

Britt Despenza  
Principal

## Orlando Gifted Academy

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

<https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net>



### SAC Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2021

#### 1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Ms. Despenza @3:33p.m.
- Members present: Annmarie Cherolini, Britt Despenza, Karen Diaz, Mary Anne Dunn, Sarah Gal, Martina Herndon, Andrella Hurley, Jenn Mandelion Chrisman, Betty Mittleman, Dawn Salmons, Ericka Scheid, Melonie Sexton, Kristen Tame, Kristy Walson

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

- Ms. Despenza welcomed all in attendance. The voting members for 2021-2022 were named. Ms. Despenza and Ms. Scheid explained the reasoning for not needing to vote for voting members this school year because only eight parents expressed interest in being on SAC. Parents were able to express interest in joining using a QR code which was available at the SAC table during Meet the Teacher or using a link on the school website. Additional ways for parents to express interest next year was discussed. Ms. Herndon motion to move forward with the meeting at 3:40. Ms. Chrisman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

#### 3. Minutes from Previous Meeting

#### 4. Old Business

- **Renzulli Learning**
  - A subscription to Renzulli Learning was purchased for this school year. Teachers have been utilizing to gain student interest in projects as well as to provide students with additional opportunities to extend learning.
- **SAC Bylaws**
  - Will be reviewed at future meeting.

#### 5. New Business

- **Partners in Education**
  - Ms. Lineberry is our PIE coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year. She reviewed the PIE introduction PowerPoint with all in attendance.
- **Principal's Report**
  - Project enrollment: 321
  - Enrollment as of 5/2021: 346
  - Enrollment as of 09/2021: 321 (168 in elementary, 153 in middle)
    - Middle School teachers are teaching multiple subject areas and most need certifications in more than one area
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has 22 students. How can we market OGA for next year to increase those numbers?
  - Funds 145 & 211: \$0 (School Recognition Funds will not be received this year)

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- Communication: Friday Connect Orange message and email, Newsletters (monthly school, biweekly Journalism, biweekly elementary); Parents stated they appreciated the increased communication and posts on social media.
- Volunteers are allowed on campus, but must be approved through ADDitions. Ms. Scheid is the ADDitions coordinator and will check the database every Friday to refer/approve volunteer requests.
- Open House is planned to be in person. To assist with social distancing and to alleviate any parking concerns, OGA will have separate Elementary & Middle School Open House dates. The church across Fern Creek has graciously agreed to allow us to use their parking lot for overflow parking. OGA are open to ideas on how to manage parking for family spirit nights.
- Blinds: Three vendors have been on campus to measure. We expect them soon.
- Science Portable: We may be receiving a dedicated district science portable for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class. The district is continuing to monitor need and availability.
- Panic Gates: OGA is still expected to receive panic gates (push-gates). They will be paid for by the district.
- Shed: Due to increased enrollment in middle school, OGA had to temporarily relocate PE materials for Ms. Sharpe and Ms. Mullen. A shed to hold these items is in the process of being approved and installed. OGA expects to have the shed on campus by the end of first semester (OGA has been told it is 12 weeks out).
- Surprise event: Students celebrated returning to school with a surprise event. Students went to the auditorium, moved around to music, and received a special gifted (class t-shirts, which included their graduation date on the back).
- Honor Society: Dr. Carr is the NJHS sponsor. Some activities students have participated in are providing coffee and donuts, a car wash, to staff in the morning and a hygiene drive.
- Makerspace: Ms. Cybulski is facilitating Makerspace for grades 2-5. Classes will rotate through Makerspace on a 6 week schedule (3 days a week for 2 weeks). The OGA Fund purchased tablets to use in Makerspace.
- School Competitions: Dr. Carr is conducting Florida Lego League for middle schoolers as an elective during the school day. Ms. Olowu is teaching a Research elective where students are participating in Odyssey of the Mind. We will also be having a middle school Math competition team.
- Clubs: OGA is planning to start clubs in a few weeks. Teachers do not get a supplement for clubs, so they will be based on their interest and availability.
- Leadership Team was introduced.
- School Improvement Plan: SIP has been approved by OCPS, but still waiting on approval from the state. Ms. Despenza included differentiation of instruction and culture and environment. She shared that OGA was selected to pilot a Caring School Community SEL curriculum in our elementary classrooms. Ms. Hurley shared how Caring School Community is going in her

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class, as well as the benefits to implementation (universal language/vocabulary and investment by grade/school). Middle School Advanced Academics are using 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

### 6. SAC Meeting Dates

- October 14
- November 18
- January 27
- February 24
- April TBD
- May TBD

### 7. Important Dates

- September 20-24 – Start with Hello Week
- September 21 – Parent Workshop with Ms. Tame
- September 22 – Elementary Open House (4-5:30p)
- September 29 – Middle School Open House (4:00-6:00p)
- September 30 – Parent Workshop with Ms. Tame
- October 1-8 – Scholastic Book Fair (in person)
- October 5 – Picture Day
- October 7 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period
- October 14 – SAC Meeting / Family Math Night
- November 18 – SAC Meeting / Multicultural Night
- December 9 – Winter Performance
- January 27 – SAC Meeting / Literacy Night
- February 24 – SAC Meeting / Black History Celebration

### 8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 4:47p (Ms. Herndon motioned and Ms. Chrisman 2<sup>nd</sup>).