

**Olympic Christian School**  
**Board Meeting Minutes—September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**In attendance:**

Board members: Ian Barclay, Dan Hendrickson, Betsy Flodstrom, Mike LaGrange, Mitch Johnson, Vern Swenson  
Staff: Mrs Gillespie, Mrs Newton  
Parents and others: (Ian Barclay, Betsy Flodstrom)

Dan welcomed all in attendance to the September OCS board meeting.

**Scripture and Opening Prayer: Mike LaGrange**

Mike said he used to be more of a “New Testament Christian,” but now relates better to Old Testament events, and a new appreciation for the psalms. As he tried to find a spiritual feast for us he kept coming back to Psalm 34:8. “Taste and see that the Lord is good,” “keep your tongue from speaking evil,” etc. He exhorted us to search for peace and work to maintain it. Mike opened with a word of prayer.

Dan welcomed everyone again and said the Lord is blessing the school and he feels pretty good about it. He asked if there were any questions for him.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes were approved with one correction.

**Finance Committee: Raechel Allen, Treasurer**

Raechel was not present. We are keeping the Allens in our prayers as they prepare to return to the area.

Dan said we would close this year pretty close to even, according to the current budget. The budget for next year looks like it will be positive, but we don't have the exact numbers. When Raechel returns we will get those exact numbers. We have asked the treasurer to freeze our account at that time so we can see exactly what the numbers look like.

Mitch asked what was our enrollment. Mrs Gillespie said we have 73. She is praying for more!

**Principal's Report: Mrs Gillespie**

- Our current K - 8 enrollment was 73. We only lost one student since the last meeting.
- All our teachers are super busy and doing a fabulous job. We have enjoyed having our new teachers, Mr Hicks and Mrs Sandoval. She has been in the classrooms observing as needed. The students are happy to be at school
- Back to School Night is this Wednesday where we have the opportunity to hear from our teachers about how they will be managing their classrooms this year.
- Open house last month was great, with probably over 100 people turning out.
- Our first hot lunch is this Friday, which will be sponsored by PTF. Mrs Gillespie has already talked to a parent who will be helping with that.
- Mrs Gillespie and Mrs Signes are working on getting chapel speakers for the year. She

spoke last week about our theme, which is SHINE (show him in everything) . We have live worship scheduled for every chapel service. Alia Van Proyen and some of last year's ninth graders are returning to help with that. We will also be starting an OCS worship team.

- 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade is going on a retreat Sept 18 – 19. So far we have Tom Lotz and Britt Hemphill signed up for speakers.
- Mrs Lagrange is doing PE for us; we are super thankful for her. It would be nice to have another parent to take two of the days so we are praying for that. For now she has stepped in to do all four days.
- Mrs LaGrange, Mrs Shamp, and Mrs Newton has been working on DIBELS testing to assess the reading skills of K – 6 students. We will start DIBELS for math soon. Mitch asked if these will satisfy the school district requirements for us to get title 1 funds. Mrs Gillespie said yes. That's why we're starting it now.

Mitch said what's up with the van, asking why we don't have it yet. Mrs Gillespie said we do have a van. Mr Canopan, a 1<sup>st</sup> grade parent, is our driver for the van, and was trained on safety, etc. He drove the van home Tuesday night and has been reliable and one time. A third seat for the van is coming.

Mitch expressed disappointment that Chuck Brown retired on his birthday.

The van is only used in the morning, and in the afternoon the bus returns those students to Sequim. Mrs Gillespie said the parents are “super happy about it.” For now it is working and everyone is happy. God worked it out in his timing.

Betsy brought up the dress code. A family suggested dress shorts ought to be acceptable for chapel for boys. They asked why we only allow shorts in Sept May and June. She thought that should be up to parent discretion. Staff felt strongly that boys should not wear dress shorts to chapel. A lot of discussion followed which was not worth recording in detail. Some felt there should be different standards for the middle school with more permission for shorts.

The conclusion was the Mrs Gillespie would bring the issue back to staff, and they would discuss it at the next sandbox meeting.

Mrs Newton said Mr Hicks is doing a great job being an example, looking very good with the dress code and dressing very nicely.

More discussion followed about the sandbox, which is not necessary to record in detail.

### **Staff Report: Mrs Newton**

- The school year is starting off nicely. All the classes are praying for more students.
- Mrs Newton is in the midst of doing DIBELS and teaching staff how to do it. She feels great about the early start we are getting on it. It is best to do it in first few weeks of school, and we are almost done. This is an indicator of what kids may need a little help with, so staff will know how to help them.
- We are working on planning the retreat, which is next Tuesday and Wednesday at Kings Way church. It will not be overnight, but will include some long days. There will be a mystery dinner with the theme of camping. Mrs Brady is coming back to help with it.
- Things are going well with Mr Hicks and he is learning the ropes quickly. He and Mrs Newton are on the same page.
- Everyone loves the paint job; staff are getting a lot of positive comments about it. They

have been talking about what can they do to get the name back on the side of the building. Dan liked Mrs Newton's enthusiasm and said he is glad she is here.

#### **Curriculum Committee: Betsy Flodstrom**

Betsy put together a list of how our students ranked on a national percentile, broken down by grade. Grades for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> were very impressive. Even our lowest scoring grade was a grade above expectations for that grade level. We never “do well” on social studies because what we learn is very biblically based; and because the national standards include things that our curriculum doesn't necessarily cover, or not in the same year. Overall our science numbers are also very good.

Mrs Newton said if you look at our DIEBLS numbers our numbers compare very well with the public schools.

Mrs Netwon mentioned the need to revisit curriculum novels, in order to align them with the historical periods they are studying in new curriculum. We may have to do some rearranging or add in new novels.

Betsy will provide a report with a comparison for two years ago. Overall it is very good news about the performance of our students.

Mitch asked at what point it becomes cost effective to test every year rather than every other year. He suggested someone research those costs at the next meeting. Betsy considers it a great selling point for parents. Dan said he would find out. Mitch said we could also use ACSI, which Mrs Gillespie said we used to do.

Mitch suggested we could also do a different test every other year. Dan said it would be something for Curriculum committee to consider.

Dan thanked Betsy for the report.

#### **Development Committee: Alicia Scofield and Ben Allen**

Ben and Alicia were not present. Dan said we may not have a Christmas tree sale this year due to the scarcity of Christmas trees. We may sit down and brainstorm for another fundraiser. Dan brought up See's Candy and Mrs Gillespie confirmed we already have our supplies for it.

#### **Friends of OCS Committee: Dan Hendrickson**

It looks like the golf tournament will come in closer to \$20,000 net, a little more than we had guessed last time. There were a lot of good feelings from the community about putting that on. It was a nice fundraiser for the school. Dan will hhave the annual meeting of FOCS in December and get feedback from members and solicit additional financial support. They only have one meeting per year and it is a good way for anyone in the community to get involved.

#### **Infrastructure/building report:**

Dan said our project guy who was going to do some work under the main building has not done it yet. But we still think he will come through soon. We will look at what projects we can take on to keep the place safe, healthy and clean.

Mrs Newton asked if we have a plan to fix the railing to the computer lab. Dan said he would talk to a volunteer from IBC who wants to help OCS and see what we can do.

Mitch asked if FOCS is going to pay for an upgrade for the computers in the admin building. We voted on the last meeting and Mrs Gillespie is working on it.

Wednesday the fencing company is coming out to put posts in for the fence around the

main building. It will be just slightly farther down the hill than originally planned, which is probably better anyway. Dan will be here to make sure everything is like we want it. There will also be signage going in which Dan has ready to go.

Dan said he would put into the budget some kind of fund that we can continue to take care of maintenance needs rather than just upgrades.

Betsy asked about the covered playground status. Dan said we took it to the staff last spring. We will be discussing that again in Sandbox to figure out what we want from a couple of options. If all goes well we are looking at breaking ground for it next May. The money is still there from the person who wants to donate it.

Mitch put forth the idea that we should go to the churches that are most involved here to see if they could help with some of the fundraising for the pavilion. Betsy and Dan agreed that having a specific fundraiser for the pavilion is a great idea and parents can get behind that sort of thing. Mitch thought that would be what it takes to get this done. Dan said we should put it in the Marketing/Development committee. We still need to establish just what we are looking for. Staff will revisit the discussion of exactly what the school's needs are. Mrs Gillespie said we wanted to put it in during June, when it won't interfere with students playing out there. Dan said we will start when it's safe. Dan suggested we could "sell" [in a fundraising sense] the building by pieces (posts, beams, etc). Mitch and Betsy thought it was a great idea.

**Parent Input:**

Mr Barclay said he was pretty positive about the school right now. Mrs Flodstrom said her son was enjoying Mr Hicks.

**Unfinished Business:**

none

**New Business:**

Mrs Newton asked why we never have an ad on Praise 106.5. Mrs Gillespie said it was in the works but they are ridiculously expensive to advertise with. It is probably cost prohibitive, but we would wait for Ben and Alicia to return to figure out that cost. It is the only Christian radio station that comes in around here.

Dan asked Mrs Newton to close in prayer, which she did.

Mitch said he forgot to tell us that every Sequim family that goes to our church has been very positive about the first four days of school. He just wanted to pass that along that he is very happy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Submitted on 10/10/18 by Ian Barclay