

Parent Advisory Board Meeting

August 10, 2017

Present: Tracee Beck, Susan Connelly, Jason Cox, Jayne Gaspari, Erin Hericks, Veronica Houston, Joan Mahoney, Karen Mikuska, Kathryn Muller, Maria Neely, Kerry Olson, Michelle Pellman, Tom Polak, Kristin Ripperda, Connie Scott, Stephanie Spader, Matt Stork, Nancy Tapken-Mor, Mark Viehweg and Jackie Shotkoski.

Guests: Alex Anderson, Susanne Gale, Kelly Jones and Steve Kueter

Prayer

Introductions

Susanne Gale – Director of Development- 1994 OG Grad: Extravaganza

- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Alumni
- ✓ Certificates
- ✓ Development
- ✓ Knightwear
- ✓ Media & publications
- ✓ Dakota Bowl
 - 7:00 pm Kick-off on Saturday, September 2nd
 - Mass starts at 3:00 pm – this mass will fulfill the Sunday obligation
 - Time changed for parents of younger children/families
 - Tailgating ~ Starts at 4:00 pm
 - Lot E - \$5 a person – 4 different food vendors
 - Will serve SDSU Ice-cream
 - All help with fundraising will go towards the Dakota Bowl
 - Lot D – no parking until 5 pm on Friday September 1st
 - They will send out reminders
 - Parents still responsible for their students/children
 - Wrestling club will help clean up in the morning
 - Class tailgates – parents' are responsible
 - No students are allowed to camp / park overnight
 - Blitz day was August 1st – record of \$194,00 raised
 - Raffles still available at \$100
 - We play Harrisburg

Steve Kueter – Activities Director:

- ✓ Today was the last day of all fall sports starting
- ✓ Over 600 students participating
- ✓ 26 coaches – only one new one – Lindsay Ussery
- ✓ No more district tournaments – Now we have “Sweet 16 seeding play-off format” which is a good thing for OG

Purpose of PAB:

- ✓ Reviewed duties and responsibilities of a PAB member
 - Serve as a sounding board and provide feedback to OGHS Principal
 - Provide discussion, input, and feedback on various topics, programs and issues.
 - Communicate to his or her parishes and to serve as a communication vehicle to and from OGHS.
 - Serve as a liaison between parents and administration.
 - Attend monthly meetings at OGHS – currently scheduled from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month, normally.
 - Inform appropriate parish and community members about your role as a representative on the PAB
 - Welcome new families to OGHS community.
 - Prayer card handed out to each member to pray for a group of faculty and staff at OGHS.
 - PAB – prayer cards include all the faculty/staff at OGHS
 - School Board – prayer cards include all the seniors
 - OGHS Faculty/Staff – prayer cards include all the seniors
 - Provide snacks for teachers/staff during parent-teacher conferences.
 - Assist in freshman recruitment process.
 - Organize snacks for teachers and staff during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (1st week of May)
 - There will be a maximum of 3 representatives from each of the following: St. Michael, St. Therese, Holy Spirit, St. Mary, Christ the King, St. Lambert, and St. Katharine Drexel. We will also have 2 members-at-large (represents other faith denominations).
 - Representatives will serve for a period of 3 years.
 - At the end of the 3-year period, the representative will notify their parish priest/community of an opening on the PAB and submit an ad (e.g., parish bulletin and word of mouth).
 - Individuals interested in serving on the Board can submit their name to their parish priest. The parish priest will make a recommendation to O’Gorman’s principal.
 - Members-at-large will submit their names to O’Gorman’s principal for consideration.

New Faculty:

- ✓ Teresa Mead – Chemistry Teacher – K-206
- ✓ Julie Konz – Academic Services Coordinator – G-203
- ✓ Natasha Fuller – English I & II – O-205
- ✓ Skye Bork – English I, Journalism, World Geography, Speech – O-202
- ✓ Kelly Reagan – AP English IV, English IV, English I – O-203
- ✓ Tara Johanneson – Computer Science/Technology Integration – G-106
- ✓ Lindsey Ussery – Show Choir – Choir Room/Dance Studio
- ✓ Nolan Cleary – Ethics & Relationships/Morality & Justice – K-106
- ✓ Anika Rodig – German I, II, III, AP German, US Language & Culture – G-108
- ✓ Christy Zwagerman – Spanish I – K-109
- ✓ Jean Gill – Government & AP Government

- ✓ Mikaela Schnetter – Academic Services
- ✓ Nicole Wellington – Campus Minister / Christian Services

Enrollment Update:

- ✓ 781 Students - as of 8/8/17
 - 162 seniors
 - 205 juniors
 - 215 sophomores
 - 190 freshmen
- ✓ We have 9 part-time students
- ✓ We have 12 new international students for a total of 21 international students
- ✓ Kelly Jones is in charge of the international students

Technology – OG One Goal:

- ✓ From Magazine Drive to Knight Drive to One Goal
- ✓ Some students weren't comfortable with pressure of selling
- ✓ Students will not get the day after the Super Bowl off
- ✓ Presently at 1/3 way to goal- we have \$35,000 raised
- ✓ 300 new chromebooks purchased for this year
- ✓ Improving time on task is the biggest goal
- ✓ Signing up for labs and then changing classrooms, getting everyone signed on all takes extra time of the class period.
- ✓ Goal for Fall 2018 is for each student to have their own Chromebook
- ✓ Students want to use online books instead of carrying around the actual copy of the book
- ✓ Current computer labs – one has been transitioned into a classroom.
- ✓ We will always have at least three labs. We presently have five labs.

Incoming Freshmen & Transfer Student Phone Calls:

- ✓ September meeting we will hand out students to each PAB member to make phone calls to check in.
- ✓ This gives us really good feedback.

All Sports Kick-Off (5:30 pm) Thursday, Aug. 17th:

- ✓ Meal in the cafeteria
- ✓ Then go to the gym
- ✓ Anyone that is participating in sports all year is invited to this

Open House (7:00 pm) Thursday, August 17th:

- ✓ Same night as All Sports Kick-Off
- ✓ Parents only
- ✓ See classrooms and meet teachers

Attendance Matters Campaign – Alex Anderson:

- ✓ See attached handout
- ✓ Alex checked attendance and what the policy is and what it looks like across the country
- ✓ He did research focusing on last year's seniors
- ✓ 10 absences in one semester equates to 2-3 days per month

- ✓ Those absences affected the students GPA with an average of 2.85 compared to the class average of 3.52 and scored almost 2 points lower on the ACT.
- ✓ Most detentions are coming from being tardy 1st period
- ✓ How can we address this problem?
- ✓ Students get one free excused tardy every 6 weeks for 1st period.
- ✓ Missing school negatively impacts the student, classmates and the teacher.
- ✓ Learning environment is affected.
- ✓ What can parents do to help their children with attendance?
 - Know that school attendance is a parent and student responsibility
 - Do not allow your child to persuade you into making an excuse for him/her.
 - Drop your child off at school or provide an alternate plan of transportation in the morning.
 - Leave 5 to 10 minutes earlier in the morning
 - When scheduling appointments try to schedule around study halls and lunch times. Reinforce to your student that he/she only be gone for the appointment and not include other things into the time being gone. The student needs to come directly back to school.
 - Set a regular bedtime schedule and limit technology use at night.
- ✓ Perhaps put numbers into Knight Letter for how many absences, etc for month
- ✓ Students feel they can get information for class digitally and do not understand the importance of the discussion in class.
- ✓ Projector slides at Open House – regarding attendance
- ✓ Possible incentives for attendance standards
- ✓ Make it an emphasis for this year!
- ✓ Pam sends out letters at 6 weeks and at 9 weeks with absences to parents

Peer Relations / Mental & Emotional Well Being – Kelly Jones:

- ✓ Did a survey and most students asked for more mental health education
- ✓ Suicide Awareness & Prevention
- ✓ Be open to discussion
- ✓ Speaker for parents at night – is there a specific topic you want discussed?
- ✓ Lunch time for parents to be able to come would work better – those discussions are 23 minutes long and you have 4 different times to choose from
- ✓ Large contributor is social media
- ✓ Students can anonymously leave leads that go directly to the counselors regarding students in need
- ✓ They can give referrals to outside counselors
- ✓ Counselors have an open door policy
- ✓ We will have a prevention counselor at OG 3 days a week – Nick Fischer

Next meeting is September 7th at 11:30 am

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attendance is a strong predictor of student performance at O’Gorman High School.

- 2017 seniors who missed at least 10 class periods in any one class each semester had an average GPA of 2.85 compared to the class average of 3.52 and scored almost 2 points lower on the ACT.
- Nearly half of all detentions last year were from students being tardy to first period (students are allowed one unexcused first period tardy per six week reporting period with no penalty).

O’Gorman’s attendance policy states that 10 or more absences from a class in any one semester may result in loss of credit for that class.

- 10 absences in one semester equates to 2-3 days per month

Missing school has a negative impact on the student, classmates, and teacher.

- Teacher feedback on assignments and assessments is delayed
- The learning environment is altered for the other students and teacher
- The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost
- Poor academic performance diminishes a student’s confidence and attitude toward learning

What can parents do to help their children with attendance?

- Know that school attendance is a parent and student responsibility.
- Do not allow your child to persuade you into making an excuse for him/her.
- Drop your child off at school or provide an alternate plan of transportation in the morning.
- Make a contract with the child to improve their attendance rate.
- Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of them being late or absent.
- Contact the school to ask for help or suggestions if needed.
- Review the school calendar throughout the year.
- Talk to your child about issues that may be making them late for school.
- Set a regular bedtime schedule and limit technology use at night.
- Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school in the morning.
- Schedule medical, dental, and other appointments before and after school.
- View tardiness as unacceptable behavior.

Action steps to improve student attendance

- Display statistics and strategies with parents at Open house
- A section in the monthly Knight Letter will be devoted to the attendance matter campaign
- Provide teachers with strategies to improve student attendance
- Brainstorm different incentives to reward students with certain attendance standards

Questions for the PAB

- What is the best way to partner with parents to decrease absences and first period tardies?