

OPTO Meeting Notes

September 19, 2019, 5:30pm

Attendees:

Soomie Ahn, Shannon Potter, Kristan Weller, Luni Libes, Deb Henderson, Theresa Marchineks, Valarie Hoit, Tara Hilgers, Sarah Wykoff, Anne Willhoit, Amy Gulbranson, Bill Beckman, Morgan Jelic, Kara Owsley, Christie Wakefield, Trish Corsetti

[Note: Every parent is a member of OPTO and is welcome to join the OPTO meetings.]

Meeting Notes/Summary:

Soomie called the meeting to order. Shannon moved to approve minutes from last meeting. Minutes were approved.

Overview of OPTO and CORE

CORE is the Council of Representatives and Educators. Includes all class reps and teachers. Plans class meetings (bring clarity and focus to Parent Meetings), facilitates parent/teacher relationships, etc. Theresa mentioned that a goal of CORE is that every teacher and every rep goes to those meetings. Anne said the core meeting was great – a great use of time and effective.

OPTO is the board that manages the OPTO budget, facilitates macro program level scale issues. Think of OPTO as the center of the web vs top town leadership. Regular participation includes the four officers, and committee leads, and a teacher representative. (Emma, Todd, and Barry are going to rotate.) Every committee lead and all parents can come if they want, but not required.

Ice Cream Social

General feedback was that it was a success. Was suggested that it is “always crazy” and was helpful that it had a definitive start and end time. Suggested to further refine the goal, (meet and greet especially for new families in conjunction with locker set up, supply drop off ect.) The booths for ILBs and Volunteering were well received. Suggested to move the booths into the walkway for better traffic next time. Also a suggestion to make it one hour for teachers/classroom, and one hour for social. As a whole, we went through 270 ice cream servings.

OPTO Objectives to Date:

1. Create strong K/B/G/7/8 clusters while still celebrating Odyssey as a whole.
2. How can we bring students together to effectively collaborate? (bring K up, 7/8 down, 1/6 mix)
3. Strengthen parent volunteer participation and expectations.

The goal of the second item was discussed as “K-8 integration.”

Discussed the possibility of need a fourth objective around the budget. Insuring that the budget is a representation of things that we care about, things that we need to put in the budget before May when we are in a hurry. (Professional development example.)

Anne also suggests we add an item about the Vision of odyssey. Each year the community should revisit this. Important for our identity and for the school district to know what we stand for. A simple one page document, just revisit this one document and everyone agrees. A ritual each year to agree on that. It was suggested that we already have a good base for this. Meet with Jen and Christian to get their input, then present it at a Core meeting. Theresa mentioned we are doing some of that at CORE meetings. Maybe not a vision but a re-calibration on what we are, then revisiting, each one. Christie mentioned that these those go to the pillars of Odyssey. Should come

before the money/budget discussion, the things we care about, to align to our visions, goals. It was also noted that the original budget for 2019-2020 was based on 200 kids, where we are now 190.

Ft Flagler OPTO time on the agenda 1-3pm on Friday

Mini Classes is 1 hr, Peggy is 30 minutes (how to use positive parenting in the classroom as a volunteer.) Peggy is doing an October class for Odyssey Parents, with 15 spots, for new families or those that haven't attended in the past. It was voted on that OPTO would fund participation for new families. The vote was approved - 15 spots, new families are free (anyone else would pay their own fee.)

Committee Updates

ILB – Would like the funds for swimming and gymnastics dog-ear'd. Not asking for more money, but will mark that there is ½ of ILB money going to those. Have done this in the past. ILB chairs will collect the money.

Fundraising – haven't done a push yet. Letter will go out next week, including how much that breaks down per student. Would like 100% participation. Will give monthly updates, and may do a supplemental in the spring depending on funds raised. Other activities can be added at end of year. Money for corporate match needs to be clear that if you expect a corporate match, flag that with the volunteers. It was suggested that the money not get mentioned in front of kids (Ft Flagler example.) And be gentle and kind about the hard ask. It was noted that at Ft Flagler, OPTO will get time with the parents without kids, so will be able to do that without the kids there.

Garden – This year will push to have parent volunteers. Garden ILB every month - Heidi is going to lead the Garden ILB. Lot of things to do in the garden. Need a few parents be solid members of the garden committee. Greenhouse is falling apart, no major maintenance on garden in years. We need to do a better job of integrating the garden (Harvest Fair example.)

Volunteering – Todd's class filled up in a day, other classes are between 50 and 70%. Need more lunch and recess monitors, only 1 out of ten positions is filled. These positions are needed more this year given the number of students at lunch and recess together. Kara will talk to Trish about that to validate. No offers from Green for garden. Ft Flagler counts as two hours of volunteer time (Parent Meeting time) plus any other specific volunteer time a parent has signed up for (Kitchen, bunker monitor, etc.)

New business – BISD has new sustainability push. Aaron Murphy, Assistant Superintendent is leading the team. A few parents within odyssey have said they will volunteer. May need a committee. Related, it was suggest that lunch after recess would be a better use of time and allow for the kids to actually eat. It was mentioned that this group alone does not have that power to change that, but if you rally parents to push this, it could get changed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.