

Ockley Green Supporters Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023 | 7pm

In attendance: 20 community members, including Principal Rierson, and all 3 OG Supporters board members.

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OG Supporters Updates

- Fundraising
 - Mississippi Pizza. Profit Share Night coming up at Mississippi Pizza. On Wednesday, January 18th 10% of sales, dine in or carry out, will be donated to OGMS.
 - Fred Meyer and Amazon. Earn donations for OG Supporters when shopping at Fred Meyer or Amazon. More information at www.ogsupporters.org/fundraising
- Treasurer's Update
 - 2022/2023 Budget Overview: [LINK](#)
 - Expenditures and Earnings Update: [LINK](#)
- Staff Appreciation
 - Notes of appreciation and encouragement were left in the staff mailboxes. The invitation to drop off additional notes, to be filed by volunteers, was extended to the end of the week.
 - [Just Botta Coffee](#) will be donating 5 pounds of ground coffee per month for use in the OGMS staff room. This donation was arranged by OGMS mom, Casey Wallace, and her son, an OGMS student, will be doing the monthly pick up and drop off. If you stop by Just Botta Coffee, please consider sharing a thank you from the community!

Updates From Principal Rierson

- Appreciation
 - Staff have appreciated the efforts of volunteers who've been cleaning the staff room. They also appreciate having a second fridge and are grateful for the support offered through the Staff Mini Grant program.

👉 Note: Principal Rierson came prepared with some slides to address questions raised by community members during the December OG Supporters Meeting + some of the questions left for her via our [Ask the Principal form](#). She also invited questions during the meeting. There was insufficient time to answer all of the questions that arose. Community members are invited to reach out via email, jrierson@pps.net, with any remaining or additional questions.

- Engagement in Classes ([view related slides](#))
 - In November, Julie spoke about a schoolwide “reset” and the implementation of the systemic pieces put in place to help students stay in class and stay engaged. She reports that efforts, which included reteaching expectations, have been paying off and there's been a dramatic improvement in students getting to class on time and staying in

- class. When students are in the hallway, they now tend to have passes and have, for the most part, been using those passes appropriately.
- Evan Martin, OGMS Attendance Coach, has been working closely with 9 students and their families, helping them identify and address barriers and behaviors + set and review goals. (Supporting this small group of students not only helps them, but also benefits their classmates by reducing disruptions.)
 - Positive Behavior Supports and the Dragon Raffle ([view related slides](#))
 - History: Used to be a grade level raffle, based on earned points, rather than a raffle. That changed during the pandemic.
 - Future: OGMS middle school is planning to restart grade level assemblies and moving back toward the points/auction model that used to exist.
 - The school climate team is working on setting up friendly competitions between advisory groups, with different “houses” students will be a part of. The ideal of Professional Dragons will also be promoted during Advisory, promoting positive behaviors and appropriate language.
 - 2023/2024 Master Schedule + Bell Schedule
 - District is working on a master schedule + Bell Schedule redesign. A committee, with Principal Rierson is on, will be coming up with 2 or 3 different bell schedules that middle schools will be able to choose from.
 - Family and students will have an opportunity in February to provide input on drafted plans and the final schedule for OGMS
 - Security Camera Installation
 - In August Principal Rierson did a walk-through with longtime OGMS staff and Security Services to identify locations for new security cameras in OGMS hallways. The plan is to have the cameras in place by the start of the 2024/2025 school year. This is part of the [2020 Infrastructure Bond](#).
 - Staffing Updates
 - New 7th Grade Language Arts teacher: Jason Lesto (replaced Shelby Chapman, who took a new position elsewhere)
 - New Library Assistant: Rachel Manter
 - New Site Instructor: Gregg Lavender
 - New 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher: Cameron Mitchell (replacing Chris Riser, who took a new position elsewhere)
 - Complete [OGMS Staff List](#)

Q&A With Principal Rierson

- Cell phone policy
 - A parent noted that students are receiving inconsistent messaging, with rules and expectations varying from class to class

- [Policy during the 2021/2022 school year](#): No cell phone use at any time
- Updated policy this year: Grade level cohorts and classroom teachers are expected to set clear expectations about when cell phones are allowed and when they are not. During class time cell phones should only be used for instructional purposes (e.g. participating in a [Kahoot](#))
- Staff shared that when the rule was strictly no phones at any time, including passing, it was causing a lot of battles.
- Administration is continuing to support having unified messaging, across all staff, re: cell phone usage. There is still work to be done.
- Teachers have varying levels of what they allow. Some teachers allow it on the desk, if it's face down. Others require that it be put away entirely.
- What are the consequences associated with using cell phones at inappropriate times?
 - Tier 1: Routines in the classroom. It might look like 1) general reminder, 2) pulling students aside and having a conversation, 3) phone call home.
 - Stage 2 or 3 Discipline referral: AP meets with student and families to develop a plan, which may mean seeing whether families are willing and able to turn on cell phone parental controls and/or having students turn the phone in at the office
- Student familiarity (or lack of familiarity) with the Principal
 - A parent wondered how it is that her son didn't know who the principal is
 - Principal Rierson noted that there haven't been any school wide assemblies this year.
 - She has introduced herself during video messages shared schoolwide.
 - Creating more opportunities to introduce herself and the two new assistant principals to the students is on Principal Rierson's radar.
- TAG Coordinator
 - Melissa Brabham, mbrabham@pps.net, is the OGMS TAG Coordinator
 - Grace Rodgers, groddgers@pps.net, is the assistant principal who supports TAG
- December 13 incident (fight among students)
 - After school had let out, an email was sent to families notifying them that there had been a fight between several students, that all students, throughout the school, were held in classrooms while the incident was being addressed, and that the the school had begun a thorough investigation and would "move to resolve the situation accordingly."
 - A parent, seeking a sense of resolution, asked if anything more could be shared about the incident. Here's what Principal Rierson had to say:

- The first priority after incidents like this is to make sure that all students who are involved, the students involved in the fight, witnesses to the fight, and students who are affected by the Team Response protocol
- The incident involved both students and families. Families were in the building due to an ongoing situation. Restorative conversations were happening, but resolution hadn't yet been achieved. SEI was involved in the restorative process.
- Initially, a Lockdown was triggered. This was an error. The situation called for a Team Response, rather than a Lockdown. The call for a Lockdown was quickly changed to a call for a Team Response. Both Lockdown and Team Response are supposed to be triggered only by a school administrator, but that is not what occurred. This breakdown in protocol was addressed during a post incident debriefing among staff.
- Team Response is a safety protocol designed to quickly get kids out of the hallways. This is most typically used to clear the hallways for medical responders, for both ease of movement and privacy, but may also be triggered by fights. For more information on Lockdown vs Team Response (also known as "Lockdown Team Response"), go [here](#).
- Community feedback (during OG Supporters Meeting and in the OGMS Community Forum during the lockdown/team response)
 - Many students texted their families about the lockdown. This resulted in worry, fear, and confusion. The first official communication from the school occurred at 3:52 PM on the day of the incident. (Additionally, there were two follow up emails. [Here are the emails](#).) When a lockdown is called for, whether in error or not, the community would like to hear directly from the school, as soon as possible, via an official channel of communication. [Remind](#) has been suggested.
 - When incidents occur, many families would appreciate having more information, whatever is possible while prioritizing confidentiality, about the situation so they can come together and process the incident's impact on the community. The school is looking into using Remind in these situations where there's a need or desire to quickly send messages directly from OGMS.

- Physical State of the Portables
 - Work completed
 - Over winter break the walls in Portable 151 were patched and painted
 - Work slated to be done
 - Ceiling tiles. Slated to be replaced over summer break. Advocacy led to an accelerated timeline. They will be replaced over Spring Break.
 - Roof and floor repairs. Will occur over summer break. These repairs require that students not be in the building for an extended period of time.
 - Students have reported water leaks through the ceiling. This has not been observed by facilities or administration. If leaks occur, Principal Rierson would appreciate being notified immediately, so that she can document the leaks and advocate for appropriate action.
 - What can be done to improve conditions in the short term?
 - The floors are very difficult to clean, but acquiring and using a rug in the interim may be a possibility.
 - Advocacy
 - Principal Rierson stated that she shares many of our concerns. She continuously advocates for improved conditions and is happy to work in partnership with families and students. She notes that students have connected with board members. Principal Rierson has also been meeting with board members and the PPS Facilities team.
 - Students are welcome to report their concerns, and their communication is appreciated as it helps Principal Rierson advocate for them and the community as a whole.
 - Community members are welcome to report their concerns directly to Principal Rierson, jrierson@pps.net. You can also share your concerns with the larger community via [this feedback form](#). Responses to the form are shared publicly, [here](#).
 - Air quality issues
 - Air quality testing and mitigation efforts occurred [earlier in the year](#). In response to staff and community concerns, Principal Rierson asked for additional monitoring. Facilities returned this week (first week of January) to install air quality monitors again.
 - Update: On January 6th air quality monitors detected carbon dioxide levels in Portable 151 that exceeded district

thresholds. Students were relocated to another space. Students will continue having classes in another location until repairs have been made. (The other portable, classrooms 152 and 153 were tested and are within recommended levels for carbon dioxide.)

- Ramps
 - The ramps for accessing the portable classrooms are deteriorating and will be updated this summer
- Space Constraints
 - Students and other community members report crowding
 - Principal Rierson is aware of the issue and agrees that the space available is not adequate—and OGMS is projected to have even more students next year.
 - Why are the portables being used?
 - Last year, the decision was made to have 3 year-long levels of PE/Health. There isn't enough adequate space available in the main building to accommodate 3 year-long levels of PE.
 - Suggested alternate spaces
 - Cafeteria
 - A parent noted that many schools use their cafeterias as gyms.
 - This option was investigated, but the challenges posed by flipping between use of the space for breakfast, lunch, and physical education uses were deemed insurmountable with existing resources
 - Breezeway area between gym and dance studio
 - Principal Rierson said she'd look into this
 - Classrooms currently occupied by support services
 - As a longer-term solution, Principal Rierson is working with staff and the District to figure out how to better utilize some of OGMS's smaller spaces and create additional confidential spaces. OGMS currently has very few confidential spaces. If smaller confidential spaces are created for use by counselors, the social worker, and the speech/language pathologist, that would free up a couple more classrooms and give more flexibility to use the main building, rather the portables. The District is currently looking at feasibility.
 - What about next year?

- Principal Rierson stated that while the central health and PE office love seeing students engaging in a full year of health and PE at each grade level, they recognize that OGMS doesn't have the facilities to be able to do that in a safe manner. For this reason, other options for ensuring adequate physical activity that do not entail offering more Health/PE classes than OGMS facilities can support are being explored for the next school year.
 - Equity
 - It was noted by community members, and recognized by Principal Rierson, that not having facilities that can fully, and safely, meet the needs of our student population is an equity issue. The observation was made that wealthier and less diverse schools don't tend to face these challenges to the same degree.
- Other Concerns Raised
 - 8th Grade Core Classes
 - The opinion was shared that 8th grade kids aren't getting an adequate education in any of their core classes. What can be done?
 - Note: OGMS received funding to hire educational assistants in 8th grade math and language arts classes. No qualified candidates applied for the position.
 - Parents and guardians wishing to discuss concerns specific to their student(s) are encouraged to reach out to Principal Rierson directly, jrierson@pps.net
 - 8th Grade Spanish Immersion
 - Concerns were shared about the impact of having an uncertified teacher assigned to the class, not only this year, but for the next school year as well
 - Checking boxes, but not following through
 - The opinion was shared, by several people in attendance, that OGMS and PPS seem to be just "checking boxes"
 - PE was given as one example of this. Principal Rierson agreed that saying OGMS is offering x hours per week of PE, but not providing a space where PE can be adequately taught is doing a disservice to OGMS students.
 - 8th Grade Spanish Immersion was given, by a parent, as another example. If immersion classes are being taught by a teacher in training and substitute teachers who have no specific training in Spanish language immersion, is it fair to

say, without qualification, that OGMS is offering Spanish Immersion to 8th grade students?

Announcement

- January 24th: OGMS student, Rachelle Davis will be speaking at the PPS School Board Meeting. She will be addressing the condition of the portable classrooms and related equity concerns. Meeting location and time details can be found here: [Board of Education / Board Calendar \(pps.net\)](#)

Closing Thoughts

Principal Rierson shared that she appreciated everyone's candor and looks forward to partnering with families over the next few years. She reiterated that she welcomes and encourages everyone to share their concerns.