



O'Keeffe PTG Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday November 13th from 6-7:30pm

O'Keeffe Middle School Library, 2nd Floor

510 S. Thornton Ave (enter at corner of Thornton & Spaight Streets)

Email: okeeffeptg@gmail.com Web: www.okeeffeptg.com

All O'Keeffe families and staff are welcome at the O'Keeffe PTG Meetings, and they are open to the public. Please note that **agenda items in bold** may be voted on. Have something you want on the agenda to discuss? Please let us know! You can be there to lead the discussion, or just bring up the topic, or even submit anonymously.

Welcome and introductions - In attendance: Maria Banchik, Steph Steigerwaldt, Nina Lebwohl, Jo Ann Krauss, Cheryl Kyles, Sheila Lenius, Tony Dugas, 7 others

Principal's update: Tony is just back from the principal's meeting at the leadership institute. Talked about Black Excellence as a focus in the face of the statistic that our achievement gap between the student population overall and black students in WI is the worst in the nation. How do we focus on the positive when we have these negative statistics? This should be pushing us to do more and do better. Focus on this and also on meeting *all* of our student needs.

Current goals are:

- Increase the sense of belonging by 20% for everyone who walks through the doors. Students, staff, parents, guardians, community, etc.

- Increase attendance and being on time - have been doing this through active staff involvement in halls and common areas during passing times, and also rewards & incentives such as breakfast treats and the big prize - breakfast cooked personally by Principal Dugas and Assistant Principal Koch.

- Create a culture of reading to cultivate the following 3 things: Students should read and comprehend complex texts, students will grow as a reader and grow their social justice identity, and students should increase their independent reading and they are given more time for this in school.

- Math Focus - the school is engaged in targeted math instruction with the goals for students to be able to make sense of math problems and to develop math stamina and perseverance.

DPI State Report Card - we scored 65.5% and this is disappointing but it reflects both our 20% opt out rate and also that we have not had significant gains which are weighted in the scores, but we are consistent in how we perform. We discussed why some students opt out (test doesn't measure individual growth, the MAPS test is more useful, too much school time is spent in testing)

Parent Teacher Conferences - are evening Monday Nov 18th and all day Nov 19th. Get in touch with homeroom teachers to get these scheduled if you haven't already. Request from Tony that the PTG organize treats/snacks/food for the teachers on this day.

Thank you shout outs - Sheila Lenius for organizing Scoopie Night and the families that worked the event (serving food and working the drive up window!), Steph and Lynn met with Heartland CU to discuss sponsorship and volunteer opportunities and Steph put together an exhaustive list of requests for them on a very tight timeline. Thank you from the Culture and Climate Committee to the PTG for funding their quarterly activities/awards for each grade and noted that so far the students loved it.

PTG listserv and FB page - what are the parameters for posting - especially regarding non-school or community activities? We had a comment about a posted Boy Scouts event. Looked to other groups' guidelines which revolved around respect, no hate speech, no recruiting for religious organizations.. Are we limited by what the MMSD policy is? Tony will get this policy info for us. Noted that we are not an MMSD organization. What about

Wish List/Grant Requests - are these OK to go on these 2 forums and is it OK for us to spread these to the wider community via other neighborhood chats? Discussed the www.okeeffeptg.com wish list page and that the plan is also to post this list elsewhere as well. Need to make staff aware of this form on the site.

Fostering Belonging and school spirit - continued discussion on how to support hallway art - this has a budget of \$210.70 and should be approved. Will add to the next agenda for a vote with the thought that it can be done and



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installed by end of holiday break. Culture and Climate Committee - looking to add an annual field trip that students can earn. Winter tubing would be fun but considering cost of event and transportation - work on this for another year. This year maybe ice skating at Tenney Park - then students can attend in shifts. May ask for PTG support for transportation, hot cocoa, etc.

Safe Skies Clean Water Wisconsin Coalition presented regarding the proposal to consider siting F35 fighter jets in Madison. Representative Chris Taylor and Mary Jo Walters spoke. Materials are attached. Biggest concerns were lack of information provided in the preliminary environmental impact assessment, and that the communities most affected by the noise would be disproportionately people of color, affordable housing areas, and that the report is not complete in considering the real number of schools and daycares. The Coalition requested that the PTG write letters to the Mayor, County Executive, Air Force, and make a public statement opposing this proposal. PTG discussed if this would be a political statement? Is this something we want to do? This discussion will be added to the agenda for the next meeting and a decision will be made about how to proceed.

Here are links to some documents they gave us: the MMSD letter in response to this, a noise map showing the affected areas and including schools and daycares, and an info sheet discussing the issues from the Safe Skies Clean Water Coalition.

[MMSD response to F35 jets at Truax](#)

[Noise Map](#)

[Safe Skies Fact Sheet](#)

Here is a letter from Senator Tammy Baldwin

[Senator Baldwin's letter in support of siting F35 jets at Truax](#)