

Britt Despenza  
Principal

## Orlando Gifted Academy

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

<https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net>



November 12, 2020  
SAC Meeting Agenda

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

- 5:09pm 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           | Present    |
| Raegan Smythe             | SAC Secretary            | Present    |
| Sarah Courtney            | SAC Parent member        | Present    |
| Jenn Mandelion Chrisman   | SAC Parent member        | Present    |
| Martha McCormick - Watson | SAC Parent member        | Absent     |
| Melonie Sexton            | SAC Parent member        | Present    |
| Jami Valentine Miller     | SAC Parent member        | Absent     |
| Melissa Vaughan           | SAC Parent member        | Present    |
| Annamarie Cherolini       | OGA Secretary            | Present    |
| Ericka Scheid             | OGA Behavior Specialist  | Present    |
| Britt Despenza            | OGA Principal            | Present    |
| Theresita V.              | Community Representative | Absent     |

### 2. Old Business

- **SAC Vice-Chair**
  - Possible “unofficial” position.
  - Current SAC Chair is concerned about any instances where she could not be present, to have someone to run meetings and make decisions.
  - Jeremy Siegel nominated himself.
  - No one else was nominated.
  - Jeremy Siegel was appointed Vice Chair.

### 3. New Business

- **Principal’s update**
  - **Staffing**
    - LaunchEd parents expressed concerns about virtual PE and field day celebration problems
      - Ms. Despenza reached out to OCPS about the internet connection and was told that a ‘hotspot’ will not help cover the PE area.
      - Ms. Scheid reached out to 10 other schools in the area for creative suggestions.
      - When those options came up empty, they looked at the budget
      - The new proposed idea is the possibility of hiring a ‘Para’ – which stands for paraprofessional
        - Paraprofessional job titles vary from teaching assistant, classroom aide and student aide. So this position can help in multiple areas, not just PE.

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- The paraprofessional position has been posted. It has to be posted for 7 days
  - In the meantime, Ms. Gayle, the front desk clerk, can assist
  - Ms. Gayle has been assisting Ms. Sharpe when not at the front desk or serving as a substitute for classes
  - Using this combined approach should help to make PE a better experience for everyone.
  - We do not want LaunchEd students to ever feel left out
  - An update on the LPN positions with OCPs.
    - This was changed to a school health assistant, and then back to LPN.
    - Any LPNs in the market are all going to hospitals, not schools
    - As more information comes in, we will provide updates
  - **Media Center Update**
    - The Media Center is complete!
    - Murals are up, furniture arrived, new carpet, and purchased books.
    - The old space has been completely transformed to an amazing media center.
    - The goal was to make the space appealing to both elementary and middle school students.
  - **Foundation**
    - Backboards & rims for basketball: A parent, Mr. McElveen, donated and then orchestrated a GoFundMe page in collaboration with OGA PTA to purchase new basketball hoops and rims for both courts.
    - All 4 backboards & rims are ready to be installed.
    - Foundation recently announced they have funds available to pay for installation of backboards and rims.
  - **Magnet Fair and Magnet Tours**
    - Students created a video to advertise OGA for the Virtual Magnet Fair.
  - **Maker Space is in its own room**
    - Has its own space / room. It has been moved out of the Media Center
    - Maker Space has a plethora of new equipment including sewing machine, laser cutter, and 3D printers.
  - **Student Achievement**
    - Teachers all participate in collaborative planning and meet weekly. Teachers have a ½ day for planning, go through their lessons and share ideas with each other. Every grade level has been doing this since the beginning of the year.
    - Middle school teachers actually collaborate across the county, as well as within the school.
  - **School Climate Survey**
    - Will be going out the Friday before Thanksgiving break, to be returned by the end of vacation.
    - Results will be shared
    - The focus will be on trends, areas for improvement and find out what OGA is doing well.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**
- Voted on and approved

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### 5. New Business (returned)

- **Review SAC By-laws (discuss/clarify term limits)**
  - There is a conflict between sections 3, 9 & 2.
    - Section #3 refers to a 2-year consecutive term limit for SAC members.
    - Section #9 refers to a 2-year consecutive term limit for SAC leadership, unless running unopposed.
    - Section #2 references that a SAC member's term is one year.
  - Ms. Despenza gave some background on the bylaws that the original purpose was to involve new people and not have a stagnant committee.
  - It was proposed to remove Section #3.
  - To answer a question about SAC demographics – Ms. Despenza explained that the SAC body has to match the state's demographics for the school. The OGA SAC has been in line with the necessary demographics.
  - Mr. Siegel moved to remove Section #3 from the current bylaws.
  - The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa Vaughan.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
- **Discussion on Survey Request about different learning modalities**
  - Ms. Despenza will be sending out a climate survey, and encourages everyone to fill it out.
    - Climate survey was created in consultation with a survey previously submitted by a parent.
      - Parent input was encouraged, received, evaluated and included.
    - Floor was opened for any other possible survey items.
      - Parent preference on foreign language for all grades
      - How to better Incorporate Specials for LaunchEd kids
      - LaunchEd experience, how the parents and kids feel.
      - Ask how many people are going to switch to F2F
    - A question was asked about substitute teachers. A similar question was asked last meeting.
      - Ms Despenza reiterated how substitute teachers are difficult to get from the county, for a multiple of reasons.
      - An item of note - OCPS is using a temp agency (Kelly Educational Staffing) for substitute teachers. Temporary staff do not have access to Canvas.
      - Because of these issues, OGA is doing their best to cover classes using existing staff.

6. **Next meeting:** December 17, 2020, 3:30pm (note date and time change)

### 7. Important Dates

- November 12 – Virtual Family Math Night
- November 17 – Last day of book fair
- November 18 – Teach-In (virtual)
- November 18 – Virtual Orchestra Field Trip (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades)
- November 19 – National Parent Engagement Day
- November 19 – Spirit Day (Crazy Sock Day)
- November 19 – Progress Reports Go Home

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- November 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break
- November 30 – Classroom Spelling Bee
- 11/30 – 12/18 – iReady Middle of the Year Diagnostic
- December 3 – OUC Virtual Workshop (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 12/7-12/18 – Common Final Exam's for 1<sup>st</sup> semester courses (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades)
- 12/7-12/18 – PMA #2 (5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades)

### 8. Adjournment

- Melissa Vaughan moved to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melonie Sexton
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm

*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]*