

ATTENDEES:

Executive Committee in Attendance: Shamekia Martin, President; Amber Fulginiti, Vice President of Administration; Nina Broome, Vice President of Membership; Catherine Hatton, Recording Secretary; Richella Jordan, Correspondence Secretary; Mary Huntington, Treasurer

Guests in Attendance: Dr. Nick Manolakos, Headmaster; Denise Parks, Supervisor of Schools/Instruction (K-8); Kathryn Standish, Dean of Upper School (4-8); Evan Winokur, Dean of Lower School (K-3); Kate Klemas, Parent-at-Large Board Member

Head Count: 63

Call to Order: 7pm

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Welcome & Introduction of new PTO Executive Committee

- Shamekia Martin welcomed all guests and attendees to the first PTO meeting of the new school year.
- All PTO Officers introduced themselves and are new to the PTO Exec. Comm.

II. Recap of Previous Month's Events

Owner: Shamekia Martin

- The first Campus Beautification project held on 8/15 was a great success with mulch and plantings completed. Future beautification projects are being planned and will be announced at a later date.
- The Back to School Social held on 8/16 had a great turnout and the PTO was very pleased to see so many in attendance.

III. Fundraisers for September & Family Fun

Owner: Amber Fulginiti

- September 12 - OCS Family Fun Night at Christiana Skating Center 5:15-7:15pm
- September 18 - \$2 **Full Dress Down Day**, school appropriate clothing required
- September 23 - SCRIP Gift Cards orders due to Louise Antenucci, noochfred@msn.com. Pickup cards on October 7 at PTO Meeting.
- September 26 - AHEPA 5K at OCS grounds. Participants, volunteers, sponsors and donations are needed. Sign-up Genius will go out for volunteer sign up. Event times will be revised to reflect 9am race start and will be sent out
- September 28-30 - Scholastic Book Fair, all grades, 5:30-7pm each day, located at Lower School. Lower School books will be available for sale on the 1st floor lobby. Upper School books will be available in the 2nd floor multi-purpose room.
- Coming in October: OCS Family Fun Night at Grotto Pizza, Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington. OCS flier required for school to receive credit, available soon.

IV. Administration's Report

Owner: Dr. Nick Manolakos

- Dr. Nick Manolakos explained that administrative realignments eliminated assistant principal positions thus creating new administrative positions and he introduced the new administration leaders who in turn provided brief personal introductions. The new administrative positions are Denise Parks, Supervisor of Schools, Lower

and Upper; Kathryn Standish, Dean of Upper School; Evan Winokur, Dean of Lower School.

- The entire administration's contact names and email links are posted on the school's main website.
- Bus Transportation: OCS administration is working as hard as possible with the bus vendor, First Student, to resolve parental and administrative concerns and issues with the current bus schedule and overcrowding. They expect a response with action planning from Reggie by the end of the week and possible bus/ schedule adjustments may be available as early as Tuesday, September 8. No major changes to the bus schedule are expected.
- Questions or concerns about bus transportation should be directed to Denise Parks via email with copy to Dr. Nick Manolakos.

Owner: Denise Parks

- OCS added three buses this year for routes determined by the bus company and routes were practiced in summer prior to school starting. Please give time to finesse the schedules.
- Back to School Night has been scheduled for Thursday, September 17 for both Lower and Upper School. There will be a fifteen-minute break in the time schedule between the two schools for those with students in each building. Email blast coming out soon.
- Updated code of conduct will be sent by email by the end of this week, with hard copies sent home with students after the Labor Day holiday.
- Initiative programs are being introduced this school year: National Junior Honor Society for 7th & 8th graders immediately after 1st marking period and for 6th grade after 2nd marking period.
- New this year School Body Leadership positions for middle school. More information will follow.
- High school curriculum and framework is under construction with the OCS Board of Directors and consultants.
- Smarter balanced assessments: should receive school and statewide scores on 9/3. Results will be shared and interpreted at the October PTO meeting.
- Concerns over the supplemental supply check request in the 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades has prompted a request for transparency. In response, Ms. Parks is expecting a breakdown of cost per unit from the grade team leaders and expects to have the information at the October PTO meeting.

V. OCS Board of Directors Report

Owner: Kate Klemas

- The OCS Board of Directors meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public and parents are strongly encouraged to attend meetings and get involved in the high level decisions made there. Future agenda topics include capital improvements and curriculum.
- The Board is actively looking to recruit a new member in the immediate future to add to the board by October/November 2015. This person must be a community representative. Suggested nominees may be forwarded to Jen Ballas or Kate Klemas. Their email information is available on the main school website.
- The Board of Directors is in the process of updating by-laws in an effort to make them more current. Term limits were recently revised: board members will serve

up to two terms, three years each. 1/3 rolls off the board every year, so that the board is refreshed on a regular basis.

VI. Questions & Suggestions

Owner: Shamekia Martin

- Middle school sport offerings: there was concern that information was not disseminated early enough for sign-ups. Admin responded that there is a lot of work in progress to further develop the sports program such as:
 - Framework with an athletic director currently in process
 - Sports field usage has to be approved by board, on agenda for 9/9.
 - Soccer program depends upon fields ready
 - DIAA application is ready to submit and will be in for winter and spring sports at middle school level
 - Gymnasium: on agenda 9/9 board mtg. presenting permit application. Foundation money has been granted in order to fund a fabric gymnasium.
- Will students be permitted to wear sneakers on gym days this year? Ms. Parks shared that this year sneakers will be allowed on gym days for all grades. More information to follow shortly. Admin was asked to provide clarification on gym-day schedule for the parents.
- Concerns over the limited spots available for students to participate in Girls on the Run and parent was interested in coaching or finding other parents to coach in order to increase the program. The admin and PTO was supportive of this idea.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:23pm

Notes taken by: Cathy Hatton

Next PTO meeting: October 7, 2015, 7pm