

Odyssey Parent-Teacher Organization
Odyssey Multiage Program at Commodore Options School, Bainbridge Island, WA

OPTO MEETING MINUTES

October 24th, 2024, 6:00pm

Commodore Commons

1. Roll Call: Caleigh Munoz, Aaron Blumenthal, Todd Person, Britt Gonsoulin, Selena Gray, Lisa Kubicki, Chris Rice, Jen Larson, Kristin Larson, Laura Elfver, Paul Simpson, Zeanid Noor, Brenda Beirnat, Louise DeWors
2. Call to Order 6:11pm
3. Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes Approval
 - Call for motion: Lisa K.
 - Seconding: Caleigh M.
 - Open floor for discussion: none
 - Call for vote: approved unanimously
4. Reports from OPTO Members
 - Co-presidents update: Aaron provided an update on the email sent from Amii Thompson yesterday detailing the recent budget issues. There will be more discussion at the parent meeting and in the coming weeks about this. School closures are currently not on the table. Discretionary spending is something the district will limit or stop in order to avoid going into a negative balance of funds by year's end. There are a number of other measures being taken to address the situation (please see Amii Thompson's email for a full summary). Amii wanted to assure everyone that they are doing everything they can to identify issues within the overall budget and try to find solutions. We will need to continue to be patient as the situation unfolds and as we learn more.
 - Leadership Chair update: Selena gave a brief update about the Leadership Chair role, which is overseeing the class representatives and interfacing with OPTO to make communications smooth within the PTO and Parent Community. So far, things are going well.
 - Treasurer update: **Todd Persen** gave a brief update on finances. He noted that we have met 21% of our fundraising goal for the year (Goal of 50K). With that, we are well on track to meet the needs of the current approved budget. A reminder: Odyssey does fundraising a year in advance due to our expenses being heavily

weighted to the end of the school year (outdoor ed mostly). Expenses so far this year have been limited to Camp Parsons and a few other items, but will increase substantially in the months to come, which is why our current cash balance is high. Additionally, because PTOCC has its own bookkeeper now, we are working to achieve more moment-to-moment clarity on in and outflows. This should improve in the coming months. Updates on the budget numbers will ideally occur monthly during our meetings.

- Secretary update: In a change from previous years, agendas will be published for both OPTO *and* parent meetings a week prior to those meetings. We are working to incorporate break out rooms into the larger Zoom Meeting “Room” online that will allow parents to join their classroom cohort virtually after the larger parent meeting has ended. However, whether or not a virtual classroom meeting is offered for a particular class/cluster will be left up to the class reps and the teachers to decide based on the topic that month.

5. New Business:

A. Bylaws revisions process

- a. OPTO approved a set of revised bylaws last month at the OPTO meeting. After that meeting, we got feedback that parents would have liked that discussion to take place in the larger parent meeting as well. Based on this feedback, we intend to do just that, presenting future amendments to the bylaws at larger parent meetings, as well as publishing the proposed amendments or changes with a longer review period to ensure that feedback and discussion occurs as needed.

- B. OPTO would like to make clear the process by which committees are formed and funded. A committee should be for the purpose of continuing a body of work that is established at the school, be team-based, be intended to continue in perpetuity, has a clear mission and purpose, and has a need for budgetary support or executive input.

Examples would be the Visioning Committee which could work to define our school values, advocate for our program at the district level, and help OPTO accomplish its overarching goals in the years ahead. Another committee would be the Family Retreat Committee which would continue with annual planning for Camp Parsons and making sure that we have excellent continuity in community building year to year.

- a. Vote to form a Visioning Committee
 - i. Motioned to vote: Lisa K.
 - ii. Seconded: Caleigh M.

- iii. Discussion: Chris R. had some clarifying questions related to committee work in light of the budget situation. Aaron notes that regardless of the budget situation we will proceed with this process.
 - iv. Vote: Approved unanimously.
 - b. Vote to form a Family Retreat Committee
 - i. Motion to vote: Lisa K
 - ii. Seconded: Caleigh M.
 - iii. Discussion: none
 - iv. Vote: approved unanimously
- 1. Committee Member Updates
 - a. Chris shared that the Readiness and Resilience Committee is active. Chris attended the Bainbridge Prepares annual open house. There was the Great Shake Out drill that happened community wide last week. The committee is moving forward with some initiatives in the classrooms and with regard to optimizing supplies. Chris will be going through the supplies shed and may request replacement of items as needed. PTOCC is also looking to apply for an emergency grant to support these efforts. We will need to make an inventory of what we have here at the school. Connect with Chris if you are interested in assisting.
 - b. Positive Discipline. There has been a great turn out for the first session of Peggy's class. All but one family is new to the group, which is great. The Teen Positive Discipline group will be starting in the winter, so stay tuned for more information on that.
 - c. Lisa K. is looking for a family participation co-chair to assist with coordination efforts. Lisa welcomes anyone interested in the co-chair position to contact her.

6. Adjourn

Next OPTO Meeting will occur Nov 21st

Zoom Link (OPTO and PARENT MEETINGS and CLASSROOM MEETINGS):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85450157172?pwd=eHI0MFZHN1pvc0poaFJyZDNHWVJ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 5015 7172

Passcode: 627299

Link to summary of Robert's Rules of Order:

<https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/roberts-rules-of-order-cheat-sheet/>