

OGA PTA General Meeting

February 11, 2021 Virtually held via Zoom

This is the second PTA members' meeting of the schoolyear, held virtually, called to order by President, Jacquelyn Nystrom, at 5:10 pm. Other Board members present are: Sara Alexander, Sarah Courtney, and Melissa Vaughn. Members and attendees present are Nadia Ballard, Don Biggs, Danielle Cosme, Shannon Dukes, Andrea Hinch, Bridger McCully, Jami Valentine Miller, Chris Pratt, Katie Pridemore, Angela Resende, and Erika Sheid.

Welcome from President, Jacquelyn Nystrom to new members.

Introduction of 2020- 2021 PTA Board by President.

The OGA PTA Board for the 2020-21 schoolyear is as follows:

Jacquelyn Nystrom is President. Melissa Vaughn is Treasurer. Sarah Courtney is Recording Secretary.

Principal's report given by President in Principal Despenza's absence. The school is focused on, and has requested PTA's help on, building connection between LaunchEd and Face-to-face (F2F) students, teachers, and parents.

Old Business

Formation of PTA Board happened finally in December due to limited interest in taking leadership positions and other complications of virtual and socially-distanced schooling since last March.

Per December's meeting the Board agreed that **limited events** would be creatively planned due to the level of restrictions on physical distancing and ban on gatherings on campus.

New Business

Budget process since December was summarized by President while visual display of the proposed budget was pulled up. Proposed budget was presented by Melissa Vaughn with explanation of past income and expenditures. Due to inability to have school events with physical presence, there have been no events causing expenditure or bringing income. PTA is funded by OGA Foundation annually. We have over \$4,000 in the bank account. Thus far this year PTA's only expenses have been annual renewal fees for subscription services.

Fundraising Sara Alexander announced smile.Amazon.com from a web browser (not the amazon app) contributes a small portion of purchases to OGA. Danielle Cosme later informed through the chat that the Amazon app is updated to accept amazon smile.

Boxtops program is entirely digital again. To participate, the process is to download the Boxtops app>set up an account> take a picture or scan every grocery receipt> sends \$ to OGA.

Both programs will be posted on PTA and OGA social media sites.

OGA Foundation Chris Pratt suggested that with the amount of reserves in the PTA account, OGA Foundation will not need to fund this schoolyear. Discussion was opened and closed.

Budget was passed as amended.

Teacher Appreciation Sara Alexander called for volunteers for a teacher appreciation committee. Planning a few small events leading up to Teacher Appreciation week in May. To volunteer, please email OGAPTA@gmail.com.

President announced that two other committees are needed: Community-building, and 5th grade Party.

Membership Sarah Courtney reported that a PTA Parent survey was posted on Clasdojo with no responses. The survey's purpose is to assess parents' interest, availability, and network to contribute to

the OGA community. Link will be tested and reposted to multiple sites along with the link to join PTA. The link is <https://forms.gle/Boq48DcLH5qFsXCZ9> to access the survey and <https://OGA.Memberhub.store> to join PTA.

Committees & Upcoming Events President called upon:

Ms. Hinch to speak on the importance of completing the **school survey**.

Bridget McCully to ask for volunteers for a new committee to plan the end-of-year **5th grade party**. Please contact her at bkmccully83@gmail.com if you are interested in planning/volunteering.

Members to volunteer for the **Community-building** committee, please email OGAPTA@gmail.com.

Spirit Merchandise is fully stocked and available for purchase, but PTA needs one or two volunteers to manage the sales and distribution (on a Saturday for LauchEd at least). To volunteer, please email OGAPTA@gmail.com.

OGA Foundation Update Chris Pratt presented a slide show explaining how the OGA Foundation and OGA PTA are intertwined. Foundation handles fundraising, often utilizing volunteers from PTA, and then funds PTA annually. The biggest fundraiser is the student-driven donation drive.

Open Discussion

Shannon Dukes asked a question of internet safety on the school-issued laptops. She stated that the OCPS firewall is not that great, but she installed a Bark Chrome extension that has blocked problematic sites. Ms. Hinch, who teaches media arts, stated that OCPS has recently started blocking sites such as weebly and youtube, and she discovers more blocked daily in the past week or so. Ms. Sheid spoke to the quarterly review of best practices, including internet safety, that all teachers must attend. Sarah Courtney offered to take the issue to the School Advisory Committee (SAC).

Carpool was brought up as the coordinator of this, Chris Pratt, was present. He explained that interested families could fill out the Carpool OGA Google Form at <https://tinyurl.com/ogacarpool>

It was asked of Ms. Hinch how to access the students' youtube channel posts. Ms. Hinch also offered to have PTA-related announcements broadcast on the student news. The path to reach the OGA News is <https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net> —> *School Information* —> *OGA News Crew*

Next meeting **March 4th at 5pm** virtually. Link forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Sarah Courtney.