

Olympic Christian School
Board Meeting Minutes—April 17th, 2017

In attendance:

Board members: Ian Barclay, Mark Patton, Mitch Johnson, Dan Hendrickson
Staff: Mrs Rudzinski, Mrs Gillespie
Parents and others: Mike Reickhoff, Marsha Shamp, (Ian Barclay)

Scripture and Opening Prayer: Mitch Johnson

Dan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

Mitch opened with prayer, and then read from Luke 18:35-43, which was the text about “Blind Bartameus.” This reminded him of the adage that God doesn't always come when we want Him, but He's always on time. That guy was probably blind for a long time before Christ came along. It also reminds us that as sinners, we ought to humble ourselves before God, and not think too highly of ourselves. It is too easy for spiritual pride to assert itself, especially for those of us who have been Christians for a long time.

Finance Committee: Mark Patton

Mark publicly thanked Mike Reickhoff for going through a lot of numbers to figure out for certain what was OCS's actual budget surplus or deficit for the past several years. It turned out our situation was not nearly as bad as initially feared. Mr Reickhoff confirmed that we only have a very small amount of debt when cash flow does not cover restricted funds. Dan seemed ecstatic and said “wow” several times, and that this is the “best news.” The numbers project a \$3000 surplus at the end of the year if we repay \$5000 to the FOCS loan as planned, even without some unpaid tuition accounted for. If we were to collect all unpaid tuition we would have a \$36,000 surplus. Mark took personal credit for this report. Mike said interest from the endowment/mortgage payment coming in is still growing, and this goes into restricted funds, but no one present knew what the restrictions are on it. Finance committee will continue to discuss this matter, as we have available the attorney's documents on how the money was to be used. So, said Dan, that's even more good news. Dan said he would be paying for pizza at pizza and prayer time.

Principal's Report: Mrs Rudzinski

- We are freshly back from spring break, and now from another four-day weekend. The Noels painted the first building on the right and it looks great. There was some discussion as to what color to paint the trim. Dan was an advocate of “OCS blue” but some preferred to call it Seahawks blue or stonewashed jean blue. Dan moved to approve a trim color somewhere in this category, and the motion was approved without further meaningful discussion.
- The fence is also going up slowly but surely. It should be completed by the middle of May. They have the posts in the ground. Dan said that's great. Some noted that fences do not stop children from passing through.
- This is the time of year that we do standardized testing for the students, but this occurs on alternating years. Last year we tested, but this is the year that we don't. That's \$1800 that we won't be spending from our budget.
- Grandparents' Day will be coming up in a couple weeks. George Wood will be our speaker for Grandparents' Day chapel.

- Teachers are very busy with a lot of class chapels that are being planned. The art festival is coming up, as is young authors. The last few weeks go very fast; it's like a dead run until the end. Here comes summer. Mark said, not like you're counting or anything. Mrs Rudzinski said actually we do, we have a little chain in the staff room and break a ring off for each day.

Approval of minutes:

All board members present approved the minutes from the March OCS Board Meeting.

We then spontaneously discussed whether OCS should remain an ACSI member, as we have budgeted for their annual membership dues. Mrs Gillespie noted that staff members of an ACSI school get additional discounts for continuing education credits, so that is helpful. Dan said we should poll the staff regarding the importance of this membership. Mr Reickhoff said, from the parents' standpoint, seeing ACSI membership would assure him that the school has high educational standards. Mrs Rudzinski said we used to send teachers down to an ACSI conference in Portland, and maybe we should do something like that again.

Staff Report: Tiffany Gillespie

- The spring program went well, and was well-received by parents and attendees. We did a musical somewhat similar to the Christmas program, except it was about the resurrection.
- The 3rd and 4th grade classes are back from their field trip to the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, and Fort Nisqually.
- On May 11th we have “science on wheels” coming. This year's presentation will be about rocks. There will be one presentation for the entire school, and then each class will have their own time with the presenters. Primary grades will be experimenting with sand, 3rd and 4th grade with crystals, 5th and 6th will learn about volcanoes, and 7th and 8th will study minerals.
- “Young authors” event is coming up. All students are busy writing stories and getting them typed up.
- Students are also working on art projects for the art festival.
- 7th and 8th grades are busy putting together the yearbook, trying to get it finished up before the May 1st deadline.
- All OCS staff were thankful to have today off as an Easter holiday, just like she enjoyed when she lived in Spain and Papua New Guinea.

Mitch said that was a great report.

Curriculum Committee: Besty Flodstrom

Betsy was not present. Mrs Rudzinski said we need to regroup, but not a lot is going on. We need to add some new members. But (she said) she will meet with teachers to see if any changes need to be made, especially to the new math curriculum.

Mitch asked her about scope and sequence. Does our program show what skills need to be introduced, mastered, and reviewed at each grade level, or does scope and sequence just “go without that?” Mrs Rudzinski said our curriculum has an overview of what will be taught and then there is a review at the end. But each publisher does this a little differently. Mitch would love to talk to her more about this if she has time. Mrs Rudzinski said it's mainly built into the curriculum,

and the teachers generally follow it. Mr Reickhoff said hopefully all this is built into the curriculum, but it would be good to know this for certain.

Development committee: Dan Hendrickson

This committee represents our fund-raising and outreach program. 709 letters went out about a week ago, taking the essence of Ian's letter and condensed down, with some pictures added to it by Mrs Lake. Dan was very excited about the greatness of Olympic Mailing Service, who folded, "licked," addressed and mailed them all out for a little over \$100. "That saves us a ton of time." The letter only goes out to a mailing list from IBC, King's Way, and all the people who played in our golf tournament. Dan has the master list on a CD. Olympic Mailing Service is great for bulk mailing. We hope to "beat Ian's record" to get more money for students who need extra cash.

Also, Ben and Rachael Allen approached the board to discuss OCS's marketing program. (The could not make the meeting in person but delivered a written statement to the board.) It has been a couple years since this program has been well managed by anyone on the board. They offered some proposals, including changing the name of this committee to the Community Awareness Committee, and adding a closed Facebook group for parents, staff and board members.

Mrs Shamp said instead of an OCS representative speaking just once at various churches to promote the school, we ought to go speak every three months, such as at IBC. Sometimes people need a little extra reminder that the school exists. Mark said now that we have a new senior pastor, IBC is changing its format of how they do things, and one thing they're cutting out is allowing folks to come up and make a pitch for anything from the pulpit. All they will do is put in the bulletin and allow someone to be out in the lobby to promote a cause. Dan said there can be other churches and other places for outreach.

The proposal from Ben and Rachael that Dan really likes is the concept of a "welcome committee," which would be for new families who have decided on enrollment or are just considering it. We would get another family to connect them with, along with staff, who could pray alongside them and make them feel at home at OCS.

Ben and Rachael also said the board needs to make decisions in a timely manner. Dan said we are very well aware that decisions are not always made in good time, and that's because we're in a state of flux. At some point, Dan assured us, we will have it all together. Ben, Rachael and Dan had a two hour lunch that was very beneficial on both sides, and we hope their enthusiasm will be infectious.

Friends of OCS Committee: Dan Hendrickson

This committee complements the Development Committee by funding long term investments in the school. This year will be the fifth annual FOCS golf tournament. One problem is the original committee of eight is down to just three or four who "are all getting old." We need some new people. We have a detailed playbook, and one could take the playbook and just run the tournament from it. The time commitment is not that great, and we already have a couple people who are at work finding sponsors, though if we could find someone in the business community who can find more sponsors, that would also be great. We need to organize people to be at the tournament and get everything prepared and do scoring. We will need four or five volunteers for this. The meeting is this Wednesday night here at the school, and we need the help.

Infrastructure/Building Report: Ed Kaetzel

Ed is on a leave of absence. Dan said that we are discussing for this summer painting the main building after scraping the old paint off, replacing the Kindergarten porch, and replacing the flashing. A previous estimate was that all this might run about \$16,000.

Mrs Ruzinski said that a family approached her saying their business just redid their parking lot. They had a pallet of concrete curb barriers they could donate if we could get them here. Mitch suggested we could put these along the north side of the parking lot so no one falls into the ditch. Dan said why not, we could do that, but we just need someone to pick it up.

Parent input:

Mike asked where we are at with returning staff. Mitch said we're not sure yet about some teachers. Three may or may not return but they are in prayer about it. We are in the process of getting letters out to churches to search for a principal and staff. We appreciate prayers about this. Dan clarified we don't have enough money for a full time principal, so we're shooting for an approximately half-time position. However that is left somewhat open-ended. This is also a temporary situation until the school is in a better position to once again hire a full time administrator.

Mrs Rudzinski said she's formulating a letter to go out to parents with the next week or two informing them of staffing changes. Mike noted that we're soon approaching May 5th family fun night, so that letter needs to go out before that.

Mitch reiterated that a "prayer and pizza night" will start up soon. The majority of this time will be dedicated to prayer. He encouraged all of us to come.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Submitted by Ian Barclay on 4/27/17