

Minutes

Outdoor School District Planning Team

2/13/2018, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

District Auditorium

4:10 – **Welcome & Introductions**

Sign-in and fill-out extended contracts

- Sally Krueger has been helping Brooke Wagner with managing and getting the Outdoor School project started
- Our guest from Oregon State, Kris Elliott, will give us some background on the program
- It is important to have a representative from every school
- We will be collecting pros/challenges and questions

4:25 – **Measure 99 – Outdoor School for All – explanation**

Kris Elliot – Outdoor School Program Leader - Oregon State

- Oregon Outdoor School - started in July and the Legislature chose an outdoor extension for a connection to the university

What is Outdoor School?

According to the legislature, Outdoor School consists of:

- 3 consecutive days
- Public and charter schools (private school are not eligible)
- School which meet state curriculum guidelines
- Provide a six-day, residential, hands-on educational experience, or an equivalent outdoor educational experience that reflects local community needs and contexts, featuring field study opportunities for students learning about:
 - Soil, water, plants and animals
 - The role of timber, agriculture and other natural resources in the economy of this state
 - The interrelationship of nature and natural resources
- There will be an evolution of the language that will include NGSS.
- There has been a hire of an assistant and more positions to develop a team.

- We have providers that are doing some really great work and have some districts that are already participating in this program.
- There is a lot of outreach to schools with students who do not have the opportunity to participate in this program
- Oregon Outdoor School is very prompt at compiling curriculum and lists for educators and producing a rubric that will be available by the end of the month – this is a tool to show what an outdoor school looks like.
- The program is building partnerships, one of which is with Columbia.
 - One thing that will be tracked is the economic impact of the Outdoor Schools
 - The partnership with Columbia will be able to provide high-quality items at wholesale prices
- We want to make sure that everyone has a very positive experience and we strive for a 99% customer satisfaction

Costs:

- \$9.8 million funding this year for the Outdoor School program
- We can expect about 36 thousand participants in the 2017/2018 school year
- Six schools that have done outdoor schools were able to fulfill the requirements
- Districts will know by May/June and will be able to know the funds for what the program and can anticipate the costs, which will give schools time to do fundraising

Benefits of an outdoor program:

- *Equity* - we want to make sure that every student has an opportunity to participate in the program
- *Education* - positive impact for students
- Oregon Outdoor Program has more people who are coming on board to assist schools with applications, etc., to provide support and to be a resource
 - There is also an advocacy group called *Friends of Outdoor School*
- The *Five Pillars of ODS* is a piece of the rubric that lays out what a good outdoor school program should have

More Information:

- Website: www.oregonoutdoorschool.org
(<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/outdoor-school>)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OROutdoorschool/>
- Twitter: @OROutdoorschool
- Instagram: @OROutdoorschool

- In the spirit of Measure 99, Outdoor school is for all students/schools, not just for some schools.
 - This means that ALL schools participate in outdoor school at 5th grade or ALL schools participate in outdoor school at 6th; or no schools participate at all.
 - State funding allows for 5th grade or 6th grade, but not for both.
 - Students can attend more than once but the state will only fund one time
 - The benefits of 5th grade outdoor school:
 - Typically has self-contained teachers in which the teachers can infuse all subjects in the outdoor school
 - Maybe a better alignment with science in 5th grade
- Benefits of 6th grade outdoor school:
- So much easier to get children to outdoor school, making it more efficient

The big question of today:

- Is this going to be for 5th grade or 6th grade?
- Funding question in regards to blended classes (4th/5th grade blended class):
- Funding will only be given for 5th grade
- Even though we are representing specific schools, we are going to look at what would be beneficial for *all* of our children in the district.
- We are going to regroup and decide with table groups what the positive things for an outdoor school for 5th grade and then for 6th grade would be.

Question: Is there a lens that we need to look through because there are great parts of teaching outdoor school for either grade-level.

- Go ahead and get all of it out on the cards

5:00 – Pros for 5th or 6th Grade – Chart Pack Paper

Interactive mixer for groups – report back

Pros for 5th Grade Outdoor School:

- Smaller number of students, which could provide more options
- Bonding of other elementary students and feeder schools
- More opportunities for fundraising (greater parent involvement)
- Deeper learning in the communities
- Children (as well as parents) might feel more comfortable with teachers
- A lot of cross-cultural experiences
- Could be the only experience that elementary students have

- Easier standard alignment
- Could be a culminating event that children look forward to (as closure)
- OAKS (science) after outdoor experience
- Logistics, which is easier to get the children there for the school
- More enthusiasm (WOW Factor)
- High school leaders work better with 5th graders (if we use high school counselors)
- Maybe 5th grade would have a lower cost due to fewer substitutes
- 5th grade is easier to create an immersion outdoor program
- Special education connections

Pros for 6th Grade Outdoor School:

- Bonding to build community in a new school (as a beginning)
- Logistics could be easier
- More flexibility about who could attend (staff)
- More independence/maturity of students
- Parents might feel more comfortable letting children go overnight
- Do not have as many tests to schedule outdoor school around
- More changeable

5:13 – Challenges for 5th or 6th Grade – Chart Pack Paper

Same groups – report back

Challenges of 5th Grade Outdoor School:

- Overnight stay potentially more challenging for parents and children
- Potentially less self-sufficient
- Not a lot of time due to state testing
- Competing with other elementary schedules/schools, and could be difficult to coordinate with other elementary schools
- Some schools may be able to afford it but others may not
- Could be the only trip that they get:
 - not all schools get an end-of-the-year field trip (if we took it away from 5th grade)
- CLC students/special populations (aids do not get paid for overnight trips)
- Non-participants pose an issue
- Space accommodation (more schools, fewer students)
- Competing with other trips/fundraising
- Greater workload

- Teaching population is predominantly female and would need to get some male teachers in the cabins to go with
- Liability issues
- Expectation that teachers will go with their classroom students (pressure on the teacher - Why are you not going? It's your class...)

Challenges of 6th Grade Outdoor School:

- Higher potential costs due to substitutes
- Possibly more challenging to get parent volunteers
- Workload coverage/staff shuffling/greater workload
- Could be “love in the air” and deviousness
- 6th graders may have a more difficult time giving up their technology
- Blend issues
- More difficult to manage
- More supervision needed
- CLC students/special populations (aids do not get paid for overnight trips)
- Non-participants pose an issue
- Space accommodation (more children)
- Fewer middle schools have participated which means less experience
- Determine where counselors would come from: high school/college?
- Liability issues

Is there a strong feeling for one grade over the other? 5th or 6th?

- Please weigh in (this is a pulse, not a definite decision)
- By June, the planning process can begin
- In terms of capacity, this year is good
 - Next year might pose a challenge and a lot more schools will be participating
- Supply and demand will work itself out
- We want to see this as a long-term investment
- There are a lot of resources moving forward with this outdoor school
- As long as the political will is there, there should be funding for the program

5:45 – Lingering Questions/Clarifications

- Will we be using High School counselors?
- Will the district step in and assist?
 - Yes, to make it streamlined for everyone
 - Teachers get to participate and facilitate but not be the source

5:55 – Pulse of group – three dots

(5:45) – Discussion of next steps

Next Meeting:

March 9 @ 3:30 pm

Or

March 20 @ 4:00 pm

Location: District Auditorium

Meeting adjourned 6:05pm

Minutes by Kizzi van Lake

Minutes

Outdoor School District Planning Team

3/20/2018, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

District Auditorium

Attended: Brooke Wagner, Angie Bunday, Suzy Rock, Ryan Hansen, Scott Marsh, Seth Cooper, Deanna Olson, David Wines, Katherine Kotlarek-James, George Gillett, Priscilla Ing, Lara Kimball, Shelli Hopper Moore, Maggie Cline, Kyle Chunn, Marcus A. Glassow, Tiffany Jeanette, Sally Krueger

4:10 – Direction for ODS in 4J

Brooke – Outdoor School for all at 5th grade

- Minutes from the February 13 meeting were reviewed, which included the transcribed chart notes. The professional quality of the minutes, by Kizzi van Lake, was noted.
- There is a district group of that meets called Instructional Cabinet. Brooke used the February minutes as a platform to open the dialogue about Outdoor School with that group. Instructional Cabinet determined that we will move forward with 5th grade participation in Outdoor School.
- Brooke noted that the MS teachers' feedback is important and valuable and will be considered as we plan. She appreciated the people in attendance from middle schools.
- Priscilla Ing is involved with an advisory group for Outdoor School. They drafted the first draft for the application and have been asked to contact districts that have not participated or responded.
- Our role in this group is to make this smooth for the teachers and students.
- We want to create as many options as possible at the 5th grade level, bringing providers in so that there is a menu of options for schools.
- The minimum is a 3 day camp (although not necessarily overnight) in order to apply for this year's grant. Schools that have gone or are going this year already had funding approved.
- Next year we will go through a process with the union and a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Brooke met with union reps, Sabrina and Tad. Because we are moving this as a district it needs to go through a particular process.
- We will design something to put out to vendors. We are not interested in asking teachers to create curriculum. It will all be there.

Questions/Comments

- What if you have a teacher who wants to be involved in the planning and curriculum?
 - There should be plenty of room for that level of engagement.
- Springfield is working with Willamalane. We have Eugene Rec.

4:30 – Outdoor School Video & Website

Sally – see what others are saying about ODS

- Sally showed a couple of videos attesting to the positive impact of Outdoor School. The videos and more can be found at this link:
<http://www.outdoorstoriesproject.com/>
 - The first video featured former Governor, Barbara Roberts explaining how her boys were impacted and how, as a single mother, she appreciated them having the opportunity to attend Outdoor School.
 - The second video featured an adult that had attended outdoor school as a child and the impact on her.
 - The third video showed a camp Tamerac counselor, who spoke about her first session at camp and her experience with a young girl whose teachers said that she was selectively mute. Most of the time she did not speak, but it did not stoop her from participating and learning. The last day purple beads were handed out. Part of the process was standing up, stating your name, what you learned at outdoor school. The counselor talked with the girl in advance and then the counselor spoke for her to the group. It made an impact on the counselor, that the girl chose to speak to her about what she wanted to have said about camp.

4:45 – Initial direction & Ideas

Brooke & Sally – options and flexibility

- Chart notes were posted for groups to work on. It was noted that there is a Grays website with some information:
 - <http://grayff.org/oregon-residential-camps/>
 - Grays has a list of camps (although it may not be comprehensive) linked here:
<http://grayff.org/camp-maintenance/list-of-oregon-camps>
- Time was allotted for group work on the topics below, and make notes on chart paper. The chart notes are transcribed below.

What do we Know, What do we Want to Know? For each of the topics below

Program/Curriculum Sites

Capacity (if known)

What do we know?

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Grove Christian Camp | 170 |
| • Cottage Grove <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Great for small groups○ Accommodates dietary needs○ On Row River | |
| • Camp Lane | |
| • Mapleton | |
| • 4H camp | |
| • Camp Westwind | |
| • Camp Lutherwood | 157 |
| • White Branch | 175 |
| • Camp Baker | 344 |

- Tadmore 220
- Hancock Field Station
- Sky Camp 144
- Tamarack 100
- OMSI in Newport

What do we want to know?

Accessible to all students?

- Gluten free menu?
- Safety, nurses, First Aid?
- Can they offer day and/or overnight options?
- Not all sites provide food

Outdoor School Newcomers

What do we know?

- This will be awesome for kids.
- We are going
- There will be support

What do we want to know?

- How to begin where and when we go?
 - Can feeder schools go together?
- How to manage blends?
- Can we get PD time to plan and prepare?
- Is there a way to partner experienced schools with new ones?

High School/College Counselors

What do we know?

- High school students need community service. Required 100-150 hours
- UO community internship (CIP) program. You can create a project plan for credit.
- Background check/reference/teacher recommendation/Facebook check (social media).
- Rachel Carson school program is at Churchill
- Former elementary school alumni might help

What do we want to know?

- Can College of Ed. Students help? SPICE? & ELP program
- Will the district recruit and start and process applications?
- Who trains the counselors?

Program/Curriculum

What do we know?

- Whole Earth provider
- River House-City of Eugene School District 4J Nearby Nature
- Willamalane
- OMSI
- Hancock Field Station – John Day Fossil Beds
- Parents with expertise

- OMSI
- WREN
- Mt. Pisgah
- Not all camps provide classes. We (Corridor) create and run our own.
- BRING

What do we want to know?

- Can we incorporate pet projects i.e. Ocean Week
- Foss Science Kits – connected
- Enhancement of other subjects for integration.

Other Considerations

- Students with special needs
 - Behavior
 - Wheelchair accessible – having staff from school to support as well.
 - Overnight needed!
 - Dietary needs
- Paperwork/Risk management hoops . .
- We need a streamlined packet for ODS, covering all the necessary forms
- Survey ideas- collect info. Information about sites used
- PD for 5th grade teachers prior to Outdoor School

5:00 – Brainstorm Sub-Committees

Possible topics:

Application, Sites & Programs, Counselor recruitment

Other ideas?

5:35 – Possible Sub-Committee work time

Calendar meetings or next steps

5:55 – Discussion of next steps

- Has anybody crunched the numbers to see if it is even feasible for all to attend?
Our district will have about 1300 students and there are all of the other districts.
- We will have to give up some control of this. If the application comes out over the summer, we'll have to take the info we have and run with it.
- Are the camps prepared to handle the maximum amount of kids?
- Have you considered putting together a survey?
- It would be helpful to have some anecdotal descriptions from educators that have attended the various camps
- We could have a PD for people going to outdoor school.
- Part of the PD would be for schools that have not done Outdoor School, to partner with a school that has.
- You may not all need to personally reserve – that piece may be done for you.
- Our school creates our own curriculum. Will we still have that opportunity?
That might be not be feasible because of work load issues.
- This year the amount of money that was applied for each school varied from 99.00/student to several hundred/student. It was all approved.

- If you have a school that wants to go for 5 days and only a partial amount was approved, would it be up to each school to come up with the remainder? Some schools have the ability to do that some don't. That is where the equity piece comes in.
 - We may need to provide parameters around how many days each camp can be.
 - Feel like we need parameters to be provided by the state or district in order to ensure equity.
 - At Charlemagne, we are trying to reduce costs for families and make it more accessible for everyone. Our students still deserve to have some of that money just as every school in Eugene. They are working towards trying to be more equitable.
- Is next year's process going to look different?
 - Yes. It will be refined, in theory.

Possible Next Meeting:

- Brook wanted the 3 potential dates on your radar, April 17, April 27 or May 1
- 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- This is dependent on the state application release

Location: TBA

Notes: Debbie McKim