

**Old Trail School
Parents' Association
General Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: September 4, 2007

Location: Library Lecture Room

Meeting Call to Order:

President Janis Worley opened the meeting.

Introduced Changes in PA for 2008:

President's Initiative: To encourage every parent to make at least one volunteer effort per year. We have volunteer needs to suit any/every schedule.

New in 2008: List of Board Members & Committee Chairs on website for easy access.

New in 2008: Only 4 meetings per year: Introduced General Meeting Schedule & Speakers to meet in the Library Lecture Rm. Immediately following assemblies.

Invited all parents to attend. Attendance is key for final approval on allocations.

Introduction of Executive Board & Auction Board of Directors.

Called attention to addition of titles to name tags. Please feel free to ask those members any questions you may have about the school, volunteering, etc.

Make group aware of wooden mailboxes for PA Committee Leaders @ 1st floor door of Parents Association. All will get in the habit of checking.

Mike Hochschwender, President of OTS Board of Trustees.

Thank you to the "army" of parent helpers at OTS, their efforts truly impact the budget.

Two missions of BOT:

1) Protect and look out for values of the school. To maintain consistency in education and "children first" initiative. Advise Mr. Farber & Administration.

2) Ensure financial sustainability for the long term. We are debt-free now, but weren't always. Owe that to former trustees who have made tough decisions in the past.

Currently 14-16 people on the Board. Serve up to two three-year terms. 50/50 parents and not current parents. Non-parents ensure the needs of school are put first beyond any emotional connection. Currently made up of alumni, parents, bankers, etc.

Day-to-day, the Board manages big financial decisions. For example, approving the oil/gas well on the property. They consider best financial and environmental impact.

Another ongoing decision, The Gould property next door. We look at it from a financial perspective as well as how it impacts the OTS core values.

Discussed Living Machine. Farber concept, Trustees help to flush it out.

Last year, BOT created a Value Proposition Task Force to look at academics for the 21st century. How does the school fit in to the community? What is the value of this place? Do large companies use OTS as a recruiting tool—they should. Evaluating the curriculum as it affects enrollment.

Endowment is a priority. Noted it is below what it should be.

Parent ? Gould Property:

Went through history of project. Bids and proposals have been rejected. Currently, we are in touch with the family in an ongoing discussion. BOT thinks acquiring it would be a good thing for the school. However, the land is more valuable than the house. We are reluctant to borrow money for the purchase of that property.

Parent ?: How do you become a member?

Formal process. There is a 4-person committee on Trustees that meets 4-5 times/yr. They bring recommendations based on a real interest in serving the school. They are volunteer positions. 8 mtgs. per year. Typically have 85% attendance at meetings.

Parent ?: Facility improvements—fund-an-item field?

There is a facilities master plan for the next 5 years that has been recently updated. OTS has identified two possible locations. Will be a decision to be in place by next year if not sooner. Estimated project start date: next summer.

Bylaw update Presented by Carol Marturano-Becker

Formerly due-paying membership, now automatic membership.

Look for announcement in Buffalo Bytes and hard copies will be available through Bonnie Child's office.

Revisions will be posted by end of month on website.

Motion to approve: Diane Squire

Second. Paula Gross. All in favor.

Allocations: Michelle Schaeffer

Last year \$41, 000 budget, only ½ was requested. Will vary based on auction. If not requested, fund is zeroed out every year and donated to other school needs.

Asked group to encourage teachers to apply for this process now. The end of the year becomes hectic.

We are looking for projects to enhance education [i.e. funding elevator, lower school playground, etc.] School directors sign off on it 1st to start process.

Forms are available in the Parents Association Stairwell. Requests are typically voted on 4x /yr. and purchased and implemented for the next year.

If urgent need, can do a virtual/email vote.

Budget Review for Approval

Where does budget come from? \$25/ per family from tuition/ \$10(?) in room fees also included in tuition.

Motion to approve: Nancy Wellener

Second: Tony Papanikolaou

Auction Update By Donna Axson

Invited to 1st meeting Thursday, Sept. 6th at 8:30 am in Library Conference Rm.

Please think about donations. It is our major fundraiser and with a new software system this year, please get donation forms in asap.

Alternative Funding -- Roberta Dusek

Handed out info packet re: Box tops/Campbell's Soup labels.

Discussed simple ways to bring in money for the school.

Mentioned collection locations throughout school. Mailboxes across from Fran's office. Once definite, will put in Buffalo Bytes.

Email sign up contest can bring in \$1.60 pp before Oct. 31st. Details on Box Top website.

Also, can log on through Box Top website to purchase from Lands End/Oriental Trading Co. – we get 5%.