carrie Abes:Assistant Principal
 - Carrie Abes - Asst. Principal
 - Ms. Abes noted how to pronounce her last name, like the car rental company Avis but with a “b”.
 - She began teaching at Christa when they opened and taught there for 13 years; she started the STEM lab there.
 - Her main duties include: dealing with issues on a school bus, handling Go Guardian alerts, and directing traffic at dismissal.
 - Melanie Klages - school nurse
 - Ms. Klages provided a health and safety update via a powerpoint presentation, which can be found on the school website.
 - Covid update - there have been 10 cases total as of 10/22
 - OEN- 1 staff, 1 student
 - OES - 1 staff, 3 students
 - OMS - 1 staff, 1 student
 - OHS - no staff, 2 students
 - Parks & Rec - 1 staff
 - There is now a live dashboard available on the school’s website that provides data around cases and quarantines at all four schools. The dashboard is interactive so users can view by various parameters such as individual schools. The website can be accessed by clicking on the “Covid-19 Tracking” picture/link on our school’s main page and then clicking on the Covid-19 Tracking link.
 - Ms. Klages stated that statewide our percent positivity is a little over 5%. Our state has entered Phase 3 meaning things have opened back up fully. She has gotten several questions from parents about lifting the mask requirements; she states that at this time there is no discussion around lifting the mask mandate.
 - She covered the importance of having a plan in place for your household if your child has to quarantine. If a child is determined to have had close contact with a positive case, the parent receives a phone call from the school to inform them of the need to quarantine and how to continue learning from home. Quarantine is required for 14 days regardless of any covid test results. The reason for this is because symptoms can appear anywhere between 2 and 14 days from exposure.
 - If your child tests positive for covid-19 it is important that the parent contact the school immediately. The child will be required to isolate for 10 days and can

return to school on day 11 if they meet all criteria (refer to presentation slides or school illness policy for additional info).

- Reporting absences is different this year; it is done via email.
 - Illness policy also looks different this year. Policy can be found on the school's website. If a child is having covid like symptoms, the school will require a doctor's note (DO, PA or APRN) to return.
 - Ms. Klages discussed the misconception about possible damage caused by the no-touch thermometers. The thermometers used by the school are not the gun shaped ones. Also they do not emit any radiation; they only have a light so the user can be sure they are aiming it in the right place. Despite some videos/information circulating on social media, she states there is no evidence that non-contact infrared thermometers cause damage to the brain.
 - Following the Ms. Klages' presentation there were a few questions:
 - Can a child return to school before the end of their 14 day quarantine period with a doctor's note? No, they must stay home the entire 14 days.
 - Is there any plan/goals in place where we might consider lifting the mask mandate in class? With the numbers rising nationwide and as we head into flu season, there is no discussion at this time of lifting the mask mandate. She also noted the school takes their direction from the Departments of Health and Education.
- ★ Teacher appreciation update and needs were presented by Michele Hildrebrand
- It was noted that Jen is doing a great job. No immediate needs were noted.
- ★ Staff of the week program updates and reminders were presented by Jess Marshall.
- Winners so far: Susan Taylor, Katie Keezer, Kellie Kelly and Tiffany Brown.
 - Winners' pictures are posted on Facebook, they receive a keychain and a gift certificate.
 - Michele encouraged everyone to continue to submit nominations. If your nomination is not picked that week, please submit them again for each subsequent week until they are picked. Nomination pools are reset every week.
- ★ President's Report:
- Boosterthon
 - Boosterthon was a huge success. The PTO expressed their gratitude for families' promotion of the event and the businesses that supported it, which helped us exceed our goal.
 - A big thank you was made to the teachers and administration for all the extra work that fell on them this year due to changes in the event due to covid. All financial goals were met for technology needs and teacher appreciation.
 - There will be one more prize pick up night for virtual families. If not picked up, the PTO will organize a morning pick-up for those remaining.
 - Communication

- Facebook- **OES Families**, please “Like” us
 - Parents - make sure you are signed up for Parent Square and are reading the Panther Press weekly.
 - Additional info on the PTO can be found on PTO Rocks on the school website
 - Administration school Facebook page--**Oasis Elementary South**
- New Business
 - Spirit Shirts are for sale via a link on the OES website and panther press. Delivery is scheduled for November 6th or 13th.
 - The PTO has been researching a new school supply vendor as ours has been expensive. They found a national family owned and operated vendor we will plan to use next year. Boxes will be ~\$40 less. PTO president Jess Marshall priced out the boxes and states the price is equivalent to buying everything at Target.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - **Box Tops** are going digital! Download the app, add our school and scan receipt. Fall submission has been completed but families can keep submitting. The PTO is in search of a new chairperson for springtime. Please let the PTO know if you are interested.
 - **Restaurant Cards** are still available and can be purchased for \$10.00 through the year
 - **Oct Virtual Event:** Pumpkin Decorating contest & PTO Story Video. The pumpkin decorating contest has been extended to allow time for more submissions. The student and teacher of the winning students will receive a gift bag and gift card for their classroom. The PTO story video will be pre-recorded and sent to teachers to play in the classroom during their Halloween parties.
 - **Veterans Day video** We will be making a video to honor our OES community veterans. Photo submission deadline is Nov 7. Video will go out Nov 11th. The video will be put on our school website.
 - **Nov Event: Thankful tree.** The PTO will be putting up trees on the hallway walls where kids can add leaves with what they are thankful for written on them. We will also be making accommodations for Home Connect students to participate in the thankful tree.
- **Dec virtual event: TBD;** more info to come next month.
- **Frosty's Factory:** will be held November 17-27 this year. Due to covid we have to order in November to allow time for items to be shipped and arrive on time. Students will order online and items will be delivered to home.
- Five Below fundraiser Nov 30-Dec 6th. Students will receive a letter from the school that they can take to Five Below, where they can go shopping and some percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the PTO.

★ Foundation: Jen-Hope Belis.

- www.CapeCharterFoundation.org
- Orders are open for the Rally on the Green shirts. Shirts can be pre-ordered; there are only a few sizes left. All staff members will get a shirt.

- This is our largest event of the year. The golf event will be guaranteed but we are not sure about the family fun events. We are hopeful they can be done with modifications but we will see. The event is April 17th.
- Remind teachers to apply for mini-grants. One teacher from each school has received a grant so far this year.
- The Foundation has one voting board member stepping down. Anyone interested in the position should apply online. Jen noted that you don't have to be a board member to get involved. They also need committee members for various activities.
- Ms. Grecsek noted that OES benefits a lot from the Foundation grants. We just received a STEM grant.

★ Treasurer's Report:

- Income from Smencils and fun cards is \$1,213
- Income from Boosterthon was \$62,824. Note that is gross income; we are still waiting on our invoice from Boosterthon for their fees. However based on what we raised and the expected fee, we should not have to make any changes to our budget since we exceeded our goal.
- We have started making teacher reimbursements so far for \$1,700.
- We have money allocated to specials' resources; \$180 has been given to the music dept.
- Funds spent on teacher appreciation is \$712.
- \$165 has been spent on the fall events and activities.
- Total expenses YTD \$3,394.

★ Principal's Report: Ms. Grecsek

- Ms. Grecsek thanked the PTO for their organization of Boosterthon and the parents for their generosity.
- She also thanked the parents for the treats they have been bringing in for the teachers.
- She reminded everyone that there are two weeks left for Kindergarten registrations for the 2021-22 school year.
- Red Ribbon week starts next week (10/26). No donation required this year; everyone can participate. There will be four dress up days and then the last day is Halloween.
- Halloween is an early release day. Kids can dress in costume. If the little ones want to change out of their costume please make sure parents send them with clothes they can change into themselves as teachers won't have any parent volunteers in the classroom to help. If parents want to send in a treat for the class, they must be individually wrapped. Goodie bags are also OK as long as everything is individually wrapped.
- Results are in for instructional changes for Q2. We have 100 changes for the next quarter. She is currently working with the Home Connect teachers to coordinate these changes. There could be teacher changes for Home Connect if they have to bring Home Connect teachers back in for a new face to face classroom. Details are still being worked out. Changes will be communicated next week and will roll out by grades. All changes

are effective with the beginning of the second quarter. Please reach out to Ms. Grescek with questions.

- A question was asked about how many students are currently learning via Home Connect and how many will still be in Q2. Total enrollment at OES is 872; 275 started in Home Connect; 60 have come back throughout the first quarter and now 100 more will come back in Q2 leaving about 150 kids still using Home Connect.
- A question was asked if there is any plan to discontinue Home Connect at some point. Ms. Grescek indicated there were no plans for that at this time. She said they may have to evaluate it depending on how covid numbers are doing in November/December. OES will do whatever the county and state ask us to.

★ Teachers Report: Tiffany Brown K-2 and Heather Santana 3-5

- Ms. Brown stated there wasn't much to report. Things are going well; the students are doing great. The teachers are enjoying their treats on Fridays. She is excited to see what students are coming back in Q2.
- Someone asked if the teachers are seeing any deterioration in grades, which apparently is something that has been reported at the high school level. Ms. Grescek noted that they really haven't quantified that. She noted there are students that are struggling; mostly participation related for Home Connect students; they're just not logging in like they should. She noted that some face to face students are struggling as well; not a huge number but more than in previous years. Ms. Brown noted that they were worried about incoming Kindergarteners and even lowered some of their standards, however most students are doing much better than the teachers expected.
- Another question was asked about accommodations for Home Connect students coming back. Ms. Grescek noted some will push into existing classrooms where there are seats available. If there are enough students to warrant it, they may move a Home Connect teacher to face to face and open a new unit. There is also the possibility of a teacher teaching some students face to face and some virtually.
- Ms. Santana was not present.

★ Governing Board Report: Kristopher Jackson, Elementary School Parent Rep

- Kris Jackson explaining his role; he is the parent rep for the governing board. He is on the board but not a voting member. His job is to look at things through the eyes of a parent. He helps decide on things like budgets, purchases, etc. but they do not get involved in day to day operations/administration of the schools.
- He noted that while the board does have autonomy, they still have to report to the Lee County School Board.

★ Open Discussion

- A question was submitted via Zoom chat asking about one of the two scheduled recesses being cancelled in their child's class. Ms. Grescek explained that the teachers

have discretion to skip one recess if they need the classroom time to get work done. It was her understanding that most teachers were taking both recesses on most days. She invited the parent to reach out to her to discuss their specific class/situation.

- A question was asked about use of the playgrounds. Ms. Grescek noted that the smaller playground was on a 7-day rotation so that every day one Kinder class and one 1st grade class gets to use the playground. She said they felt this was important for the younger kids' gross motor skills. They still haven't found a way to open up the larger playground due to the number of students/classroom in grades 2-5 that would need to be coordinated.
- Someone asked if there was a way to donate to the school for the teachers. Ms. Grescek said to email the PTO.
- Someone asked about volunteer hours for this year. Ms. Grescek stated that no volunteer hours would be required this year.

★ Next PTO Meeting: Thurs, December 10th. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Hopper.

★ Adjournment