

OPTO Meeting Notes October 24, 2019, 5:00pm

Attendees:

Barry, Soomie, Shannon, Amy, Deb, Chrissie, Teresa, Susan, Kristan, Mike, Christian, Morgan, Christie, Sarah, Katy, Kelly [Some joined post start, and I apologize I did miss some names.]

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

Meeting Notes/Summary:

Chrissie moved to approve the September minutes, Deb second, motion was approved.

Ft Flagler

Update from Mike. The state has moved to two night minimum which presents an opportunity for Odyssey. Ideas were discussed: possibly have each classroom take a night, or have 7/8s take a night. Cost for Flagler this year was under what the additional cost would be, so it does not pose an additional expense. Also, Ft Flagler is now a budgeted line item, even though it pays for itself through collection of fees. Deposit is due November 9th. If we do nothing different for next year, would still be ahead from what is budgeted. Kelly is going to send out a survey as well, and Soomie suggested the survey include a space for ideas for the second night. Date is secured for the first weekend in October, 2020. Barry said in years past, it was Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Shannon would like to make sure the K's are invited to stay the night. Amy agreed. There was discussion as well about what to do with the down time on Saturday. It was suggested to utilize some of the overage funding for tee shirts so that every child has a tee-shirt with Odyssey on it.

Some addition Ft. Flagler information came in from Kelly as well. The state has said for years that it is two night minimum, but Odyssey had received a pass previously. Now they are enforcing that since there are other people wanting it for two nights. The good news is that we are \$3K ahead. Spent \$7K, made \$10K. Still up \$1K even if we do the two nights. Mike and Kelly's recommend is that we do make that reservation - first weekend in October. Recommend also that we stick with Ft Flagler vs a different spot.

Treasurer's Report

Shannon presented the treasurers report on behalf of Luni who is traveling. Treasurer's Report is also available on Slack. The handoff is complete from Mike to Luni. Luni has also completed PTO treasurer training. Carry over from last year is \$8,800. Discussion about where this \$8,800 lives (does it go back to BISD or stay with OPTO.) There was a discussion of budget rules related to carry over dollars from year to year. Chrissie Pitts is going to talk with Luni to make sure we are in compliance, may need to look at governing PTO requirements.

Committee Lead Email Addresses

Email address specific to committee lead roles are available if desired. These may be helpful for historical records related to certain roles as well as transitioning work from one to another and multiple folks reviewing one email address. For example, a shared address will help with sending to categories of people (ILBs as an example, Kara, Sara, Theresa.) Email the Odyssey president email address and then they can help you get it set up.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Sara Albee was doing it last year and with Jen. Lost some momentum going into the new school year. Would be a good volunteer position for someone outside of school hours. (Note: position has since been filled.) Sara Wykoff is going to work on the intercom system – teachers were having to open doors to hear announcements. She has not heard back from Trish and will ask Michelle Hope to test it. Also, per Soomie, emergency preparedness has money dedicated in the budget, roughly \$1,500.

October 24, 2019 OPTO Meeting Notes, Continued

Library Funding

Cathy, the new librarian had requested some additional funding from OPTO. This prompted a discussion of classroom libraries vs circulating library. Circulating library is for the whole school, central school library. Now with district providing funding, the circulating library is now Odyssey library for everyone.. It was noted that Cathy is .4 FTE, and is Commodore's librarian (EHH, Mosaic, and Odyssey.) There was a very open dialog about the current state of the library and discussion related to the role of the new librarian and library at Odyssey. It was discussed that we may not want to give any money to the library at this point, as the goals and objectives of the new district funded FTE are not in line with Odyssey's parent/student/teacher triangle. Currently, parent involvement in the library has not be understood or received. However, it should be and always has been parent involvement, parent supported. From a teacher perspective, for 20 years parents have paid for the Odyssey library, the district has not contributed. With the new librarian, our library since it is now part of the system, part of the collective, but not funded by the district. In the next funding cycle, any money that goes into that library goes to the district, because now our library is part of the collective. The library is something that schools have, and now we have .4 of a librarian without a defined role or scope. There was a good dialog about what the librarian role does provide, including access to references. However, further dialog detailed that we are 30 days in and we don't have engagement for our students from this new FTE. Challenge is that we have a person who is working in this building but doesn't know what the role of the Odyssey librarian should be .4 is a lot of money (\$50K) a lot of money that we would love to utilize fully. It was mentioned that the district would not provide access to electronic resources without a librarian. We have \$20K books funded by Odyssey parents/historically that now below to the district. Odyssey agreed to open it up to the district in order to have them electronically cataloged, but unfortunately lost interaction in exchange. Further dialog ensued - the more we move to a normalized system, the more we eliminate the things that force kids and parents to interact.

It was discussed that the key take away is that we need a person that interacts with our kids, and understands the Odyssey triangle (parent/teacher/child). We need a job description, engage Trish for her support to provide the librarian different orders. Parents should to lead this effort with Trish. Susan will draft a job description and overview/something up for the OPTO to take a look at and then offer it to Trish. Key item to note, OPTO money spent on books becomes BISD property.

Shannon suggested a vote to not funding library dollars until we get this worked out. Soomie put forward the motion, the motion was seconded and all agreed.

Parent Voice as a Partner with Teachers

Parent voice as a partner with teachers will be discussed at Parent Meeting. OPTO will to discuss as well. Will also be discussed at CORE.

Professional Development Funds for Teachers

We had a good discussion about funding professional development for our teachers. Both Barry and Anne have taken care of their own recently, and it was suggested we could have those covered by OPTO, \$150 for Anne Story telling event and Barry went to New York and spent Friday in the NY charter schools, then Saturday at the teachers college. OPTO would like to cover travel his expenses and per diem, total \$500. OPTO would also like to make professional development a permanent line item. At the next meeting, we will discuss a permanent line item in the budget and a process to manage the funds.

Shannon made a motion to approve funding for Ann's registration for reading story telling class of \$150 and Barry's expenses of \$500. Soomie second, all approved.

Note: If allocated items are in the current budget for those above motions, then those funds would come from those particular line items in the budget.

October 24, 2019 OPTO Meeting Notes, Continued

Arts in Education

There was a discussion of funding for Arts In Education – starting with a leadership meeting of Commodore which happened in August, where there was a group decision to not finance it this year, which would mean there would not be matching funds. The match would get 35 hours of artists. Decision was based on an equitability issue – Commodore was approached overall, so it had to be split between the three, EH, Mosaic, and Odyssey. The current OPTO budget item for this is \$618 and the initial cost is \$800, plus a \$800 match, Total incremental is roughly \$1K. This is a one year adjustment, but will need to be resolved going forward (in time for next year.) There was a suggestion to vote on the intention to fund the \$1K incremental tonight, and Chrissie needs to check with Luni, given the number of new line items coming in.

Shannon put forward a vote a one-time vote to continue to match the Arts in Education funds using the carrier over funds. That is the full \$1600, incremental \$1000. Soomie seconded and all approved.

Committee Reports

ILBs are going well. There is an all-school field trip planned for January using ILB money, but Theresa is not sure if we have that money remaining. Total cost is \$1100, although we may have fewer students due to conferences and MLK that week. Christie mentioned that we do \$1600 in the budget for field trips already, and could use that. Additionally, Teacher Enrichment is \$1,200 per cluster/teacher. Theresa will check with Luni to ensure the field trip in Jan can utilize that funding.

Fundraising - Around 35% participation. 1/3 raised so far. Printed letter will go out on Monday. It is tax deductible.

Communications –Working to make K and 7/8s more included in our comms. Started with Salish Seas in the newsletters. Will continue to work those in.

Garden – Make sure people don't eat the corn that was taken home, was not intended for consumption. Heidi is making a list of things that need to be done, sent list to Anne. Need a brainstorming session to determine how to engage teachers and parents. Will have a lot of potatoes, the kitchen could make something with the potatoes.

General – Per Shannon, all committee leads will get the Charter Forms for each committee, to identify scope, reach, etc.

Sustainability – Caty had a meeting there are lots of different activities and ideas, don't want to over reach in what can be accomplished. Should be student lead? Lots of pivoting. Would like more people involved, meet November 4th (first Monday). Looking at district objectives. Can make as big or small – momentum is there, need to get people engaged. Chrissie also suggest brining kids into that committee.

Community Building– two new events. 1) Holiday shopping for kids December 12th. Side note: don't use new wrapping paper. 2) We also have a green light to do an Odyssey Haunted House, Oct 2020, planned by students. May and fall ILB to plan it. Open to all BI, would be held out in the field.

6:30pm Move to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.