

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FOR ALL ! (OEFA)

MEETING AGENDA – August 6, 2014 3:00-5:00 pm

LOCATION: *Chico Junior High School*, classroom of Mary Anne Pella-Donnelly, **Room 304.**

Thanks, Mary Anne!

ATTENDING: Tony Catalano, Shannon Johnson, Marti Leicester, Nate Millard, Mary Anne Pella-Donnelly, Lisa Speegle.

AGENDA : Note: ACTION items noted in BOLD ITALICS

A. 1. Introductions, agenda review, ground rules – Marti

2. Approve July meeting minutes -

Approved unanimously.

3. Announcements

-Leave of absence: Caitlin Reilly will need to take a leave of absence from the Steering Committee due to budget issues at the Nature Center and the need for her to focus on an urgent fundraising campaign. She hopes to re-join the Steering Committee as soon as possible. ***Nature Center staff will continue to participate in the South County pilot project.***

- Save the Date: Oct. 10-11 OEFA sponsored professional development workshop: “NGSS/Taking Science into the Field” Workshop Marti:

a. Instructors Lynne Fonfa and Nancy Caplan will offer services at no cost, courtesy of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service. Only costs will be for participant food. Marti will get cost estimates and set the registration fee. Marti will get out an e-newsletter week of Aug. 11 and note “Save the Date.” Registration will begin mid-September. Open to Providers and Teachers. The workshop is structured to have a “take away” skill (using the widely accepted curriculum development approach “Understanding by Design”) to develop outdoor education programs using NGSS standards. Workshop capped at 35 participants. Jeff Mott has made a room request for the workshop-still waiting for reply. ***Need to lock in an indoor/outdoor location asap (Marti).***

b. Discussion: At the end of June, Nate & Caitlin attended a Teacher and Outdoor Education Practitioner training sponsored by CalAlive-a CREEC affiliated program of the California Department of Education. Both reported the multi-day workshop was well-worthwhile and offered tips to incorporate into the OEFA workshop “NGSS: Taking Science into the Field.” Tips:

c. Decide if participants should use an existing program to adapt to the standards, as the workshop is short; or have the participants develop a new program so they get more out of the learning process

d. NGSS matrix is very confusing, seems complicated at first – takes time to figure it out.

e. Three barriers to implementing NGSS and Common Core (Mary Anne): 1) In science for grades 6-8, NGSS integrates Life/Earth/Physical sciences. But teachers pushing back to teach individually based on their credentialing. State is letting school districts decide how to implement, so not uniform statewide; 2) Teacher training in NGSS is lagging and teachers are pressured and anxious about it; 3) This is affecting timetable to develop new textbooks and content.

- Opening for Outdoor Education Teacher – Lisa: Forest Ranch Charter School is seeking someone to fill this position. Interviews underway week of August 11.

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- **Meeting with Ishi Hills Science Teachers Marti:** Marti and Tony met with 8th and 7th grade science teachers, Jackie Musselman and Amy Brooks, respectively, on 8/5. Learned more about the Butte County science teachers network and relationship to CSUC and Hands on Lab and history of the Science Ambassadors program. Good leads for future follow up and cooperation.

B. Reports:

- OEFA Oroville City Elementary School District (OECSD) Pilot Project status.

Tony/Nate:

a. Tony has the information on their needs from the Principals and Teachers at Stanford Avenue School and Ishi Hills and information is still coming in from Poplar Avenue, Nelson Avenue and Wyandotte schools.

b. Most of the participating Providers went on a field trip to meet the Principal on June 19 and it was an excellent team building and information sharing experience. ***Tony has the fee information from them and is setting up the fall schedule (and some dates into the full school year.)*** Exciting – things are looking very good. At this time, 9 Providers are participating in the pilot program at the schools and Rancho Esquon, Department of Water and Power Oroville Field Station – The Fish Hatchery, and Sacramento Wildlife Refuge are available for school visits as part of the pilot.

c. ***Nate will develop an assessment and evaluation tool and get a draft out to the Steering Committee in the coming week.*** Shannon had a few tips to share on the process of getting CSUC approval. Tony suggested he has a PhD and perhaps the process could take place under the OEFA auspices instead of getting CSUC approval if it becomes too time consuming. Shannon reported the turn-around time on approval is two weeks. We will also have to get the OECSD approval and will want review by BCOE. ***We will also need some control group classrooms of similar ages to the grades in the pilot project. Tony and Mary Anne*** volunteered to help with that.

- **Pending funding request to Masons – Marti: Pending.** No report from Lucas RossMerz yet. Oroville Masons were not meeting in July and August, but funding request for a transportation grant was submitted by Marti, Tony and Lucas to the Mason officers in July.

- **Brad Cooke and Forebay "pilot" – Marti:**

a. No report at time of meeting. **NOTE:** Marti spoke with Brad on 8/7. First week of Forebay programs for Hearthstone Charter School with cooperating Providers went extremely well. Grades 1-6 were served. Mike Hubbartt, Oroville Dam SRA, Derrick Dunn, Altacal Audubon, Chico Creek Nature Center staff (at the Center) and Timmarie Hamill, The Stream Team participated. BCOE top staff, including Tim Taylor, Superintendent, and others from BCOE stopped by to observe and applaud the programs. BCOE also filmed the day's activities and made photographs and a DVR of the events. Brad reported all was rated successful by students and teachers, he felt supported by OEFA Providers and is eager to ***prepare for the week of Aug. 18 when grades 6-12 from Four Winds School*** will come to the Forebay for a week of outdoor education and team building to start the new school year. Brad and Timmarie will be working on some science standards based activities to present.

b. ***Brad has an excellent idea to propose to expand operations at the Forebay for county schools.*** Stay tuned for future news. He may request OEFA resources to assist in

presenting the proposal.

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- **Update on OEFA Providers Brochure** – Marti: Marti will work to cover the tasks that Caitlin had started. First action: ***develop a Provider survey to get the content for the brochure.*** Jennifer Patten and Shannon are still committed to work on this project. ***We will recruit another Provider to assist.*** There is \$500 to help pay the printing costs from the Fox grant.

C. OEFA Draft Vision and Mission Statement:

- a. At this point in the meeting, the group focused on the vision and mission statement as the best way to use the group's time. The conversation was so productive, we stayed over by a half hour as Nate recorded the suggestions and we completed the next draft of the statements. We incorporated the group's real time comments as well as all that had been previously submitted via email and google docs from the other Committee members.
- b. Here are the final draft statements we created (this version can also be accessed for your review through this link to google docs:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xK6kXztpndW7O36TG_IJdQrrfE7R-hDrsPWRvnPZKRo/edit?usp=sharing

Vision:

Outdoor Education for All! (OEFA) brings together interested organizations and individuals to promote outdoor learning. OEFA partners work collaboratively to offer multiple opportunities for quality, standards-based outdoor learning experiences. Initially, the focus of this group will be on K-12, but we are committed to providing outdoor education for ALL!

Mission:

A healthy community includes the biotic community in which we live. Our mission is to raise awareness about conservation, stewardship, and a sense of place through outdoor educational experiences. OEFA also provides high quality field experiences through providing internships that develop job skills for college students, professional development for pre and in service teachers and professional development for informal educators. We believe every aspect of education, from science and math to writing and art, are enhanced through practical hands-on experiences.

We are a collaboration of providers, teachers, university students, non-profit groups, government agencies, educational institutions, businesses, funders, and interested citizens. We work together to strengthen our collective impact, improve education through real world experiences, expand professional development, and sustain our individual and collective efforts. We use current educational research and pedagogy to inform our efforts. We are committed to providing outdoor experiences for all ages, abilities, genders, cultures, and socio-economic groups.

- c. Areas which we discussed in depth: important concepts for us: collaboration, being concise, defining "ALL", creating a vision that allows us to grow and expand over the horizon we can see in front of us today. What exactly is role of OEFA – be precise. Confused over definition of Mission statement – Vision is WHAT. Marti quoted Barbara Rice as saying that Mission is HOW. Added in "funders" but not part of our group – yet!

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d. NOTE: After the meeting, I discovered **MARTI MADE A MISTAKE!** Apologies to all but all is fixable! Barbara sent the following comment when she reviewed our mission statement:

“A mission statement needs to be succinct answer to the question why you do what you do? Not a summary of what you do(goals and objectives) or who you are. I can look at this after the next round of online input. Some of this language can go into other products such as organization description, principles or what not. I can help put these ideas in the right places. “ Barbara is now on vacation and will return on Aug. 25.

e. So, we have more work to do but we recognize this is an ongoing process. Comments: Once all comments are gathered from all OEFA, it gets complex. Need just a few to do the final edit. The Steering Committee will be responsible for adopting the final working version but all OEFA will be participating in developing the Strategic Plan through the planning process to be scheduled with Barbara Rice.

f. We were concerned that we need a working vision and mission statement to put into the new OEFA brochure. It appears that with our current capacity to work on the brochure, we can use the month of August to develop a working statement by early September to fit into the writing of the brochure content.

g. We felt it was critically important to circulate this working draft to all of OEFA. There was concern on how to get comments and incorporate them into final copy for the brochure. google docs changes with every comment made which can be very confusing. Note: Barbara sent a template to use for getting comments that will make this process easier. Marti will send separate emails setting up the review process.

h. We recommend to the rest of the Steering Committee: 1) we circulate the current statement to the Steering Committee for any additional input and to review the work from the last Steering Committee meeting. 2) Send the working document out to the All OEFA mailing list with template for review: 3) Edit all comments into a final and circulate to the Steering Committee for final review: 4) Adopt at next Steering Committee and publish in brochure.

D. OEFA fall scheduling:

1. Steering Committee next meeting:

a. Next Steering Committee meeting? Wednesdays seemed to be best dates last school year. Mondays and Fridays not good. Best dates for those represented: Sept. 3 and 10.

b. ***Marti will send Doodle poll.***

2. Strategic Planning Calendar:

a. All agreed the further in advance we might lock in dates for Strategic Planning, the better attendance we can expect.

b. ***Marti will work with Barbara Rice (assuming we receive a second year of RTCA assistance) to set up dates to complete the Plan. Will get back to Steering Committee for confirmation and then send to All OEFA participants.***

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E. Topics for Next Steering Committee:

1. Topics Not Discussed at 8/6 Steering Committee meeting to be discussed at future meetings:

- a. RTCA application for FY 2105. Update: Letter drafted, sent for review to Committee. Marti and Jim Pushnik will send to RTCA. Barbara Rice has granted a deadline extension.
- b. Discussion on proposed schedule and next steps for strategic planning,
- c. Review, discuss the revised Committee Roles (charter)
- d. Review, discuss a decision-making protocol. Attached - **NEW**. Discussion - revisions?
- e. Steering Committee recruitment - criteria discussion and potential candidates brainstorming:
 - High on Marti's priority is to meet with Dr. Perry, President of Butte College and recruit a Steering Committee from the College. Lisa Speegle is working with Marti on setting this up.
 - Marti and Tony are working on a possible candidate from Paradise schools to include another elementary school (science teacher.)
 - Other criteria and candidates will be discussed and considered
- f. Preparation for the next OEFA General meeting.
- g. Google docs training with Tanya Parish. (We need to find a way to post our Steering Committee meeting minutes for all OEFA review ASAP.)
- h. Report on ChangeScale information (Bay Area group doing collective impact work for environmental education.)
- d. Set fundraising priorities and/or keep list of funding needs as they are suggested or arise.
- e. Other

2. Next Steps:

- a. Send out Steering Committee meeting minutes and 2014-21015 proposed action/meetings calendar.*
- b. Send doodle poll for next Steering Committee meeting.*
- c. Send out doodle poll to confirm Strategic Planning Schedule.*
- d. Send out to Steering Committee revised (as of 8/6/14) Vision and Mission statements and get additional comments – fix mission statement (with B. Rice?)*

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. Steering Committee meetings during the school year will take place from 4-6 pm to accommodate teaching schedules.

mkleicester/8.13.14

ATTACHMENT: OEFA Actions List, 8/13/14