BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
11:30 a.m. – Thursday, August 6 2015
Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed

Present: Tom Barthel, Debbie Clements, Angel de la Portilla, Teresa Donaldson, Alan Fidelo, Pam Gould, Michael Ison, Judy Jenkins, Eric Kepfer, Latria Leak, Jeff Mock, Joyce Romano, Eddie Sanabria, Ormend Yielding

Staff: Cindy Williams, Frannie Ferrara, Twanna Scroggins

Guests: Dr. Barbara Jenkins

Absent: Lanie Clowers, Lillian Gonzalez, Eric Houston, Sherry Magee, Jennifer Michaels, Ryan Mahaffey, Dr. Maria Vazquez

Call to Order
Ormend Yielding called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m.

Each board member received note cards along with names and addresses of some sponsors of the golf tournament. Members were asked to write thank you notes to their assigned donors before the end of the meeting.

Board members were invited to ask their companies to make an in-kind donation to the Golf Tournament. Items are needed for the “swag” bags. Commitments forms are in each board folder and are to be given to Twanna Scroggins. Items must be delivered by September 4th.

Board members were asked to volunteer at the Golf Tournament between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on September 11th. Twenty to 30 volunteers are needed the day of the event. There are 288 golfers joining the Foundation for the tournament.

Board members were also asked to volunteer with the Teacher Grant Program. Judges are needed on September 3rd between 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the United Way.

Ormend introduced the new members on the board: Tom Barthel, Lanie Clowers, Judy Jenkins, Jeff Mock, and Dr. Maria Vazquez.

Consent Agenda
Ormend called for a motion to accept the consent agenda which consisted of the May board meeting minutes, June financial statements, and July committee minutes for the executive, resource development and golf committees. Eddie Sanabria moved to accept the consent agenda, Michael Ison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
**Donor Spotlight**
A special recognition and thanks for Duke Energy Foundation’s continued support of the Foundation. For the 9th year, Duke Energy Foundation donated $50,000 to the teacher grants program. With the dollar-for-dollar match from the state matching program, Duke Energy Foundation’s contributions have brought close to a million dollars to the FOCPS. Debbie Clements, Duke Energy community relations manager, was recognized. She spoke of Duke Energy Foundation’s commitment to STEM education and other programs (i.e., teacher summer internships) on Orange County. Debbie’s picture was taken with Pam Gould, Dr. Barbara Jenkins and Ormend Yeilding holding a check representing Duke Energy’s 2015-2016 gift.

Duke energy was also acknowledged and thanked for providing lunch for the board meeting from 4Rivers.

**OCPS Update by Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins**
Ormend introduced Dr. Jenkins. She thanked the board and the Foundation for their dedication.

Dr. Jenkins began her presentation by speaking about the strategic planning process the district recently completed. The old plan was co-written with the School Board 6 years ago. Since the district has been achieving the goals set out in that plan, moving along a good trajectory, the strategic plan only needed to be refreshed, not rebooted.

The strategic plan creates continuity for the district, providing the consistency necessary to allow for real momentum in reaching goals and moving forward. She stressed the need for finding the balance between stretching to reach a goal and having a goal that is easy to reach.

Dr. Jenkins discussed various factors involved in achieving their mission.
1. Values
   A. Civility – this is an important value that needs to be imparted to our students

2. Marked Differentiations
   What differentiates OCPS from other schools and educational opportunities?
   A. More opportunities for low-income students
   B. Earning first college credits in high school
   C. Identifying students through PSAT scores who need a little push to stretch for goals, and providing support to help them succeed

3. Improving Public School Facilities
   A. Building a 1:1 digital ratio
   B. Bring your own device programs that allow students to bring their own while providing devices to students who are without

   *Pam Gould spoke up here reminding everyone that the school funds are an essential component in providing the necessary extra funds for these types of initiatives.*

4. Diverse Populations
   A. OCPS has a diverse student population with students from 192 countries, speaking 167 languages/dialects.

The goals of the new strategic plan remain the same with the objectives fitting into one of five priority areas – student achievement being the number one priority.
Dr. Jenkins went on to speak about the issues around the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) facing the district. She discussed the problems the district had with administering the tests, using the writing test as an example. The first day of testing, the system froze during the test. The next day, the system crashed mid-test. The day after, some students are able to successfully finish, while others experience the system crashing yet again. These problems bring up serious validity issues and harm student quality – students were either moving fast to finish before the system crashed again, or they saw the prompt the day before and had time to prepare a better essay. The State is currently assessing if the FSA has valid outcomes – a decision will be made by September 1st.

Without the FSA scores, there is no data to base strategic plan outcomes around, no baseline to judge progress. There also is no way to accurately grade schools. If the State decides the FSA scores are valid, and they are used to grade the schools, there will be a campaign to show the community that these grades really aren’t valid because the FSA scores aren’t valid.

Dr. Jenkins was asked if these issues have damaged the commitment to the common core. She replied that the district is still committed to the new Florida State Standards, reminding everyone that common core was adjusted. The outcry over these changes has died down, and we shouldn’t go backwards.

All district committees also have business plans – these will be available on OCPS site.

Pam Gould joined the conversation – bringing up gaps in funding and the need to create partnerships to provide these missing funds so the district and school can reach their goals. The Foundation can be instrumental here – working where it is most effective for raising funds for OCPS prioritized initiatives.

Financial Statements
Erick Kepfer, the board treasurer and the chair of the finance committee, walked everyone through the June 2015 financial statements.

He explained that restricted funds are for a specific purpose during a specific timeframe, while unrestricted funds do not have any defined limits on how they can be spent.

In fiscal year 2014, investment income helped cover operating expenses. We did not have significant investment earnings in fiscal year 2015. While we can cover operating costs through the Foundation’s reserves, the goal is to raise enough each year to cover that year’s operating expenses. We have approximately $450,000 in operating reserves. The dashboard provided with the monthly financials is a management tool to help track our restricted and unrestricted revenue.

The organization is lean, but it made a strategic decision to hire a full-time business manager with an eye towards addressing the lack of unrestricted funds by building school and district funds (increasing administrative funds), building OCPS Gives, and increasing individual unrestricted gifts. The goal is to raise $30K in new, unrestricted money this year.

Development Committee
Pam Gould, co-chair of the committee, outlined various strategies for dealing with this shortfall and growing unrestricted income.

1. Stewardship
Using the notecards as an example, Pam spoke of the importance in building and stewarding donor relationships in securing future donations.
All board members need to attend the stewardship even in November and bring people they want to connect to the Foundation. The event is a fun way to thank attendees while also informing them of what we need and how they can help. Stewardship events are a pivotal opportunity to create closer friends that give value - and for the Foundation to demonstrate where we give value.

3. OCPS Gives
There are 23,000 OCPS employees who don’t give. We need to get out there and steward them to give. The Foundation needs to position itself as the leader in all philanthropic initiatives for schools and education.

4. School Funds
Keep people engaged with their schools in a different way than the PTA. Even after their children have graduated, some parents will still stay engaged if there is an outlet. With more investment on the part of the Foundation – resources, training for the schools, managers to provide services – we can grow the funds.

5. Alumni
Debbi Pedraza has been charged with stewarding the alumni

There is a role for everyone in helping raise funds – and many hands make light work.

Wrap Up
Ormend expanded on the school funds’ conversation, highlighting them as an important way to invest in the future. He wants to see school fund information session reinstated along with having board members speak to various organizations and businesses using an off-the-shelf presentation. He tasked board members with the goal of raising $30,000 in new, unrestricted funds and “refreshing” our strategic plan this year.

Joyce Romano asked that board members complete and submit their online review for Cindy’s performance review.

Adjournment: Ormend adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.