

OPPG Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 16, 2009  
Attendance: approx. 50-60

Meeting called to order at approximately: 6:10pm

**Introductions:**

Meeting was started by Cari Dawson (OPPG Chair) with a welcome and introductions.

**Request for New Business**

**Committee Reports:**

**Board Report - Jexy Wadle (K-3 rep) and Rhonda Graham (4-6 rep)**

They explained the difference between the board and OPPG  
The board meets one a month. The meetings are approx. 2 - 2  
1/2 hours long, childcare is provided.  
The board oversees the school, they act the caretakers of  
money and the big picture.  
Currently the board was described as a "great, committed,  
strong board".  
Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 21, at 6pm, in  
room .

**Food and Garden - Susan**

The Food and Garden is open to people using their talents and  
resources.  
Harvest of the Month is a Nutrition Program with a moveable  
carts.  
They have had Cooking Fundraisers.'  
The gardens around the campus are done by the Food and  
Garden committee.  
"Bean Stalk" blog is currently up on the OCS website for ALL  
arts committees. Parents can send information, there are photos and links.  
They are currently looking for grants to expand the area behind  
the Community Hall and to put boxes in the main garden area.  
They are also looking into a food pantry for OCS families.  
They are also thinking of offering a small afterschool program,  
unfortunately will have a fee.  
In October 7th and 8th graders will have an opportunity for  
Cooking and Gardening Sessions. They will build a container garden, and learn  
how to grow ingredients for Latin, Afro-American, and Asian foods.  
They would also like to see OCS have there own Pumpkin  
Patch. Parents are needed to help with the initial planting in the Summer so that it  
is ready for the students in the Fall.

**Arts - Paula Solano**

This is a new committee that formed last year.

They are open to new members and ideas.  
The purpose of this committee is to support and enrich the arts in the classroom. This is in theatre, drama, music, and visual arts.

They would like to do some fundraising to be able to go from the 10 weeks of art, back to 25 weeks.

"Rockfest", an all school talent show, is one of there main events.

They are currently in the process of organizing a fundraiser where corporations could get staff pictures at a discounted price. Someone is needed to make phone calls.

### **Fundraising - Marialyce (NO REPORT)**

Ebay - Ilse

This was set up for entertainment related items.

Any connections with the entertainment and music industry should talk to Ilse, who has a letter that can be sent out.

Passive Fundraisers - Marisela Chavez

Parents can register on line and have a certain % of their spending be given to OCS.

E-scrip, Ralphs, Target, WaMu.

We also collect Box-tops.

### **Fix-It Committee - Darby Rowe-Barlett, Neil Kubon, and Blithe**

This committee is looking for people.

There is a wish list of things that need fixing.

The most current ideas are being generated for the benches in front of the school.

### **Room Parents - Lisa**

Room Parents are needed!

### **Safety-Committee - Eva (NO REPORT)**

### **Nominating Committee - Paula Solano**

Member at Large- 1 position available on OPPG.

This position has no defined task, they are there to help, and have a voice with no job description.

Information and nominations will be accepted in Thursday packet, followed by a vote.

### **Other Reports - Cari Dawson**

A sign went around for parents to indicate if they would be interested in having their child(ren) participate in some after school classes. These would NOT replace the current after school program. Some ideas are, art, music, karate, and possible cooking from 2:45 to 3:45 once or twice a week. Fees would be paid directly to the organization offering the class.

A Parent Directory is currently in the works. Anyone NOT

wanted to be included needs to contact Cari, otherwise everyone is included.

**Calendar:**

Sign-ups for volunteering on events and other OPPG functions were on the tables in the back so that anyone who didn't get a chance to sign up at the picnic, could.

The information for the functions can be found on-line and will also be in a binder in the front office.

Next OPPG Meeting - Tuesday, November 17th at 8:30am  
Parent Ed ideas are still being taken. Nothing has been finalized for this meeting.

**Upcoming Events:**

Restaurant Night #1 - October 13th - Mijares Restaurant  
- Tina Jimenez

This is the 3rd year the Mijares Family has been hosting this fundraiser for OPPG. 5% of intake is given to OSC. This includes dining in and take out. A special buffet is set up in the restaurant banquet hall from 3 - 9pm.

Stone Soup - November 24th - Rhonda Graham  
This event is around the corner. Parents should receive information in their Thursday packets.

**Financial Report - Amy (NO REPORT)**

**Communication to Parents:**

**Website - OPPG Area**

**Twitter**

**Yahoo Group -**

Jexy Wadle and Rhonda Graham for Board, and Cari Dawson for OPPG.

**Parent Concerns Sheet and Box**

Parents are encouraged to ask and share. This can be done through email, person to person, or the box in the office.

**Second Cup of Coffee**

Last school Friday of every month.  
Coffee in the lounge with Lauren, a OPPG member, and a board member.

**Parent Education  
OCS Director Lauren  
Odyssey 101**

The evening concluded with some Parent Education on Odyssey Charter School from Lauren. This was very useful, helpful, and informative.

Some highlights from her talk included:

\*OCS new API is 795!

\*OCS had a 28 point gain!

\*OCS is no longer a PI (program improvement) school!

What does all this mean? Every student (2nd grade - 12th) in the state of California under goes test taking sometime between April and May. Every individual school scores are measured and given an API (annual percentage index). The state has a target goal of 800 for all schools. After reaching 800 they are to continue to grow or maintain. Schools also are meet goals for sub-groups. The sub-groups are socio-economically disadvantaged, afro-americans and english language learners. When a school isn't meeting ALL of the sub-groups they become a PI (program improvement) school. In 2006 OCS met all, 2007 this missed one, 2008 they met all, and in 2009 they met all, therefore no longer a PI school. An all school celebration in the works!

Lauren also spent some time explaining OCS approach to discipline. OCS uses a Conflict Resolution model. Parents interested in knowing more about this would be recommended books by Elfie Cowen. Under this model a strong community is developed in the classroom and on the OCS campus. Teachers are spending the first 6 weeks of school doing a lot of community and team building activities. Another way this is done in the Kinder thru 2nd grades is students are taught how to use the Peace Path. At the Peace Path they, 1) Express what the problem is, 2) Share their feelings, 3) Solve the problem, 4) Shake Hands!

In regards to Swine Flu, the school is following and taking all the precautions as given by LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education). If parents have any questions or concerns they should see Rachelle Martinez.

Parents were encouraged to attend their Back to School Night. This is where they will be given specific information to their child(ren)'s classroom schedule, IEP process, wish list, and given the opportunity to sign-up for special classroom activities. This is not the time to speak to your child's teacher about your own child. Childcare is provided.

Lauren also explained the Homework at OCS. Homework is a responsibility. Parents are responsible to READ! READ! READ!. All homework is connected to the classroom learning. Read Alouds are done Kinder thru 8th grade. READ! READ! READ! Math will also be given as homework. In the upper grades homework is turned in the next day, it is expected! Teachers will discuss this in more detail at Back to School Night.

We appreciated Lauren taking time to come and talk with us and help us improve in our understanding of the OCS way. Only in this way can we improve our partnership and better the education of our children.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25pm

