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Daria Ramirez, Principal

Mike Curry, Assistant Principal

**School Site Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 27, 2025**  
**8:00 am**  
**Old Orchard Library**

1. Call to Order
  - Principal Ramirez called the Regular Site Council Meeting to order at 8:04am
2. Roll Call
  - Parents: Suzanne Levine, Alex Pyke, Dora Wexler, Wendy Eckersley
  - Certificated: Aschlyee Braswell, Holly Herrington
  - Classified: Gina Ortega
  - Admin: Daria Ramirez
  - Absent: Mayra Cuellar, Laura Holiday
3. Approval of 12/5/24 Minutes (Action Item)
  - Consideration of approving the minutes of the regular site council council meeting of 12/5/24
  - Minutes approved
4. CAASPP Performance Report/Goals
  - Principal Ramirez shared that all grade levels are working toward 80% by 2029 from the 2024 baselines. Ms. Levine asked why the third grade baseline is lower than the other grades and Principal Ramirez explained that this is due to some computer literacy discrepancies that are being addressed starting as early as the 1st grade level. Ms. Braswell also offered that students as young as kindergarten are practicing strategies to help them identify "text evidence" as a building block to CAASPP readiness. Principal Ramirez also shared that 2nd graders are being exposed to 3rd grade stems to help prepare them for CAASPP as well.
  - Teachers are supporting students for CAASPP readiness by administering ELA assessments followed by data reflection sessions. Alignment and calibration of instructional practices includes annotating text, note taking and self reflection. "RACE" strategies have also been deployed sitewide to support these efforts.
  - Council members discussed whether the Benchmark curriculum was in alignment with CAASP expectations and Principal Ramirez clarified that the curriculum is in alignment but that the CAASPP assessment poses some unique challenges that teachers have worked hard to address through collaboration with other teachers, data reflection sessions to identify areas of weakness for individual students and having teachers take the tests themselves to identify challenging portions of the material that they can prepare their students for.
5. Classroom Observations
  - SSC visited 4 upper grade classrooms as well as a WIN classroom. Site members noted the resources in each of the classrooms that align with the encouragement of utilizing textual evidence (i.e. RACE posters). Site members also noted the exceptional measures teachers had

taken to accommodate students and encourage student engagement ranging from seating options to student-generated stories and analysis thereof. Site members also noted graphic organizers, anchor charts, accessible standards, vocabulary resources, and GLAD strategies prominently and strategically displayed in classrooms. Student success criteria, student ownership, safe learning environments and effective small group instruction were also noted. Council members shared wonderings regarding the amount of teacher preparation that goes into preparing assignments as alternatives to the material provided via Benchmark, where teachers obtain supplemental resources and materials and how teachers determine which students have opportunities to offer peer feedback on group assignments. Council members also wondered how teachers determined the makeup of small groups, how teachers offered alternative seating options (floor vs. desk vs. stool).

#### 6. Actions to Consider/Budget Updates

- Newsela - used to be a free service but is now fee-based but has only been requested by two grade levels so far. Council members also discussed use of the free Chat GPT service.
- OO remains a Title 1 site
- 3 curriculum specialists and one additional bilingual intervention teacher are included in the budget
- The budget contains a new line item for print shop jobs because the district no longer covers this service free of charge.
- Ms. Wexler questioned why the school is paying for AR and Rosetta Stone when these costs were previously covered out of the PTO budget. Principal Ramirez agreed to discuss this discrepancy with the PTO.
- Ms. Braswell stated that she would also speak to the PTO regarding funding author visits
- The Straightening Reigns animal program was effective this year and will be included in the 2025/26 budget (\$4,000) along with extra sessions for the CEC students for which Ms. Ramirez will request funding from the district.
- Additional budget items include technology upgrades, renewal of Brainpop subscriptions and new school site radios.
- Ms. Braswell noted the \$1,000 budget for library books and inquired about books for individual classroom libraries. Principal Ramirez stated that classroom libraries weren't included in that budget line item.
- \$20,000 in the budget for teacher PD and conferences remains unused due to the free state-funded DLI conference that teachers attended this year. This line item in the budget will be reserved for funding hourly teacher prep time in June when we meet to plan for the 25-26 school year.

#### 7. New Ideas for Classrooms for 2025/26 Budget

- Ms. Braswell shared that there is a need for hands-on manipulatives for reading and math small groups.
- Council members discussed whether requiring parents to deliver school supplies at the beginning of the school year is effective. Ms. Eckersley suggested sharing amazon wishlists with parents so that school supplies can be purchased on an as needed basis by parents who are willing and able. Ms. Ortega suggested a similar idea utilizing a SUG organized by teachers and/or room parents. Ms. Levine questioned whether Title 1 sites are permitted to request school supplies from parents and agreed to inquire at an upcoming parent organization meeting.

#### 8. Parent Organization Updates

- Ms. Levine shared that the most recent meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The Superintendent Chat yielded only a discussion of LCAP.

#### 9. Principal's Update - Ms. Ramirez

- Owls Family week was a success. PTO asked how admin can more effectively control access to areas of the school that should be off limits to students during events on campus.
- Restaurant Night fundraising numbers aren't yet available from The Stand Restaurant Night.

- School Climate Survey - I.S. will be bringing the survey back with modified and less vague questions in an effort to collect more actionable data.
- School Day Cafe under new ownership - students to be issued cards to access meals in the cafeteria. Ms. Levine is going to look into the reason for issuing the cards and Principal Ramirez will find out how the cards are to be stored (in the cafeteria in a pocket organizer? Funded by the district?)
- Tuesday evening's Governing Board Meeting was held at OO and featured a recognition ceremony for the graduating DLI class.
- Owl Olympics this week with color day on Friday
- Primary grade CEC classroom is opening this month as referred students are integrated into the classroom.
- OO has had a rotating art teacher as none is assigned to this school site. The music teacher is in place and music lessons have been progressing.

#### 10. Public Comments

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#### 11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:28am