







Outdoor Education For All!
Steering Committee OPA!!! Meeting Agenda MINUTES**
Wednesday, April 29, 4:00-6:30 pm
Chico Junior High School
Classroom of Mary Anne Pella-Donnelly, Rm. 304, Chico Jr. High
Bring your own cup! Potluck snacks if you wish-optional...Hi
Attending: Mary Anne, Tony, Lucas, Jeff, Lisa, Marti, Nate, Shannon, Debbie.
Facilitator: Marti. **Unable to attend:** Christine McCormick

Proposed outcomes:

-  Steering Committee membership affirmed for next terms.
-  Happy Anniversary Steering Committee! OEFA OPA!! celebration and reflection on our past year's work together and your thoughts on the year ahead - Action Plan
-  Final Steering Committee Recruitment Guidance *approved*
-  Steering Committee recruitment strategy developed (Matrix)
-  Outreach and Funding Matrix review and next steps
-  OEFA General meeting agenda developed for May 12

I. Welcome, ground rules, agenda review, March meeting minutes approved.
Marti convened the meeting at 4:10 pm. Minutes **Approved unanimously.**

II. Steering Committee Recruitment Guidance Document final draft discussion, approval

OEFA! (as Lucas says, "as in OPA! – a Greek traditional cry of HOORAY! LIFE IS GOOD! Etc. See bottom of Minutes.)**

1. Affirmation of the OEFA Steering Committee moving forward. A few minutes of reflection from each of you on what it has meant to you working with OEFA this past year and your thoughts/hopes for the future of the Steering Committee and for the OEFA network based on our Action Plan.
2. April marked the first Anniversary of this Steering Committee. **All Steering Committee members have agreed to stay on for a second term.** As the Committee members reviewed the past year, the accomplishments they thought were most significant and what they hoped for in the coming year, they also started to identify names for potential new Committee members.
3. **Mary Anne** – Hope: align programs with standards. Year has gone well, many Providers now signed up on CREEC network.
4. **Lisa** – Hope: promote program, see structure defined, and get money.
5. **Jeff** – Accomplishment: Completing the Strategic Plan. Barbara is wonderful, and Thank You to Marti for her work to support OEFA progress. Hope: Market the Strategic Plan. Show it to potential donors and get funding for positions to keep us going. Tony and Marti have to cut back – they are putting in too many hours. Once Strategic Plan is ready to go, I'm ready to take it to funders!

6. Tony. Pleased he has been able to work on behalf of Oroville schools. Hope: Get a FT position and get the Provider programs standards aligned.

7. Lucas – Has permission to stay on from his Board!.... Now, does he have the time? ☺
Hope: Get to the next space – have a permanent place for OEFA to establish itself as an entity and then launch concept to all of the North State. So many accomplishments this past year: the brochure, Strategic Plan, priorities, and what happened in the south county schools can't be undervalued. A big deal!

8. Nate – loves this work! Assumes he will be here in Fall. His only caveat is whether he will be working in Chico. (Nate subsequently was offered a position at CSUC). CSU has a big grant in which he will be involved. Learning Lab – monitoring energy for output and he will get cameras and make a video and show at the dorms. Hopes: Assessment and translate into what do the results mean. Wants to work with Providers to work with Curriculum (Mary Anne, Christine, Nate – might be a Committee working on an Experimental design and see if we can see a difference), move into ITEC and more with Campus Students.

9. Debbie retiring in 8 days! (Congratulations all around!) She will be adjusting to a major life change and will remain on the committee as long as she can but has to feel her way. Will stay on until finds another representative from State Parks or with common interests and goals that fit.

Hope: Wants to work in Tehama Co and take OEFA model there! Wants to see what happens in south county and has time now for observation and learn what can be transferred from Butte to Tehama. She has already talked with Sac River Discovery Center and they are willing to get involved. Need to ID the Tehama Providers in CREEC. She also went to Dept of Ed thinking they would know who to contact but they didn't! So lots of work to do! She will keep looking for contact in that dept. Also wants to work with Continuation HS and there is a teacher excited to get involved. Debbie will meet with the Principal. Cal. Fish & Wildlife have a wonderful outdoor education site in Shasta Co. but no one uses it. There is even Anderson Park, Woodson Bridge (Dave Tinker – could be involved. Corning.) Many sites – who are the Providers? She would like to get a grant to do a Tehama Co. brochure like Butte's/OEFA brochure. Scary thinking not too many Providers.

9. Lucas immediately offered to help Debbie. They have common goals for Tehama. Debbie is on the Preservation Trust Board!. Flood Plains Institute might generate contacts. There is a program called FISH in the classroom offered by Shasta Trinity Fly fishers – have people come in, kids come out and release them. Teach to fish. Good curriculum. Many opportunities and he will work with Debbie to find other Tehama buddies.

Does working in Tehama puts this concept in the area where there is McConnell funding? Debbie thought they fund in Shasta mostly.

10. Shannon – Also not sure what her job situation will be next year but happy to stay on until she knows more. Definitely looking other places for work. Hopes to stay local. Yes, through the summer. Hope: if she is here, most interested in CREEC and if it is enough that will be her main goals on going North. This year stationed in south co. This summer – CREEC will go to Redding and focus on farther North State counties Bring what we put

together for OEFA there. Know there are people interested in doing that. Expand the network.

Other opportunities: Nature Center and CREEC – involved with workshops. CREEC sponsor and focus on the training aspect. Survey what Providers and Teachers want – continue to survey. Get a sense of who wants what and when to schedule. Try to do an NGSS in summer and/or fall. NGSS training is 3 days – spread that out? Perhaps schedule a monthly Provider meeting for CREEC. Not a lot of communication. Schedule a time and do it. Make it themes. OUTREACH to the Providers. Make CREEC a sponsor of the trainings because that is where there are resources.

III. Review and approve Recruitment Guidelines and Core Values

This topic was tabled due to lack of time and will be completed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

IV. Steering Committee Recruitment Matrix (fill in) and discuss next steps – who will contact whom. Deadline for recruiting new committee members: August 1.

Most of the meeting focused on generating names according to the priority matrix priorities. **Recruitment priorities will be set at the next Steering Committee meeting.** Thanks to Shannon for taking the notes on the matrix at the computer!

V. Review and next steps: Updated Fundraising and Outreach matrix

1. Brief review and discussion.
 2. Summary of last meetings brainstorm of priorities and potential position needs
 - Grant writer and program facilitator
 - Two positions or combined? Both are big jobs
 - Funded by? Portion of large grant line item, or % of each grant to pay writers expenses
 - An important goal is already partially being met through the Forebay grant funds that provide bus transportation for visiting schools. funded transportation grant
 3. Suggestion: might OEFA overhead charge be dispersed among the providers? Or providers charge and pay an annual amount to OEFA. OEFA might request an annual donation from providers to cover overhead.
 4. Another suggestion: Organizations could sponsor providers!
 5. Next meeting will be used to further discuss financial stability of OEFA.
- And strategic plan details will be further refined so they can be finalized by July 2015 into a publication through RTCA that can be used as a marketing piece with funders.
6. Finish steering committee selection/recruitment process

VI. Finalize Agenda for General OEFA May 12 Meeting

- 1. Location and Time:** Bidwell Mansion 4-7
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Announcements (providers showcase-May 21 at BCCNC)
4. Anne Stephens- state and national funding opportunities

5. Barbara will present Strategic Plan-steering committee members speak to parts of it
Shannon and Nate Goal #1 training
Tony and Mary Anne #2 and #3
Shannon #4
Barbara #5
Nate Goal #6
Lucas and Marti Goal #7
Jeff Goal #8

Marti will review the goals one more time to make sure each speaker is talking about the goal with which they have the most experience.

6. Nate will create a google presentation for everyone to insert slides into
Second part is a slide show presentation of pilot program successes, challenges and future plans

7. Panel to provide review of pilot program from perspective of
A participating provider
A participating teacher
Steering committee member where to go from this pilot program
Nate discuss assessment taken from pilot program
Shannon will discuss survey of providers to make standards connections

VII. Next Steps and adjourn

After May 12 General meeting, Marti will doodle poll for dates for the next Steering Committee for an early summer meeting.

VII. Announcements:

1. He has initiated "Outdoor Nation" on the campus. It's a national competition to get people outdoors-in September, tag CSU Chico! Chico will win! Don't have to be a student to participate!
2. Shannon-brochure-can get 5000 brochures for \$1000. We may not need that many \$500 for 1000. \$600 for 2500. Unanimous agreement to print 2,500 brochures.
GOING TO PRINT!!!

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

mkleicester 5.29.15

****OPA!!!! OEFA**

The Greek word "opa!" has deeper meaning and significance than many people may realize. To be sure, most people of Greek heritage, and even those who are not, have used or heard this word on some occasion. Perhaps it was in association with Greek dancing. Perhaps you've heard someone shout "opa!" when a plate was broken in a restaurant, whether it was a Greek establishment or not. A single definition for this commonly used word or expression does not exist. However, we can all agree that **the word refers to something that is inspiring, uplifting, exciting and life-affirming.** We've heard some Greeks say that it

signals "danger" and therefore is **an *awakening call*** to remain alert to and in harmony with the ebbs and flows of life. Still others believe the word signifies a moment to embrace and celebrate the *totality* of life.

Not very long ago we received the following insight into the word "opa!" from the editor of a publication of the one of the associations representing Greek Americans in the United States. With obvious enthusiasm and meaning, Mr. George Passes shared the following perspective on what "opa!" really means in everyday life: "We Greeks know that the word 'opa!' touches the core of our being, because it conveys the Greek spirit, the *kefi*, **the independent spirit, the celebration, the joy, that which gives us the feeling it is great to be alive**, and 'opa!' is important enough to have it at any cost."

Huffington Post Blog: Alex Pattakos

I think OPA! describes well our work as OEFA! Thanks, Lucas, for the salutation (from Marti)