



BLUE OAK SCHOOL

Approved Parent Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 7, 2023 @ 6pm

Join Zoom Meeting or In-person at Blue Oak in Room 21

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82794546232?pwd=RUVDdWJhUHVDs0prTy9ZdHF0UG5JUT09>

Meeting ID: 827 9454 6232

Passcode: 2yGzTb

1. OPENING (~6:00pm)

1.1 Call Meeting to Order – 6:05pm

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.

1.3 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.

1.4 Blue Oak Parent Council Mission Statement

The Parent Council serves as the leadership core for the parent body, primarily focused on school community and culture as well as fundraising efforts to help support the financial needs of the school.

1.5 Two-word check-in

2. PUBLIC COMMENT > AUDIENCE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL (~6:10pm)

- Note: 3 min Total Allotment to be given
- Responses do not have to be given (Either Add to future Agenda or Refer to appropriate body)
- Wait for Chair to Recognize you before speaking

No public comments.

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS (~6:15 pm) DISCUSSION

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

Ryan would like to add proposal for working budget of up to \$300 for May Faire committee. Added as item #6.7 below.

4. CONSENT AGENDA (~6:20pm) DISCUSSION & ACTION

4.1 Approve Minutes from 2/7/2023

Paige moves to approve the minutes from 2/7/23 meeting (1st). Ryan 2nd. Voted to approve.

5. Treasurer Report -Ryan S. (~6:25 pm) DISCUSSION

No reports available from Maggie this month, but anecdotally very little change from last month. Account balance \$21,170, available funding is \$16,819.

6. New Business(~6:30 pm) DISCUSSION & ACTION

6.1 Proposal to Discard the \$5 donation @ dances -Brianna L. -Discuss, *optional Action

PC does not control what happens at the dances – they are class fundraisers. If the classes wish to discard the \$5 donation, these simply wouldn't be a fundraiser anymore. Laurel believes the intent was to disregard the *donation* and reinstate the \$5 fee for dance tickets.

Brianna joined 6:19pm and explained: she has long been on the committee that organizes dances, and also on the equity committee. She believes the “donation only” fee for dances came out of a PC meeting last year. Would like to reconsider, since the dances are a pretty major fundraiser for 7th grade (7th and 8th are big years for field trip costs). Under the “donation only” policy, the dances haven't brought in much money (~\$350 versus the \$700-1,000 they used to bring in). She would like to return to a “paid ticket” fee for dances. She has some other ideas about how to keep dances equitable. Short term equity of having dance tickets be accessible could be damaging the long-term equity of field trip costs. Ryan stated that PC doesn't set policy for the dances or the costs. We're happy to discuss, but wouldn't set the policy or make the decision. Susan thinks this discussion may have occurred at the equity task force.

Angie had the idea for PC to sponsor one dance a year so all can attend for free. Alternative to have one dance per year be donation only (and the rest \$5 tickets).

Laurel: consider messaging to families who may not want to/be able to buy a ticket – have the kid(s) help setup or break down to “earn” their ticket. Brianna states this has been done in the past when student council sponsored a dance.

Kristen states this should remain in the realm of 7th grade fundraiser (NOT be mixed with PC sponsorship), because 7th grade needs to

Brandy: yes, this is a community event we invite the school to (and other guest schools) but it IS a fundraiser. A student who is short on funds is more likely to be able to come up with \$5 than with the \$150 or so needed for the big field trip that year. Anecdotally, there haven't been many students who didn't attend due to lack of money. Also, students' guests from other schools are less likely to spend the \$5 if they don't have to. Other grades have fundraisers, and we don't offer them for free to all (e.g. family movie nights, popcorn sales).

Susan: Ryan has done a lot of work to provide transparency into how classroom and PC fundraisers have done. We should do a real analysis over the past 2-3 years of funds raised by dances (engage Maggie). This also feeds into the larger conversation of how PC can support field trips in general to take some of the pressure off classes to raise this money. Ryan echoes this opportunity – as something PC *can* do to support the 7th grade field trip funds. Also makes the point that dances are different than popcorn sales, etc. – these are really very socially important events for kids, and we should attack *any* barrier to entry there.

Cheryl: is there a way we can have the same end result, but look at it differently. Still consider the dance a fundraiser if the class needs it – e.g. advertise that it is \$5, but if you feel like this is hardship, you can go to X location and get the \$5 to buy your ticket. Could it work something like the coin drive for the book fair? Doesn't like the idea of having students volunteer instead of paying – that may put them in the spotlight when they don't want to be, and others may like to volunteer even though they can afford the \$5.

Brianna: acknowledges there are larger considerations at play here, appreciates PC thoughtfulness. Agrees very much with the idea that a student or family can get a dance ticket if short on funds, no questions asked. The dances are a right of passage, a more serious event – and the ticket price lends itself to the gravitas.

Next Steps: Cheryl/Susan to ask Maggie for the detailed figures, and share with Brianna. PC will not set policy, but can share info and brainstorm with Brianna as needed.

6.2 Cal Java Fundraising Start/End date -Paige O. -ACTION

- **Proposed fundraiser dates, April 1st thru June 1st, 2023.**

Paige researched Cal Java reputation – excellent reviews on Google and Yelp, a+ rating on the Better Business Bureau, no news stories of note.

Paige will work with Luke to draw up a contract, etc. and review with PC and Maggie.

Ryan moves that we do Cal Java fundraiser April 1 – June 1. Paige 2nd. Vote to approve.

6.3 Suggestion for Anti-Bullying Program called, “Walls & Stalls” -Nicole T. -Discuss

- **Where do most kids go at school to cry when they are emotionally hurt? The bathroom!**
- **6th-8th grade classes, wipe bad words off bathroom walls.**
- **M-W & F, 1 class>10mins/day; Also holds each other accountable** (students may recognize their classmates' handwriting).
- **Achieve 2-3wks Walls & Stalls staying graffiti free.**
- **After 2-3 weeks graffiti free, earn a Vote for Inspiring Quotes to be painted for FREE to Encourage/Uplift.** (there is a local nonprofit who will do this for free)

What is there for PC to do? Maybe buy supplies to use for the cleaning?

Kristen: there is a middle school rule that they cannot be in the hall or bathrooms without passes. Would they need an adult with them? Would it be a before/after school thing? Student council?

Susan would have to consult with teachers to see if this could (for example) be part of the end of day cleanup). Darren does check the stall for graffiti, etc. in the evenings, but could be good for students to do this before he comes to clean. PC could support with positive signs, rewards for kids who do the work, etc. Need PC and middle

Paige: how does this jive with the existing school policies for discipline, anti-bullying, restorative justice, etc? Susan says anything positive will be helpful. This would be a less-formal process that we have with restorative justice practices, etc.

Cheryl: logistical considerations for middle school teachers (supervision of students cleaning, etc.). These details need to be arranged.

6.4 Review PC Rhythm Doc -Discuss

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SUXJn_P6fSc02Rewc1echjiP85JwjESF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112236016900195925463&rtpof=true&sd=true
- **Plan for next month**

Finished off bookfair (close to 600 books sold!). We did not do a read-a-thon.

Easter PC fundraiser still pending – Angie, Nicole, Amber and Paige to work together on ideas/needs.

- Get fundraiser paperwork in this week so Maggie can support
- Angie will email folks – we will sell cupcakes, with cutoff date and max amount we're willing to bake
- Do we need a budget up front? Ryan has no record of fund allocations for this.
- **Paige motions that we approve up to \$200 for supplies for the Easter PC cupcake fundraiser. Ryan 2nd. Vote to approve.**

May Faire – next meeting 3/20

Staff/teacher appreciation week May 8-12.

- PC typically supplies snacks etc. in break room, cleanup efforts, flowers, etc.
- Ryan has no data on how much PC has spent in the past.
- Families are also encouraged to bring things in, especially for classrooms.
- Paige can likely get coffee donated from Cal Java.
- Susan suggests that PC doesn't have to do all of this – we can tap our classroom parents too! Often helps if we reach out to a parent individually.
- Amber: the front office helped coordinate something during pandemic. Can we divvy it up between classes? (e.g. K and 1st do flowers, 2nd-3rd desserts, etc.) Can we ask Alicia how she organized it last year? We can have Alex post the assignments in the Acorn, etc.
- Ryan notes that parents cannot go into the staff lounge to set things up (due to private info that might be on printer/copier). Front office staff can help set up in lounge.
- **Amber to sync with Kristen and Alicia to get list of class assignments, coordinate with Alex/front office.**
- Ryan to make a note to mention teacher appreciation week at the May Faire.

Spring concert is May 25th – PC responsible for decorating, and we should get Mr. Anderson a bouquet of flowers (Laurel can get a bouquet donated)

For April PC meeting: May Faire, staff appreciation, Spring concert, CC and C election process.

6.5 State Testing Snacks -PC Rythm

- **Reps prepare a PS post to Request Snack donations, 3rd-8th grade**

PC is not in charge of providing snacks, but PC reps are to request snack donations from classes. 3rd-8th grade reps only.

Testing begins the week of March 27th, but each class is scheduled for specific dates.

Each class rep should tailor the ParentSquare message to their specific class and testing dates.

Gum is approved for testing too – mint gum is especially good for concentration.

Kristen recommends flyers/signup sheet put up on lower grades doors, since parents congregate there and are likely to see them (check with teacher before you post).

6.6 Request for Better Cafeteria Food, Organic Seasonal Farm to Table -Nicole T. -Discuss

- Lee & Frany Grub's Farm would be a great source & can deliver.
- Food without harmful pesticides = a Healthier Student with an improved immune system.
- Current school breakfast on average >37g of sugar; yet we expect them to sit quietly working using brains that are overstimulated with blood sugar spike followed by blood sugar drop; yet expect kids to stay on task w/ good behavior.
- Can help receive higher overall attendance with less sick children.
- Can be tracked & compared: a)Attendance b)Behavior c)Referrals d)Counseling sessions
- Suggest a Chef/Cooking Elective for JHS

- **PC REPS -Reach out via PS or face/face, 1-2 Volunteers needed to Support Buck in Student Nutrition Needs**

General agreement that the current food leaves something to be desired and we'd like to see a change.

School must provide two meals a day breakfast and lunch. We can fund within the nutritional guidelines they give us. What we offer currently is free. Previous supplier (in Berkeley) cost \$70-80k beyond our allotted state funding....and was beautiful healthy food that the kids didn't eat. ☹️

Brandy: what do we need to get a committee started to pursue a change here?

Susan: need to document requirements, connect with CDE for health dept inspections, etc. Nord Country school is currently doing their own food – might be a good example/sounding board. A committed group of parents will help this move faster. This could be an advisory committee to the Admin, so Susan could form this committee. Does not have to go through Charter Council.

Cheryl: what are our budget constraints? TBD – what we know is what we were spending previously.

Ryan: is staffing a consideration? Susan states we already have the staff. If we were to get “whole foods” that we had to process and prepare, that would likely increase our staffing needs. We would need to look at our options in terms of getting healthy prepared foods delivered versus prepping in-house.

Brandy: so many different possibilities to get kids involved in preparing/serving, healthy foods, ethnically diverse foods. Willing to be on the committee.

6.7 Agenda Modification: Proposal for working budget of up to \$300 for May Faire committee.

Paige moves we establish a working budget of up to \$300 for May Faire committee to use for prep and supplies. Amber 2nd. Vote to approve.

7. REPORTS (~7:30 pm) DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview from Charter Council Liaison- Kristen W.

Charter Council meeting was short (but good). Not test score updates yet. Great PC presentation from the staff on what's going on in classes. Finance discussion on grants rolled over. Focus on enrollment increases (possibly preschool, kinder). Task Force didn't meet, but they did an Assembly for black history month, will do another for Womens/Trans history month Here at this current site until at least June 2025.

Susan looking into additional support for community – getting additional e-therapy and SPED support. This is on top of Emma Todd and Wellness room supports currently in place Still talking about grant for afterschool program – not 100%, based on schools with 60%+ low income (we're slightly below that percentage so may not get it).

7.2 Administration Liaison- Susan D.

Favorite moments: high tea station, focus on tea etiquette. Students were googling old English words, using a thesaurus, etc.

Amber had so much fun celebrating with the Blue Oak leaf children

Book fair was a great success – goal was 500 books and we sold around 600. \$200 raise in coin collection, used to support kids who maybe didn't bring enough funds to cover tax, etc.

Please tour the door decorations on campus!

Working on 2 student surveys: wellness survey (e.g. do you feel safe at school), and relationship survey (e.g. do you have a staff member or teacher you trust and can talk to). These surveys are going to student council for consultation on questions to be included. Working with CSUS too.

Susan wants to express personal gratitude for the staff and parents that have been so supportive over the past month or so.

Working to fill the kitchen position on staff, working to staff positions for next year (will start seeing postings for these end of month)

Spring break next week (March 13-17)

Beginning to shop for teacher appreciation awards

Professional development around childhood trauma

Brown Act: we no longer can Zoom for members of Charter Council and Finance Committee (guests may still zoom in)

COVID news: we've had a 5-day isolation and test to return. Now you no longer have to test after your 5 days of isolation (after symptoms appeared), if you are well with no fever. We've had a significant amount of illness in the school over the last month and a half – please continue to work to keep yourselves and families healthy!

7.3 Faculty Liaison- Cheryl G.

4th grade class play (Theft of Thor's Hammer)

3rd grade focus on practical skills (e.g peach cobbler!), multiplication/division, Hebrew legends

8th grade play (Much Ado About Nothing)

Lower grades handwork: "Little Witch Hazel" re-enactment for Read Across America Day

Spanish: Cuban folktale of Martina the Beautiful Cockroach, importance of calling people by their preferred/correct names

6th grade – finished first medieval history block

7th grade – tackling argumentative writing!

Maple Rose Kindergarten – Silent Maiden puppet show, Valentine tea party, field trip to snow.

Lily Rose Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 4th grade and 6th grade won the door decorating contest and will get a popcorn party.

Thanks for all the book fair support – teachers got to buy many new books for their classrooms!

7.3A Update w/pic for Ms.Jennifer. -Cheryl G.

As of March 1st, Jennifer 25% done with chemo (half done with the hardest chemo!).

Adrien is enjoying his home stay, and switched schools back to Norte Dame where he is thriving.

Got to try on super bowl rings and get autographed photo from an ex-49er.

Jennifer began losing her hair, and has since shaved her head (with support from some fellow teachers!). She will be moving into a 3-bedroom, where her mom will have a room to stay and help care for her during treatment, and Adrien will have a large grassy area to enjoy.

Ryan has been tracking the GoFundME, and it's gone up ~\$4,000 since the beginning of March!

7.4 Equity Task Force- Susan D.

Working on strengthening assembly process and rhythm and making sure assemblies cover important diversity and equity topics (e.g. women's/trans history month). Next assembly is TBD.

8. CLOSING COMMENTS (8:205pm)

DISCUSSION

Ryan thanks everyone for the good discussion on a variety of topics tonight. We felt very functional tonight! Nicole agrees, and enjoyed the support on various topics.

9. ADJOURNMENT (~8:25pm)