



BLUE OAK SCHOOL

Approved Parent Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 @ 6pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96633580569?pwd=Vll3UXllUEw5UnFrWHp3bGJGUlZnOT09>

Meeting ID: 966 3358 0569 Passcode: t39y2H

1. OPENING (~ 6:10 pm)

1.1 Call Meeting to Order

1.2 Invocation:

This is our school. May peace dwell here. May the rooms be full of contentment. May love abide here, love of one another, love of our school, and love of life itself. Let us remember that as many hands build a house, so many hearts build a school.

1.2 Land Acknowledgement

As we gather here at Blue Oak School, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Maidu people. For many generations, the Maidu lived from the richness of the earth, raising families and shaping the land, and they continue to do so to this day. We pay our respects to the Maidu elders past and present and recognize that this land was not given freely. Together, may we continue to work toward a healthy culture and society that warmly welcomes all people and cares deeply for our Mother Earth.

1.3 Two-word check-in

2. PUBLIC COMMENT > AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL (~ 6:06 pm)

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (~ 6:10 pm)

DISCUSSION

Please bring forth any edits or modifications to tonight's agenda at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (~ 6:15 pm)

DISCUSSION & ACTION

4.1 Minutes from 12/7/21 1st Frankie Boisseree. 2nd Kristina Miller. Approved

5. REPORTS (~ 6:19 pm)

DISCUSSION

5.1 Charter Council Liaison - Trisha Atehortua - Short Meeting this time. ADA and lower enrollment were discussed. New Policies were reviewed. Riley M. Presented Pre-School Survey results. Working to taylor the program - Look for the link for Pre-School survey link in Acorn. Considering Drop in options. Need to work these details into the budget. Currently working for Input and funding to support the survey results. Alicia T. asked if the Equity Task Force was consulted during the policy reviews to ensure policies are equitable and a reflection of stated values at Blue Oak. Not currently but this is a good idea.

5.2 Administration Liaison - Rachel Ceja - Susan D. sent out an email regarding Covid protocols and masking consistently. Working with children and parents to encourage proper wearing of masks. Free COVID testing is available onsite on Tuesdays.

Behavior and Wellness Room - Needs are being covered to ensure that children's mental health needs are being met in this difficult time. Emma Todd has left her official position at Blue Oak, but the needs are being met with Interns and Amber Bass alternating throughout the day. Emma will stay on as a consultant for the remainder of the year.

5.3 Faculty Liaison - Cheryl Grant - Report Cards and Assessments will begin. Kindergarten offers "Saturday Mornings in the Kindergarten" during the month of January for potential children and parents. Details will be forthcoming. A Parent Ambassador Volunteer on an upcoming Saturday from 10 to Noon would be welcome to join and share their past experiences with potential families. If interested, please contact Cheryl.

Grades Presentation: Kindergartners learning to stand in line. 1st graders met their 6th grade buddies and danced together. Grade 2 - Learning about people in history who overcame great obstacles to do great things. Grade 3 - Studying measurements of lengths, volumes and how long a "foot" is. Grade 4 - Animal reports. Grade 5 - Learning about 50 states and their capitals. Also preparing for the pentathlon. Grade 8 - Plantronics.

5.4 Equity Task Force - Claire Fong - No Report. No task force meeting was held in December.

5.5 Treasurer - Franki Boisseree

- Update for what funds have been released in recent requests?
- Yearly reports for PC members to review?

Total Available: \$22,007.49 (not accounting for any obligations - that total is closer to \$17,000)
Total amounts agreed to and spent to date: Some funds haven't been utilized, although they were requested. All requested funds will be closed out by the end of June.

Amber will request Alex to update approved PC minutes onto the Blue Oak Parent Council webpage. Approved PC Minutes also to be sent to Maggie to ensure that requests can be supported.

Franki will put together an updated chart showing what funds have been approved this year and for what, which will give us a more accurate total of the PC Fund. Franki will create the chart and share it the second weekend of January.

Next meeting the Treasurer's Report to provide the total amount in PC Funds and what funds are obligated.

6. NEW BUSINESS (~6:55 pm)

DISCUSSION & ACTION

6.1 General Funding Requests (if any) - Requestor to be present and provide clear up-to amount

- Cheryl Grant - school-wide funding request for supplies. Up to \$600 in expenses for needs throughout the year.

Amber P. Clarified that many of these supplies would be used throughout the year and therefore would need to be requested at the beginning of each year. Cheryl clarified that only \$120 remains for the rest of the year.

Alicia Trider reminded the PC that we want to ensure that PC Funds are used to support Blue Oak's stated values of equity and anti-racism. She raised a question about National Book Week and the use/celebration of Dr. Seuss books as he is infamous for racist stereotypes in his children's books and other works.

1st. Motion to fund school supplies to Cheryl in an Amount up to \$120 for Festival Supplies for the remainder of the 2022 school year. 2nd Kristina Miller. Approved

Tracy Harrison - Received an Email from Ms. Murray - Need Exercise Balls and Totter Balls. If a funding form exists to assess the need. A similar need was identified in another class as well.

Rachel Ceja clarified that these types of chairs have been requested in Special Ed classes already. Additional chair requests to be purchased would be requested from each class fund. A teacher in the past had utilized Donors Choose to facilitate needing the wobble chairs.

6.2 Review: Holiday Pop-Up - Shawn Von Rotz coordinated the fair. Many gifts were purchased. The school store did make some money as well. Being in the front parking lot helped let people know about the fair. Future fairs with more notice will be even more successful.

6.3 Removed (Review of Middle School Dance in December)

6.4 Spring Fundraiser/Event Ideas

- Valentine's Day - Cookies? Flowers? Cards? Art?
- May Faire (School Wide Event) - **we need to vote on a date. Sunday, May 1, 2022?**
- May Day
- Spring Cookie Project
- Spring Equinox Event
- Teacher Appreciation Week/Day

A poll from Faculty and Staff resulted in an even vote for the weekend of May 1st from teacher input. 14 surveys were collected.

1st. Frankie Boisseree motioned to make Sunday May 1st the date for the May Faire. 2nd Jen Hendrick. Approved.

Form a Committee for the May Faire: J. Hammer, Karissa, Brandy J., Kristina M., Jen . H., Teacher Cheryl, Angie E.

Alicia reminded the PC that other events would also need to create planning committees as we only meet once per month and don't always have enough time within each meeting for planning purposes.

Kristina is willing to work on a team for a Valentine's Day Fundraiser Event. Ms. Ceja will mention this idea to aides at the school as well. Alicia is also interested in helping. Cheryl will see if a

teacher is interested in preparing a permanent chalk art project to include in the fundraiser/basket idea.

6.5 Equity Gaps in our Classrooms - Alicia T. - Requested updates from each classroom. Feedback: Not all class book sets are complete. Wellness baskets can be useful in a classroom - snacks or lavender water, soothing packs. Years ago - PC or school could support curriculum related activities and field trips - such as medieval pentathlons. Some classes can struggle to get all the funds they need to participate. (Note: students who can't afford to attend field trips are paid for by the school)

Alicia T. suggested that this may be an opportunity for PC to share some love back into the school with the monies we have raised thus far.

Discussed how much a basket would cost. Costs will vary depending on the need. Raychel Ceja did say that some things can be purchased on Etsy - such as things we currently have in the Wellness Room. Raychel will send an email to teachers to see what specific needs there may be and add her own suggestions using her expertise in the field of Special Education.

Alicia T. Suggested that we could offer mini grants like \$500 per class to meet the equity gaps.

Amber P. Suggested that we might establish ideas as a start that teachers could come to the PC for equity requests.

Frankie B. suggested that the idea should be something that we offer each year. Wants to ensure that we don't have to say no in the future.

Raychel Ceja - Reminded us that Donors Choose is another option for teachers to crowd-fund to purchase items for their classes. One way we can help with this is to create the Donors Choose for our teachers with a list of things they need.

Cheryl - Suggested that we provide a list of suggested items that could be available to purchase. So far the responses haven't been specific yet.

Alicia - if we did a mini grant of \$500 for each class (K-8), then we would still have \$10,000 left to start the new year next fall.

Kristina M. - Reminded the PC to trust the teachers to assess their own needs. Teachers know better than us what they need in their own classrooms.

Jackie H. - Reminded the PC that it has taken a long time to raise the funds that we have. Expressed her concern that giving funds away may be easier than raising the funds. Be aware that this is a sweet gesture, but be aware that a lot of effort was taken to raise funds.

Jen H. - Suggested that this donation could make people want to make additional donations.

Tracy Harrison - It is hard to tell someone what is an equitable request. Suggestion: make it known that teachers can request up to \$500 for their needs.

Brandy J. - Suggested that not all teachers know that they can come to the PC for this type of a request. Suggested that PC provide more communication that the funds are available and that staff can come to the PC with a request.

Angie E. - Also reminded the PC that it has taken 9 years to raise these funds.

Cheryl - Suggested that a lump sum amount may cause confusion and competition among teachers to “spend it before someone else does.” Grants would be individualized and the funds wouldn’t run out before all the needs were met.

Rachel Ceja - question was raised regarding general funds and where PC funds live. Answer: in Blue Oak’s general fund.

Alicia T. - suggested that the PC could also have a fundraiser booth at registration too.

Susan D. - (via text) approved an outside event similar to the Harvest Festival for the May Faire.

Kristina Miller - Suggested that \$300 with a commitment for additional fundraising throughout the remaining year, understanding that there are needs to be met.

Motion to fund 19 classrooms (K-8, music, games, handwork, special education, Spanish) a gift of \$300 each as a mini equity grant to fill equity gaps in the classrooms. 1st Alicia T. 2nd. Kristina 5 yes 5 no. Motion does not pass.

Kristina M. - Idea: use an online platform to fundraise for these specific needs.

Alicia T. - Thanked all for the discussion. Encouraged the PC to find a way to share these funds with our community to fill equity gaps that exist and show our teachers some love.

Jackie - (Question for Alicia.) Why do you care so much about equity at our school? Do you have any knowledge that there are equity needs at Blue Oak?

Alicia T. - (Answer to Jackie). Yes, she knows there are equity gaps at our school because of the time she spent on the Equity Task Force, time spent listening to individual teachers, and time spent volunteering in the classrooms.

Cheryl - (shared via chat) If we look at equity gaps in terms of academics, mental health needs, behavioral, emotional needs, and socio-economic levels then EVERY classroom has equity gaps.

Amber P. - Suggested that past requests have been concrete so the PC knows what specific items were covered by each request.

Alicia T. - Reminded PC that we don’t want to create barriers for staff who need help in their classrooms.

6.6 Become Non-Profit with Northern Valley Community Foundation - Alicia T

- Alicia emailed our questions to Logan Todd at NVCF about setting up our own financial account with them.

6.7 Updates from Alicia:

- Parent Council ByLaws Review Meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 6pm. Please read the bylaws before the meeting and bring any questions, comments, suggestions, etc. to the meeting.
- Alicia asked Alex about getting a form on the Blue Oak website for folks to request PC funding.

7. CLOSING COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

Question was raised for how each class fund is tracked and how each teacher knows to the Admin what the funds are.

8. ADJOURNMENT (~8:47 pm)