

Olney Elementary School  
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Olney Elementary School PTA Meeting  
February 2, 2016 at 6:30pm

The Olney Elementary School PTA met on November 3, 2015 at 6:30pm in the school's media center. The PTA president, Jill Fecko, called the meeting to order at 6:55pm after dinner was served and members socialized. Quorum was met with those in attendance as follows:

Carla Glawe (OES Principal), Tamar Ruth (OES Assistant Principal), Jill Fecko (PTA President), Jennifer Asbacher (PTA VP), Donna Lakso (PTA VP), Caitlin Kitlas (PTA Treasurer), Jaime Costolo (PTA Secretary), Nicole Mathis (NAACP Chair), Jeremie Lipczenko (Dragon Tails Jr. Editor), Shelly Liberty (Dragon Tales Editor), Maha Gumenick, Steve Gumenick, Wayne Chung, Steve Donovan, Biani Egbowin, Lony Ozsolur, Randall MacGill, Terri Perper, Karina Donovan, Zahir Uddin, Mary Diener, Panda Opima, Zhanna Opima, Sherri Mills, Dessale Giebre, Soo Kim, Nancy Scamordella, Sonya Matthews, Karen Newman, Jeannine Williams, Jessica Chappell, Lynn Magee, Nisrin Swerwale and Seyi Gbade-Alabi.

- Introductions of the PTA Board, school staff and parents in attendance
- Jill Fecko mentioned that the scheduled speaker, Ms. Bombara, was postponed to next month. In addition, she announced that it was Counselor Appreciation Week and any comments that parents want included in the PTA's card and flowers to Ms. Bombara needs to be sent to the PTA President's email address by Wednesday, close of business.
- Jill Fecko reviewed the following:
  - The Dragon Dash raised nearly \$9,000 which was used to purchase a cart of Chromebooks for OES. Mrs. Perper was able to use these Chromebooks in the media center to teach Kindergarten and First graders how to use them.
  - Bingo was rescheduled to this Friday, February 5, 2016, 6-8pm.
  - The Science Fair will be held on February 24, 2016.
  - Jill Fecko and Jennifer Asbacher attended the Montgomery County Council budget meeting and reported that many attendees felt class sizes was an issue. However, this issue is competing against several other important issues requesting additional funds from the budget.
  - The OES PTA website is going to change in an effort to gain more traffic and efficiently distribute information. Suggestions for changes, as well as any web site development expertise is welcomed.
- The PTA's financial report was given by Caitlin Kitlas. The fall fundraiser was successful and we are at par with last year's budget, if not a bit ahead. We are reviewing where money will be spend in accordance with the PTA's overall mission of helping OES and its students. Questions concerning playground equipment were raised and a request was made for it to be

added to the budget. Additionally, an attendee wanted the PTA to assist in getting a link for OES on Amazon for collecting funds. Jill Fecko will review linking OES to Amazon.

- Shelly Liberty, Dragon Tales Editor, asked for feedback regarding the online newsletter. Many attendees felt it was beneficial and enjoyed reading it to keep up on school events and happenings. Several attendees did not receive Dragon Tales which brought up the issue of the PTA's ListServe.
- Many attendees complained that the ListServe is cumbersome to use and they expect to be automatically added to the PTA's email list upon joining the PTA. Many members do not receive emails from the PTA because they are unaware of needing to join the email list through a Google group invite. Currently, members should email Tonya Profit if they are having difficulty with the process. The PTA Board hopes to change this ListServe system next year so that the PTA email list is inclusive automatically of all members.
- Nicole Mathis, NAACP Chair, reported on the OES PTA's establishment of The Diversity Committee as this name is more inclusive of our entire community. The Diversity Committee welcomes participation from all parents and staff as they develop their plan to increase student success among all students at OES. The Diversity Committee will begin in the fall for the 2016-17 school year. Nicole Mathis spoke about her attendance to several county-wide meetings where diversity among the county's students is explored to find gaps in academic performance as well as ways to close these gaps.
- OES Update was given by Principal Carla Glawe. She thanked the OES PTA for the purchase of the new Chromebooks. Also, Mrs. Glawe spoke to the fact that OES is a University of Maryland teaching school. Therefore, OES benefits from having student teachers assist in classrooms. This year, UMD made changes to their internship program allowing the school's juniors to intern at local schools. OES will have six juniors beginning their internships this week. This is different from the senior student teachers that are placed and evaluated throughout the year. Student teachers are placed in classrooms depending on a multitude of factors, such as teacher evaluations, experience with the program, time to conduct evaluations, etc... Juniors will be placed where an extra set of hands is needed as they are to simply get an introduction to the profession of teaching.
- Assistant Principal Tamar Ruth gave an update on testing. OES is in the midst of MAP R testing. A webinar will be scheduled to distribute information from the cancelled PARCC testing meeting that was supposed to take place last week. The testing is used to assist in placing children in classes, as well as ensure that they will meet end of year goals. Parents may request testing information from classroom teachers. MAP testing has been shown to be a good indicator of PARCC test results. Benchmarks changed for MAP testing this year.
- Ms. Ruth also reported on the Dragon Tickets program which rewards student with community service project of the winning class' choice. The third-grade class that won this month chose to have "Dress As A Famous Person" day. This day will be on Friday, February 12, 2016.
- Jill Fecko announced a new check-in and dismissal policy regarding class parties. Parent volunteers will need to check in with their licenses upon arrival at school. Parents may then choose to have their child go home in their usual manor or may send a note for them to be dismissed as a car rider or walker. Parent volunteers will then need to exit the building after the class party and wait for their child to be dismissed.
- Lastly, Jill Fecko, asked for any questions, comments or suggestions. Attendees responded as follows:

- Members asked if there will be a staff basketball game this year. Mindy Russell, whom was in charge of the event last year, is looking for safe alternatives and a school to participate with us. An announcement will be made if the game is going to take place in the spring.
- Incoming kindergartners will have orientation at OES on May 5-6, 2016. Registration forms for incoming kindergartners are available and will be sent home with students to be passed out in the community. Any request for registration forms can be forwarded to the OES office.
- OES receives the county's teacher allocations in March. As of now, Mrs. Glawe commented that OES is likely to have four second-grade classrooms, five first-grade classrooms and five-kindergarten classrooms allocated for next year. Mrs. Glawe hopes to keep the part-time specialists teachers currently allocated to the school.
- Attendees questioned where and what were the best ways for them to make statements regarding class sizes and rezoning. Jill Fecko replied that County Council hearings may be the public's best bet for being heard about these issues. OES is part of the Sherwood PTA cluster and any requests for support at any particular meetings would be shared among all the cluster's schools, parents and staffs.
- A group is forming to congregate in Annapolis for an event called Day of Action in regards to education concerns on February 15, 2016. Jill Fecko will send out information regarding the event via ListServe.
- Jerry Lipczenko volunteered to take on reviving Dragon Tales Junior, possibly under another title, but requested assistance from members so that a copy could be completed by year end.
- The possibility of detention for students was explained by Mrs. Glawe. Due to an overwhelming amount of office referrals in the first semester (247 from August thru January) and a lack of students respect for adult authority and school rules, the possibility of detention has become necessary at OES. Any students held in detention will assist in school maintenance and beautification projects. Parents will be given 24-hour notice of when the detention is scheduled to occur.
- Student behavior has been noted as changing throughout the county, not just at OES.
- Attendees mentioned concerns regarding lunch and recess rules and punishments. Mrs. Glawe said she would look into the matter this week and is hoping to return to a lunch schedule that allows each grade to have individual lunch and recess next year.
- Denise Purcell is looking for a volunteer to run the FLES program at OES for next year.
- While the Trex program was not able to occur at OES this year, now that the school's building services team is complete, OES hopes to host the program next year.
- The PTA has been assisting the front desk by staffing a late check-in desk from 9:15am to 10:15am and it is very helpful to the front office staff. Volunteers were requested to fill Wednesday morning and every other Friday morning openings.
- The Lego club will need a volunteer to run the club next year along with the club's current volunteer, Wayne Chung.

The meeting was adjourned at 8p.m. by PTA President Jill Fecko.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jaime Costolo  
 OES PTA Secretary