

Gatestone Parent Council

Date: Monday November 28th @ 6:30-8:00pm

Attendance:

Order Management (Robyn):

- Larger group and would like to make sure all voices are heard and create order in a timely manner
- Initiate "group collaboration" idea that includes ALL attending to be involved
- Encourage all to have a voice while keeping the amazing enthusiasm that the last 2 mtgs have brought
- Also created google doc for agenda ideas - no structure just update and then I will take those ideas and apply to the agenda or answer them before the mtg

Old Business:

- heritage green grant approved

New Business:

Umbrella - sue

Marie Pliura

- Pita Pit Fundraising happening once a month - money going to phys. ed equipment
- Holiday Hamper - Forms sent home today
- No date has been selected for the Holiday assembly yet.

Mike/Marrissa:

Parent Concerns/Questions/feedback:

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Gatestone Parent Council

Date: Monday October 24th @ 6:30-8:00pm

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Attendance:

Jen G  
Robyn P  
Sonya  
Renee R  
Pouya  
Corene  
Marie  
Kylie  
Kathlyn  
Ron B  
Shelly E  
Krystal L  
Suzy P  
Jen P  
Mya B  
Donna D

Agenda

Secretary note - Q=question, A = Action

Old Business:

- Meet the teacher night:
  - Outcome
    - Teachers: Good that food was ready for teachers to eat before the event started - great that burgers priest had debit/cash/credit, not too pricey
    - Parents: Great to meet the teachers
    - Big Thank you for the free coffee - great feedback from parents
  - FOOD TRUCKS
  - Frankie Fettucini - not many people - cash only
  - Great parent involvement
  - Burgers Priest had veggie options "The Option"

- Overall fundraising dollars final total = Mike to get total as school pays teachers for dinner - not a lot of money (15% kick back from Burgers Priest)
- Back Field
  - revised date of completion? - was to be complete by November & Goal met.
  - before we let the kids on the field - need a good frost, close field until January to give field best opportunity for success
 Lines have been re-painted on the back pavement
- Confirm all attending rec'd viewing permission to read minutes from last mtg...any person that did not receive permission or email to invite please list below:
  - Robyn - requested emails of all who did not receive email invite
    - please confirm Sonja's email as it bounced back
  - A - add the following:
    - [skekic@sympatico.ca](mailto:skekic@sympatico.ca)

### **Middle News**

Positive School culture - met 3 times so far  
 Student voice participated - decision is No Tribes  
 -ve - promoting segregation  
 Idea  
 Student achievement - student of the month one per class per month - variety of reasons  
 School wide achievement  
 Launch December 1st  
 Free meal from Boston Pizza, or breakfast is an idea as well - every three months  
 A-Jen G to look into pricing

### **New Business:**

- Parent Council positions/vote:
  - Chair
    - Donna D nominates Robyn Patchev
  - Fundraiser co-chair
    - Robyn nominates Jen Graham, Susy P, Jen P.
    - voted Winners are Jen G and Susy - per Mike
  - Secretary
    - Krystal Legge

Conservation Authority - Margaret Reid - [margaretreid1@sympatico.ca](mailto:margaretreid1@sympatico.ca)

New Conservation Land - near Dofasco Park - contest to name the park - winner will have a free class trip to the conservation land

Robyn - suggest to add it to student council agenda so the classes will be aware - nominate name by December 1, 2016. School trip would be in the Spring. Buses etc would be funded....(believes so)

A - teacher reps to take back to staff

Has underground caves - preserve the caves

- 2 school council training manuals for Chair and Mike

Board of Educations PIC - parent involvement committee - group of parents

My Path my way - Oct 26th - paths in high school - typically go to feeder school - if your child wants to go in to robotics - they can choose to go to the high school that specializes in Robotics (as an example) - starts in grade 11 - take kids in grade 7 & 8 @ Michaels

Helping our Children Manage Stress Saltfleet - missed the date? dinner 6-645, poster will be on the website

YAMMER - communication tool from the school board to parent councils - important information is posted through yammer - can make groups to share information

- Fundraiser Ideas??

Renee - Craft bazaar - we don't know what it entails to get it all going, suggest \$20/table - vendors donate item to be raffled off - ½ vendor & ½ direct sales

Jen G - have done garage sale/vendor idea - made great money in the past - charged per table

Q - Did raffle go well fundraising last year? - Jen - harder and harder to get parents to donate things for baskets - money was ok. Better if we can get businesses to donate items. Susy had excellent feedback from companies being happy to donate items - and not ask parents for donations

Teachers - was it a lot of work for the teachers? - if baskets were low teachers were buying items

Parents were donating items for baskets & items for the holiday hampers - don't want to feel tired of donating items

Needs to be communication between student action and parent council - Corene - is going to be on student action - can someone from parent council go to Student Action meeting or give ideas about events going on with each council

Student Action group is doing Rocky Mountain - halloween raffle - draw on Monday - tickets on sale as of 10/24 - win Rocky Mountain Chocolate skull (3 to give away) .50/ticket

Boston Pizza - families are invited to go for dinner, over 2 or 3 nights - do that sooner rather than later to get the support of Boston Pizza for our future events - order whatever you like 10-15% kick back

Halloween dance-a-thon -sponsorship event - DJ is one of the dads - pay for admission tickets - raffle - bake sale - glow sticks

Or Read-a-thon

List of things the school needs - announce in the event what we're using the money for - tangible goal

Pie in the face went over very well with the kids! - this is the kind of thing we need where everyone enjoys it

MacMillans - good to go - Jen P is organizing - before Christmas

- Event ideas?? - covered in Fundraiser Ideas above

Umbrella updates - Sue

Mike/Marissa update:

Hasn't received loads of fundraising flyers

Robyn - we would like to try to create ideas balance - some with work - some with no work

Q - Jen P - how was picture day?

Mike -Picture day went very well - well organized - no major hiccups

Idea that council is going to put focus on fundraising activities - ie what we're going to use the money for

Teacher role on parent council is to relay information from parent council to student council and staff as required

Comments from teachers to parent council come through Mike and Marissa - they will liaise between student action and parent council.

Not practical to have parent council member on student action

SGF = school generated funds - review being done by Mike - communication is to be a focus

Create clear goals for money in SGF

Principal fund = subsidy on school trips - new sports uniforms etc - equitable for all students

Mike agrees primary kids need paper communication - but - continue to push electronic communication, twitter, sign out front, blog sites, school website

Primary kids are fundraising base - need to make sure that communication is highlighted

Grant - 70,000 - declined ½ (mounting projectors) - not funding another technology request from Gatestone

Other half of the grant is for....scoreboard, sound system for gym, curtains for stage (front and back), chairs for auditorium. We have 75 chairs currently. = \$40,000. Quotes have been provided

Scoreboard will reflect the source of the funds.

Once \$\$ comes - will happen relatively quickly

3000 is coming from SGF (grant needs to see school commitment)

Progress Reports - coming out Wednesday November 2nd - request for understanding that it is only a snapshot of the last month....very short amount of time.

Teachers are to be honest and clear

Take that communication and understand that they want to check in with you and create a plan. Understand it is not an assessment - does not equate to A,B,C,D. Looking at progress and your child wholistically, and their progress

Advice - be honest and err on the side of caution to have those conversations with parents.

Why a month early - new PD day for interviews was an add on

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Gatestone Parent Council

Date: Monday September 26th @ 6:30-8:00pm

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Lead off agenda and take minutes - Robyn Patchev (refer to shared list for attendance)

Agenda (new and old business)

- Welcome - purpose of parent council and “thank you” to Jen Graham for Boston Pizza treat

**Gatestone Elementary School Parent Council Summary**

- **Mission Statement**
- The Gatestone Elementary School Council is an advisory body of volunteers who work together to provide ideas and opinions to help the school community.
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- **A few of Student Council’s Goals and Objectives:**
- Focus on improving student learning
- Act as a link to the school’s priorities for student growth and improvement

- Promote parent and community involvement
  - Actively seek and represent the views of the school's community
  - Encourage parental involvement and support
  - Have collaborative leadership with the school principal
  - Focus on the best interests of the students
  - Support school improvement and initiatives
  - All school council members will have a voice on any issue raised during a meeting
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- Meetings are normally held the last Monday of every month from 6:30-8:00pm (with a minimum of 4 times per year). Please refer to the school calendar that is sent out for confirmed dates.
  - A detailed outline of Gatestone's Student Council Constitution is available at the office.
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- Attendees (introduction-names, pass around form to complete names/contact#/email)
  - Parent Council Roles - think about vote at next mtg?
    - Chair
    - Secretary
    - Fundraiser
    - Large Event Organizer
  - First Day Back to School
    - How is the new jk/sk drop off going?
      - Works well - likes set up
      - Concern for younger siblings not being able to join in the pen
      - To prevent congestion - Possibly not allow all car traffic for first day/2days/week??
      - Parents don't feel safe about leaving kids
    - Overall
      - Concern about chaos on first day of school created added anxiety and stress for parents/children/teachers - solution - signs?
  - Back Field Summary and Update
    - Blog was sent out via teachers - some members did not receive
    - Correcting field and using Irrigation system? - Green Horizons for 3 years maintenance - board has committed to watering once a week
    - No longer have goal posts? - this is technically a play yard not a soccer field - will use portable nets
    - Start next week and be done by November
    - Once it freezes kids can play on it

- Volunteers
  - parent council and general involvement
  - Confirm form is open for general permission
    - Volunteers for special events
    - Volunteers within the school - need police check/volunteer screening-vulnerable sector (go through every 3 years) - direct general help via Mike and if want a specific classroom contact teacher directly - every year need to come back to office to do volunteer screening
      - Mike to inform in October newsletter that volunteers need to go through screening
      - Field trips? - can teachers alternate parents to volunteer in classes
- Meet the Teacher - Thursday October 6th
  - Jen Graham summarize
  - Burger priest coming back - give 15% kickback - 3:15 can set up
  - Add a second vendor - Frankie Fettucini - Jen to suggest plain pasta and spaghetti/meatballs - give 15% kickback
  - Food to be start at 4:30pm
  - Meet the teacher starts at 5:00pm - 7:00pm
  - Boston Pizza mascot to hand out kids meals g/c??
  - Suggestion - possibly get free coffee?? - Suzy look into and possibly set up in front foyer
  - Suggestion made to possibly invite Gorilla cheese??...will have to look into them for next event
- New Club requests
  - Coding Club - Need to confirm teacher/parent involvement
- Projected Parent Council Activities
  - Christmas (no Christmas Store)
  - Movie nights?
  - Boston Pizza - Jen Graham
  - Jen P. suggested McMillans? - large profit in past
  - Pouya suggested Children create christmas/spiritual involvement with refugee??
  - Mike and Marissa bring fundraiser options that have been dropped off

#### Umbrella - Sue

- jk/sk transition - going well
- Looking forward to all events that the school has planned

#### Mike/Marissa

- Thank you for attendance



- Will have a teacher rep for next mtg
- Gain an ECE - only slight shifting across fdk
- Staff changes - losing both office administrators (vanessa to bellmore and susan will be leaving) - hired Jodi Osmand came from Memorial City
- Communication - continue to move everything electronic - spending too much on photocopying - website/electronic sign out front/twitter feed/staff are doing blog, twitter feed or website
- Parent packages - not a huge package anymore
- Marissa - Tribes? - positive school culture - will discuss and voice opinions this week and determine adjustments necessary - new vision!!
  - Mike/Marissa - October or November council mtg do present decision
- Grant - Heritage Green - asked for \$75000, will hopefully give curtains, sound system, score board and chairs for auditorium approx \$45000 - Mike to continue update
- Council budget \$4500 - council offer \$3000 of this to use...should have approx. \$1500 for our events
- Eqao - just received results today - very well for 5 out of 6 indicators - well on our way and no concern for most areas, grade 6 math a definite concern - the details reports provided to school is more helpful than that provided to the general public
- **Request to have a member play a part in academic curriculum to visit progress of Gatestone**

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Next mtg - October 24th

- This mtg is on google doc and everyone here will be able to see it once emails have been added