



O'Keeffe PTG Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday February 12th 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** - introductions of all present. It was a small meeting: Principal Dugas, Maria Banchik, Nina Lebwohl, Shelly Nelson, Jackie Domini, Cheryl Kyles, Paul Quinlan, Mia Broderson
- **Principal's update** - It is budget season and due to a lower # of enrolled students, we are dealing with a budget shortfall. However, Principal Dugas will work with what we have and is confident we can maintain what we are providing to O'Keeffe. - What has been working well at O'Keeffe - the master schedule and encore classes are going strong, the focus on reading time has resulted in a significant increase in library books being checked out - There is an increased sense of belonging and connection between students and the staff, the next focus is student to student connections, there has been a 20% reduction in student referrals for behavior - Communication with families about student performance and their resulting grades has been made significantly more transparent with the use of Infinite Campus to report on completion and grades for individual assignments - Overall, this year is going great!
- **Thank you shout outs** - Maria Banchik & Martin & East Madison Martial Arts: Martin researched and found a great deal on headphones and then East Madison Martial Arts matched PTG funds (plus O'Keeffe kicked in \$83 just when we needed a little more) so that there will be new headphones for every student at O'Keeffe! Thanks to Martin and Maria for taking this from 20 to 445 sets for our school! Jill Cohan - the tech teacher and unicycle club guru - loaned the PTG metal spoons to use during our ice cream socials so we kept hundreds of plastic spoons out of the landfill. - Frank Productions will be donating large monitors to hang up in the school which will bring us a little more up to date and can be used for announcements, info, photos and videos etc,
- **Updates** - we still need volunteers to coordinate spring events (Top Chef, O'Keeffe Wear) - Library is still looking for more copies of the most popular books. (They are not allowed to use school funds for more than 6 copies) - Frank Productions will be providing some large monitors to be up around the school, can we use these as a way to display student art and photos instead of printing and mounting as we had planned to do? This could be an easy way to showcase more and keep it updated.
- **Top Chef is April 23rd** - student sign ups are in and 5 chefs are participating, there may be a 6th. O'Keeffe needs adult liaisons who can drive, chaperone, and be in contact with the chefs. (This usually comes from someone close to the students in the group, but not always) - The Event - how can we make sure everyone can see? Stage? Broadcast to Monitors? How can we have more food since we always run out and people are there to eat? Can't ask for more from the chefs who are already donating so much time and food, arrange for pizza sales?
- **8th grade graduation, dance overview, planning** - Jamie Domini attended the meeting to give us the overview - O'Keeffe can no longer give 8th graders the last day of school off, so this day will be used for a field trip to Mt Olympus or a different destination, students can choose to attend or not, but it is not a day off. Graduation will take place on Tuesday June 9th and the format is a breakfast hosted by the PTG, students open their time capsules they created in 6th grade, and get their yearbooks. Then the end of the year assembly, lunch, and then released from school. 5:30 - 7 pm is the Promotion Ceremony. 7 - 9 pm Dinner/Dance. (Pizza has been the preferred option, chips, dessert, drinks) Dance with guest DJ (Barry Davis, Shelly Nelson?) PTG Coordinates Volunteers and funds the Event - Breakfast, Dance theme and decorations, Dinner, 7th Grade adults chaperone the dance. (3 volunteer captains? Breakfast, dinner, dance?)



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- **Treasurer's Report** - Heartland Credit Union has donated \$500 towards teacher appreciation lunch! Question if we should be issuing 501(c)3 acknowledgement letters for donations? Checking with Steph.
- **Arts & Words** - new format and how PTG can help: at end of school day from 2:30 to 5 pm. New time to make sure to include all the students and option to take late bus home. No focus on food - snack provided by MSCR. Busking and Activity Stations with set times for rotating between to encourage more engagement with event. Looking for PTG support with: Hallway monitors, hosts for activity stations, healthy snacks, tea, cocoa for Karaoke Cafe, Hot Cups. Organized by Maria MaManama, Mindy Grant, Jill Cohan, Alyssa Buss
- Room at O'Keeffe for a **"Wellness Room" for teachers?** - Jamie Domini has already created this! Open on Tues/Thurs with low light, soft music, tea, chocolate etc. Looking for donations for refills.
- Math Counts Club - placed 6th out of 11 at this weekend's math competition. Great results for a newer math club. John (AJ's dad who coaches the team with Sheila) is interested to find a way to offer the club to all levels of students especially ones who need more math. Tony noted this info should be forwarded to the right staff.
- Students need stretching - is there a way to build this into the day? Will check in with Nikki Richter on this.

Calendar of PTG Events:

Fri Feb 14th No School - Conferences - PTG taco bar potluck lunch for staff - was a big success - thank you to everyone who pitched in!

Weds	March 11th	PTG Meeting
Tues	March 24th	Arts and Words - 2:30 - 5 pm
Tues	April 7th	Bake Sale Spring Elections / Presidential Primary
Weds	April 8th	PTG Meeting
Thurs	April 23rd	Top Chef
	May TBD	Teacher Appreciation Week
Tues	May 5th	Choir concert - all grades - ice cream social - 7 pm
Weds	May 6th	PTG Meeting
Weds	May 13th	Band concert - all grades - ice cream social - 7 pm
Weds	May 20th	Strings concert - all grades - ice cream social - 7 pm
	June TBD	8th grade Graduation and Dance

WORKS IN PROGRESS UPDATES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

(let us know if you can help with any of the following and we'll get you in touch with the coordinator)

Ice Cream Socials: Ice cream is served after Band, Orchestra and Choir Concerts and is a great chance for students, staff, families and friends to meet and chat. (Jo Ann Kraus)

Directory: (Grant Samuelson)

O'Keeffe Wear - sales at various events. Proceeds to benefit wear for school to give away. (Liz Amundson)

Bake Sales - selling coffee and baked goods at the polling place during elections

Culver's Scoopie Night - at East Towne Culvers. 2 students & 2 parents serve food/custard. (Sheila Lenius)



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No Fuss No Buy Fundraiser - December - Reach out to O'Keeffe families and community with opportunity to donate to PTG with no event attendance or anything to purchase. (Stephanie Steigerwaldt)

Top Chef - Fundraiser/Community Event held in field house on April 23rd, 2020 Students pair up with local chefs for a cooking competition. Organized by Tony Dugas and Shelly Nelson. PTG has done a silent auction - (2018/19 - Natasha Akulenko)

Food Cart Night - in May at our playground. Food carts donate 10% of proceeds to PTG. (2018/19 - Katie Rice)

Teacher Appreciation - Lunch during the week of May 4th from PTG. (2018/19 Steph Steigerwaldt /Tina Thompson)

Student Council Liaison to invite participation/input/feedback from students to PTG.

PTG Bylaws: are very corporate, could use some amending to be more appropriate for PTG.

Community Grants and Funding - tracking MNA and SASY neighborhood association and other funding/grant opportunities and deadlines.

Arts & Words Night: Tuesday March 24th from 2:30 to 5 pm. A celebration of Students' Work. An interactive evening with music in hallways, unicycle, maker space, anthology of student public work, etc

8th Grade Graduation and Dance

Incoming 6th Grade Family Night

Hallway Art - students photos/works mounted and displayed in common halls