

Britt Despenza
Principal

Orlando Gifted Academy

1121 North Fern Creek Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803
(407)897-6410

<https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net>



January 28 @5:00pm
SAC Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Determination of a Quorum (51% of members)

- 5:05pm called to order by SAC Chair, Jennifer Vose
- Attendance
 - Quorum was established

Member Name	Position	Attendance
Jennifer Vose	SAC Chair	Present
Jeremy Siegel	SAC Vice Chair	Online
Raegan Smythe	SAC Secretary	Present
Sarah Courtney	SAC Parent member	Present
Jenn Mandelion Chrisman	SAC Parent member	Present
Martha McCormick - Watson	SAC Parent member	Present
Melonie Sexton	SAC Parent member	Present
Jami Valentine Miller	SAC Parent member	Present
Melissa Vaughan	SAC Parent member	Present
Annmarie Cherolini	OGA Secretary	Present
Ericka Scheid	OGA Behavior Specialist	Present
Britt Despenza	OGA Principal	Present
Theresita V.	Community Representative	Absent

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Jami Valentine Miller moved to accept minutes with name additions to voting motions.
Seconded by Melonie Sexton.
- Passed unanimously

3. Principal's Report

Update on middle school prospective event. There were 2 sessions. OGA is promoting open slots in 6-8th grades. Increased open slots from 66 to 88 students. If OGA reaches 88, staff will need to increase by 3 middle school positions. Budget calculated by 18 students per class. Aware of need to keep current staff levels. The response from prospective families was that they like the smaller school. Our current families and students love their middle school. OCPS parent academy – OGA is one of 3 schools selected to participate. PTA – New board has already had a couple of meetings. One of their goals is trying to build unity between launched and in person.

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Tutoring – Math is one of the areas of the school improvement plan. Letters will go out next week for more information on tutoring.

Parent Series – Ms. Tame will be conducting the series, starting February. Has been advertised on FB, Dojo. Question was asked if children should be present? It is assumed not. It was noted that Ms. Tame is on the school based Social Emotional Learning (SEL) team.

Budget process starts in March. Need to know who is staying, who is leaving, who is returning, etc. for budget planning.

4. New Business

- Mid-Year Reflection
 - Instructional Practice related to Math
 1. Math proficiency will increase to 77% on 2020-2021 iReady MOY.
 - a. 3rd grade- 46% – 67%
 - b. 4th grade – 46% - 66%
 - c. 5th grade – 47% - 68%
 - d. Did not meet goal, but moving in the right direction.
 - e. Actions to get there. Tutoring. Fact Fluency competition. Tutoring in algebra, 3rd & 4th grades. iReady practice continues, it is a proven system that plugs holes. Teacher support to differentiate instruction based on differing levels of students' ability. Monitoring classrooms to ensure reaching standards and close gaps. FSA math – helping students to read the entire problem, not just first sentence, in order to answer the problems correctly. Parent's series to promote productive struggle and GRIT. Continuing hiring strong teachers.
 - Culture & Environment specifically related to Social Emotional Learning
 1. Staff will learn and utilize strategies and procedures to help leverage SEL and how it impacts students. Data collected through student meetings with the school counselor and leadership team.
 - a. OGA SEL team trained by district
 - b. School staff trained by OGA SEL team – 100% staff trained

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- c. Staff implement training in the classroom.
- d. Character Lab – OGA selected to participate. Gather info from students, and help them to apply the GRIT program within themselves. Every middle school kid does it on their own. GRIT provides them with passages, goals, strategies on how to improve themselves.
- e. Lunch Bunch created by Ms. Brown, kids apply SEL practices.
- f. Class meetings 11/17 on a weekly basis, monthly, etc.
- g. Continue these projects. Teachers creating a family environment for the kids for general improvement. More teachers implementing class meetings.

5. Old Business

- Survey Results – motion to table to February made by Melonie Sexton and seconded by Jami Valentine Miller. SAC members, please review the results in advance of the February meeting.
- Reminder, there are no A+ School Recognition monies to be considered.

6. Public Comments

- Survey results, when are comments going to be addressed? Don't want to wait until the end of the year to discuss issues.
 - New PE position – new hire not working with LaunchEd students. Need to talk with Ms. Sharpe and refocus the new staff to work solely with LaunchEd students.
- Trying to not 'over program' the teachers. Letting the teachers focus on their classrooms. Not having meetings just to meet. Need to be aware that these are very difficult times for teachers and they need our support too.
- 3rd graders will take the FSA for the first time and are prepped by teachers during the year.
- Desire for more Clubs like in previous years. With COVID, Clubs have been a challenge both with funding and interest. Going to ask Foundation to see if they would consider funding some clubs.

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7. **Next meeting:** February 25, 2021 @5pm

8. Important Dates

- February 3 – Picture Retakes for F2F and LaunchED students
- February 9 – OGA Virtual Parent Academy @7:00p
- February 11 – Progress reports distributed
- February 15 – No school (President’s Day)
- February 16 – OGA Virtual Parent Academy @7:00p
- February 17 – National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- February 18 – Mental Health Course (middle school only)
- February 23 – OGA Virtual Parent Academy @7:00p
- February 24 – Digital Learning Day

9. Adjournment

- Sarah Courtney moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Melonie Sexton.
 - Passed unanimously
- Jennifer Vose, SAC Chair, closed the meeting at 6:40pm.

The Orlando Gifted Academy School Advisory Council (SAC) is a team of individuals from various segments of the community: parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/industry people, and other interested community members. The sole purpose of the SAC is to “assist in the preparation and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan.” [Florida Statute 229.58]