

F.O.C.U.S. MEETING MINUTES

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: LA VAL'S

ATTENDEES:

ELISA LEWIS, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER
KIM OLIVER, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER
COREY JOHNSON, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER
LEE WILSON, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER
LEE NORA GLOVER-OWENS, PARENT
THE JOHNSON'S, PARENTS

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Introductions:

Two New Parents joined FOCUS this month. The Johnson's are the proud parents of Joseph in Ms. Sheppard's class. So we would all like to give them a very warm welcome to F.O.C.U.S. We are so glad they were able to attend and we look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

Old Business/Standing Agenda Items

I. Update on Past Action Items

At the last meeting Erica Varize agreed to create a logo for F.O.C.U.S., but we have not been able to reach her. Elisa will try contacting her to see if this is something she still plans to help out with. If not we will need to find another volunteer to help us with this.

II. Re-Elect Board Members-Update Contact Information

Newly elected Board Members:

Kim Oliver
Elisa Lewis
Lee Wilson
Corey Johnson

Elisa will contact Kanika to see if participating on the Board is something she wants to continue to do as we have not been able to reach her as well.

III. End of year off-site picnic planning

The Potluck BBQ for F.O.C.U.S. will be rescheduled for Sunday May 20th at 2pm. The location will still be San Pablo Park. Lee Nora will make a flyer for the families and will include an RSVP and also a notice if there are any dietary restrictions.

IV. PTA Oxford By Numbers

On Tuesday May 15th Janet Levenson will present Oxford by Numbers. The meeting starts at 6:30pm and we are hoping all F.O.C.U.S. members will be present to hear the achievement gap information. Kim Oliver shared a concern that was already shared at the Oxford Site Council which is the data is released in October and yet the presentation is scheduled for May. The F.O.C.U.S. members agreed that we would all like to see the Data presented no later than November. FOCUS would also like an electronic copy of the Power Point Presentation of the Oxford by Numbers Meeting to discuss at the FOCUS meeting that follows the presentation and also post to the F.O.C.U.S. website . Kim Oliver will be responsible for requesting this from Janet Levenson.

V. P.A.S.S. Updates

The Next PASS meeting is Thursday May 3rd from 6pm-8:30pm at Willard Middle School. We hope all F.O.C.U.S. members will be able to attend.

VI. Website Update

The F.O.C.U.S. website is up and running thanks to Corey Johnson. He has done a fabulous job of putting a website together for us. It looks wonderful, so a huge round of applause for Corey. If there is content you would like added to the website please email Corey with an electronic version of your information and he will update the website. Corey's email address is: CJTAZ316@aol.com
The F.O.C.U.S. web address is: www.OXFORDFOCUS.net
Check it out!

New Business:

I. Oxford Proposed Budget for 20 07-2008

Kim Oliver shared the proposed budget with the F.O.C.U.S. group and her concerns that the budget was not appoint monies to increase the direct services needed for the kids at Oxford that are falling behind . Some of the parents had questions that Kim was not able to answer regarding the reading recovery program so we tabled those until the next meeting when they can ask Janet directly. There were also concerns brought up regarding the fact that there are no interventions in place for the older grades . This item will be added as Old business on the Agenda for the next meeting.

II. Oxford Site Plan

Kim Oliver explained what the Oxford Site Plan is and all of the parents requested a copy. Kim will bring copies to the next meeting for parents and will also send Corey an electronic copy to add to the F.O.C.U.S. website. The school site plan is so important to all families because it is a document that is presented to the district which details the school data, the budget and the plans for improvement which impacts every child's experience at Oxford. All families are encouraged to read it and familiarize yourself with this document.

III. Fundraising for Oxford

Families of Color United for Success

Due to time constraints we did not get to this agenda item so it will be tabled until the next meeting and added to New Business.

IV. 2007-2008 F.O.C.U.S Welcome Committee

We will create a F.O.C.U.S. welcome committee and set up a welcome booth at the first back to school night in Fall 2007. The Board will collaborate and set this up. This will be a way to introduce F.O.C.U.S to new parents and returning parents that did not have the opportunity to get involved. We will also send out a publication the first week of school to all Black families at Oxford. All of next year's meeting dates and events will be determined this year so that we make it on the Oxford calendar and the Oxford website to get our meetings publicized and organized. Everyone at the meeting agreed that we need to be as organized as possible if we are going to effect change.

V. Additions to Agenda

Principal Levenson would like to be included and invited to every meeting going forward. We all agreed that she should be invited to every meeting, but a concern was voiced that some parents feel more comfortable speaking when amongst their peers, so we will ask that Janet leave half way through the meeting so we can open the discussion for those parents. Elisa Lewis will not be able to make the next meeting, but we will still proceed with the meeting as planned at Oxford. We will be sure to invite Ms. Levenson. ☺ Lee Nora will also prepare the flyer for the next meeting.

Some parents had been notified that the state testing was coming up. There was some confusion as to whether or not there are practice tests that could be sent home for parents to work with their students because none of the parents at the meeting had received practice tests or sample tests.

FOCUS would again like to hear from Janet a more detailed explanation as to a site plan to both attract and hire a staff that is reflective of the diverse student population at Oxford. This item will be added to the next meeting Agenda as old business. Kim Oliver will request from Janet the statistics of the current staff. We are especially concerned that we need more male teachers.

Lee Nora Glover-Owens also brought up and recommended that Oxford has another event similar to that on International Women's Day where positive male role models come to the morning assembly and share their careers. It is just as important for boys as it is girls to see male role models in their community. We were thinking the week before Father's Day might be a good time to do that.

The meeting we adjourned at 8:30pm.