

Gatestone Parent Council Meeting
April 30, 2018 @ 6:30pm library

Attendance

M.Castellani, (admin) B. Boucher (staff), Jen (staff), Dragana, Maja, Renee, Abigail, Hemma, Pouya, Barb, Krystal, Chantal

Current Business

Hydration Stations - filter not needed

- vote for getting 2 filtration stations without filters but with coolers
- unanimous vote for yes!
- \$3,100 or little less per unit

Decision - both at the same time?

Open House

Principals Survey

EQAO Scribes - do you need any more volunteers?

- ppl still needed, about 10 more
- Krystal asking how to solicit more volunteers
- Mike will email ,start asking parents etc.
- also advised staff to ask around
- add Jen email *

Jenn Burleigh VP- updates from last meeting

1. How is student of the month being communicated to parents?
 - a. - It's going to be posted on the school website

- Mike can't post full names online due to privacy
- trying to post a first name each month with maybe initial for last name
- we need consistency on how to notify the parents
- Mike will bring it up with the staff

2. Police Liaison availability?

- a. -You can come in and talk to him anytime however Mike said that if its information around school protocols that parents want then he can send an email or a letter letting them know.

-if it's information on what a police response would be, he is more than happy to come in and discuss this with us

- if it's what the SCHOOL procedure is then it is something Mike can go over
- this information is found on the school district website
- "safe school procedure" flyer should go out in beginning of the school year and would have the link as well
- make sure it goes out next school year
- please add to school newsletter *

3. Open House date?

- a. -Its on Thursday May 10th from 5-7 pm
 - b. -In the spirit of what the open house represents Mike would like to keep the open house separate from a possible "fun day" event. So looking at another date to run the fun day.
- we didn't want to do it initially on another day because of the cost for the space, caretakers etc.
 - getting the parent school community together and involved more as a fun day
 - maybe as a thank you for the school support, possibly from the parent council
 - Mike- issue #1 any activity during school week will not cost extra, only on weekends
 - issue #2 significant number of people come in during our open house, do we really need to "capture" more people? Feels like we do a good job getting people in during open house
 - Mike has done both small and large event open houses. It can take away from the "open house" concept, showcasing the student work
 - it ends up being separated into events, which is fine, but the concern is that it can/will fall on staff and same group of people might end up doing the bulk of the work
 - Renee - movie night is sort of as a thank you to the community already
 - Mike is for involving more of the community for a fun day
 - for now "Soccer World" is coming to the open house and will be set up in the back
 - now is too late in the school year to plan something for this school year
 - Mike - try not to plan for the month of June since lots of activities happen then .Suggests maybe early fall or mid to end of May
 - Hemma, pls advertise, thank Soccer world

4. Water Stations maintenance cost/frequency/installation timeline?

- a. -Mike will look into who changes the filter/how often
- b. -They will be installed based on facilities availability - will look into it.

5. Brackets/AV Equipment Installation

- a. -Response - this is a lengthy process. Looking into it.
- b.

- changed providers and Mike has to start the process all over again
- being put on hold for now, will look into it back in September
- Dragana asked about moving funds for next year and for what goal?

6. Confirm if school wide movie trip came out of PC budget (incl cost of buses)

- a. -yes it did.

7. Parent Council Minutes - being posted/update/current?

- a. -they are on the website.
- b. -Mike will copy and paste them into the main document and then add them to the website.

New Business

- need confirmation from Billy on cost for grad photos
- when is next movie night? Krystal will email Jen
- Mr.Anish donated \$300 for the contest

Fundraising Update

Treasurer update

- no update

Umbrella Update

- unable to attend

Teachers Update

- no update

Principals Update

- celebrations -26 kids wrote and submitted a story out of 50, on their own time
- All the kids got a gift card to Indigo/Chapters with higher amount for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- Mr. Anish from Scholars Educations donated \$300 toward the contest, used towards something in the school
- grade 7 was a good choice since they don't get much in regards to those things
- basket ball season is doing good
- dance team went to 2 competitions and also did well
- looking into a possible "you tube" channel for the school so videos of achievements could possibly be posted
- interesting school trips this year, staff did a great job
- some of the trips are a bit pricey but well worth it, school bus is being covered from the pizza and milk sales
- staffing -teachers know what their assignments are for next school year, but things still may change so they are not to release the information yet
- 26 classes next year, 1 is a special class-->rest will be in the newsletter as per Mike

- class building placement is based on academic need of the child
- peer connection is taken into account and the importance of that is well noted
- high need and risk are also taken into account
- if child has been in a combined class for 3 or 4 years in a row, then we might need to look into a straight class placement
- same as if the child has the same teacher for a longer number of years
- Mike will not say no to requests, he understands the culture of the school and is being fair but there are parameters
- there were only 15 requests this year (reasonable)
- no class changes unless there is an error or reasonable request (ex. Same teacher for 4 years)
- jk/sk try to stay in same class during those 2 years
- class sizes are great now 26
- Primary capped at 20
- primary registration start in March-many ppl dont know, especially for 1st child starting school
- Mike tries to advertise as much as he can within his means
- Brenda Gould big thanks from Hemma, amazing teacher
- Krysta Doody" (check spelling) retiring end of this school year
- Literacy plan -expanded all the way out to grade 3
- Brad -great to expand on the key literacy things, make sure we are providing the proper knowledge
- Jen (staff) all the kids were support engaged and excited about what they achieved
- they are very aware of the curriculum
- great to go out without distractions
- Mike-math- great research on reading and studies on what is effective and what is a great predictor of success
- unfortunately that does not really exist in math
- how do we support the kids in developing good numeracy skills, and how they expands to other math skills, how to track that, and how do we know we are tracking the right things?
- early numeracy skills are a gap in the school
- staff has talked about this and tried to engage more into it
- are we allowing openness to the math problems, how do we get out of their way when we give them a problem
- thinking back to our own schooling when asked what problem solving in math is, we associate it to a word problem
- Renee, is there something we as a parent can take or go to, to refresh our math skills so we can better help our kids with math
- school board just put out a link for parents, it is on our twitter board as well
- "break a number up" is a good game to play with our kids (ex. 43 is 40 and 3, 4 10's and 3 ones)
- composing numbers and decomposing numbers
- great video *possibly add link*, how to step back and be quiet and let the child figure it out
- school math plan is how to increase current numeracy skills, concepts

-grade 5 class, multiplication times sheet, Mike blazed the sheet, left them with question did I understand multiplication better than you? The class realised the only difference was that Mike had it memorised and they didn't.

Jen G. emailed that she is getting the wolf lodge basket ready
-emailed the secretary to put out the ticket sales

-Mike please look into the student supply class list and how to post it*

-teachers funds requests- grade 7 class -different types of desks, seats
\$400 request to try and do this

-want to have a study area ,collaboration area, standing desks (ergonomics) stools, ball chairs
-go into the grade 6 class (Mrs. MCEWEN)during open house to check out this type of
classroom

All our classrooms try to do something to some capacity

-would parent council approve -unanimous vote for yes

-would we support to pay \$600 license fee each year to show movies in class

-another unanimous vote