

# Olander PTO Minutes

Date: January 9, 2007

## 1. Project Based Learning

- Mrs. Thordarson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, gave a presentation (to be repeated at the Spaghetti Dinner later this month) regarding the goals of PBL and their implementation at Olander. Information included many positive aspects for Olander students:

--Kids explore real world problems and issues. This gets them excited to learn because they can relate to the subject matter. It gives their projects authenticity.

--The students meet national/state standards while benefiting from experience in collaboration, critical thinking, written/oral communication, and work ethic. These are vital to their success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

--They gain experience in technology and professional development. Rather than providing students the information outright, they must research it by gathering data and using various scientific tools to find the answers they need. It also allows them to interact with experts in the community. Final projects are presented to an audience in a professional manner.

- Two examples of student presentations were given.

--2<sup>nd</sup> Graders studied the area behind the school where the new park is being built. They were given the driving questions "Were the birds gone from the area behind the school? And if so, how can we get them back?" Raven and Lauren shared what they had researched on the great horned owl, including habitat and physical characteristics.

--5<sup>th</sup> Graders Evan and Zachery (minus teammate Jake), gave a Power Point presentation on their creation of Monster Cookie Dough. The team conducted market research and ad campaigns using a mythological creature to promote the new cookie dough they had created.

- After more Q&A, and praise to the kids and teachers involved, a vote was passed to fund the 4 half-day teacher release days Brian had previously requested. The time will be used to reflect and plan PBL projects.

## 2. Spaghetti Dinner

- January 26<sup>th</sup> with three RSVP sittings—6:00, 6:30 and 7:00pm. Those with no reservations to be seated at 7:30 to prevent running out of food.

- Applications for servers went out to 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms this week. They are due the 19<sup>th</sup> and interviews are to be held the following week.

- Project Based Learning presentations will be made by some grades in the Media Center during dinner at rotating times. Students to be determined by their teachers. Little Shop of Physics is being contacted to provide their services as well.

### 3. REACH Update

- No report available at this time. Information should be coming soon.

### 4. Sound System

- No word yet on cart that Mike Robinson is putting together for the system. Stay tuned.

### 5. Directory Update

- Nancy Ozello is sending directory to be printed this week.

### 6. Volunteer Update

- Bill Kranz reported that he attended the last staff meeting and let teachers know that he had help available if needed for classroom activities.
- The volunteer policy for PSD was discussed. The background checks required by the district are not easily enforced by the school. How to distinguish checked volunteers from non-approved ones is to be discussed further-- possibly making more permanent name tags for volunteers or lists given to teachers of approved volunteers.

### 7. PTO Funding Requests

- Ideas on where to put Family Fun Night \$\$
- Treasurer report includes the purchase of 26 DVD players for gift to each teacher. Vote passed to buy cable converters for each one so that they can be connected to TVs in each room. Approximately \$15/converter.
- All new requests for teacher/room funding are due by the next Executive Board meeting, Jan. 19.

### 8. No New Business

Respectfully submitted,  
*Holly Holland*  
*January 11, 2007*