

Gatestone Parent Council

Date: Monday February 27th @ 6:30-8:00pm

Attendance:

Michael Castellani, -principal, Marissa T.-vice principal ,Sonia Kekic, Corene O'Hara (Teacher) , Sue Couch, Chantelle Davies, Renee Ringer, Maja Buac, Suzy Popovic, Jen Graham

Old business:

Successful pasta day! - thank you to Jen and Donna - outcome and final fundraising dollars?

- 194 students bought pasta
- profit of a \$1 per person
- went smooth, no kids were missed, great organization
- doing again-maybe next month
- made two different drops-nice and hot for everyone
- only complaint make sure they fill the bowl on all of them. Jen will bring it up to the GM
- some complaints on onion chunk with the little kids in marinara sauce

Lunch of champions - Tuesday march 7th - all is a go! - confirm volunteers in place and any last minute details

- 7 volunteers confirmed, Marissa has enough help
- Need to set up table and chairs, stickers for food, photos
- need to start food at 1pm
- we are not making any money off of this

Movie night - open floor to co chairs - side note that camp wanakita mtg is on same night at same time - additional volunteers may be needed for overlap - confirm pick up of snack/drinks

- Sue is picking up popcorn, juice, water, Starbucks coffee
- Jen made goodie bags of candy
- granola bars, gummies....lots of snacks for 25 cents
- need volunteers for the snack table
- have all the decor
- count for pizza will be known tomorrow
- thanks to Mike for the flyers
- low number of pizza orders for now possibly due to fact it's a pizza day
- Mike just wants people in the building (parents)

New business:

Teacher recognition - Mrs Murray - phys Ed teacher - promotes positive behaviour while keeping order in an active environment and has a true passion for teaching

- how to add the teacher/people recognition
- possibly add to monthly newsletter

Anti bully day - topic request via Maja

- lots of questions from parents about February Pink shirt day
- Mike received another email from a parent about it
- we will be starting to recognize February pink shirt day as of next school year
- big disconnect between bully awareness week within school board, the Pinks shirt day and International Day of Pink in April

Open house - confirm date?, start to confirm what is needed from parent council?

- May 11th
- confirmed with Steve for Burger Priest
- pitching tent and the food truck, should even out the lineups
- also has a frosty machine he will be bringing along
- only food vendor we will be having-makes sense for us until we get to a point we need a change
- Mike pays for the teachers -glad to feed them, great recognition on his part
- Jen will ask Steve if possible for him to add some hotdogs to the menu
- last meet the teacher went really smooth between the teachers eating and greeting the parents and students
- "Camp Muskoka coffee" donating the coffee for the open house. We need to get the cups.
- gift certificate for Great Wolf Lodge (at least \$450) for raffle
- looking at starting the raffle a few weeks before
- Jen will get the certificate-Mike will reimburse
- Sue recommended doing a silent auction
- Mike going over the main reason for having an open house- want the parents to come, to see the school, the teachers, to socialize on that level. Not to have too many distractions in a way of fundraising. Want even parent council members to be able to walk around and interact with school staff. Not be tied down whole time.
- will have Scholastic Book Fair
- talk to Great Wolf Lodge people about making a donation (dinner voucher, wolfe plush ect.) to give with the certificate
- can goods requests for open house as per Susi P.

Side note: Scholastic book orders

- Chantelle mentioned that Scholastic now charges shipping minimum to the teachers
- Mrs. O'Hara suggested having one main teacher doing ordered per grade group (primary etc.) to get rid of the shipping cost and keep the ordering option available to kids

Shirts

- Mike mentioned he will be ordering parent council school shirts
- no cost to parent council
- some different colour options, all with collars
- will include the year on the sleeve and have parent council to differentiate from school staff (ex. teachers)

Sue (daycare): open floor to sue for updates

- last week school age staff and kids hosted a breakfast on Friday morning
- Sue P. didn't even know about it, most didn't know about
- Sue C. said there were invitations out
- was for parent or grandparent, stop by in the morning
- good turnout, was a trial
- lots of events and things happen in the evenings and that is why they did the morning
- doing another one for this Thursday, preschool toddlers and kindergarten kids in the preschool wing
- update from City of Hamilton, new website Child Care Registry for parents- great tool
- Links to programs, subsidy etc.

Mike and Marissa:

Any additional parking updates - topic request via Maja

-Mike would like to move this to March

- Renee venting about the parking and stop sign and always the same people-parent council agrees
- Mike had to stop a kid from jaywalking -still a major issue
- use the designated crossings/cross guard
- you will not get ticketed if you follow the signs and rules
- discrepancy in opinion on the park, stop and go issues with what the staff also comments in front of the parents
- makes us look bad as a whole
- Jen brought up the fact that some parents can be quite mean to the crossing guard
- city will be doing a bump out at the crossing to stop people from parking there
- people have taken the crossing guards pylons, moved them

Boston Pizza Night

- info. Will go out after March break
- \$15 adult, \$7 per kid -\$5 kick back off of adult meal and \$2 kick back off of the kids meal
- April 10th and 11th

School Cash Online

- great at printing labels
- makes a quick job of labeling

Active travel plan - requested at last Mtg to address topic at this mtg

- April 12th pink shirt day
- Goal for 80% of student body to wear pink
- selling shirts, \$8 a shirt, online now
- Mrs O'Hara doing the orders
- flyer going out tomorrow
- will be online, in newsletter...
- Marissa talked about doing a great big student and staff group photo

- May staffing process going on
- By July Mike will be able to tell us who will be teaching what
- Will take requests for straight vs. combined class
- no teacher requests, all staff is great
- expanded to full FDK class this year
- Will stay with full 4 FDK classes based on numbers
- Mike talking about research on combines classrooms. Large volume of research with different factors (effect size). Combine vs. straight -there is no big difference in achievement. Difficulties with curriculum. Not a massive difference-subtle change from one grade to the next in things such as math and reading and writing. Topics such as social studies the teachers do try to make it work and combine the same grade learning amongst themselves. The school gets told how many classes to build and they cannot exceed that. Decisions are not made based on favouritism but on needs and requirements.

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Gatestone Parent council

Date: Monday January 30th @6:30-8:00pm

Attendance:

Marissa Turner

Kelly Scott - city of Hamilton

Marie Pliura

Kylie Schmit

Susi Popovic

Barbara Braun

Krystal Legge

Sue Couch

Jen Graham

Maja Buac

Mike Castellani - brought cookies!

Robyn

Thank you for coming out.

Agenda:

Old business:

HAPPY 2017

New business:

Kelly Scott from ASST City of Hamilton to discuss parking and driving to school

Mike - spoke to activities already in place for safely transporting children to and from school

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

Kelly - hub is responsible for promoting active and safe travel to school. ASST - uses Cdn School Travel planning model

Charter signed between city and school board to work on this initiative to help schools address those safety concerns while children are travelling and keeping active and promoting healthy activities

First stop between what the city and the board can do to assist us - and how should we proceed

Requires a committee of people (parent council for example) to ensure 5 steps happen

1. Set up

2. Data collection - Required is a student survey students on how they get to and from school for a full week and a walkabout to see how the different modes interact and assessing neighbourhood infrastructure. We have some information from school zone area. Optional is the family travel survey. Use data to see where a shift could be possible and brings attention to what your group looks like in terms of modes of transportation
3. Action planning - what do you want to target in the school and neighbourhood and ideas for active modes of transportation
4. Staying on top of the action plan - keep it on the agenda - continuous improvement. Short, medium and long term goals and tracking 12-18 months
5. Post implementation data collection is conducted to evaluate the progress towards goals.

Movie Night?

- thank you - teacher appreciation (name and reason why)
- Updates from co-chairs

Robyn - question - can we alter the data collection to suit our needs? E.g., grandparents of students are going home afterwards, but maybe they can't walk for their own health.

Kelly - Answer - we need to be careful where we alter the questionnaire so that it has sustainability - but she will take the note back to her group to review. - she thinks the question might be on a previous survey they used

Any questions - let Mike know and he will compile them

NEW BUSINESS

New Agenda item - positive feedback is always welcome, so lets bring it to the table!

Recognition - Warm and wonderful!

Mrs O'Marra - feedback from children on the playground that she's doing a great job

Ms Nyswander - doesn't teach curriculum - teaches the child

Mrs Schmidt - recognized from Hamilton

Mr Boucher - great teacher

Marissa - suggestion - Teacher of the month

Updates from Co-Chairs:

Jen and Susie

Movie Night - BP deliver personal pizza's for \$5 will do gluten free for no up-charge

- MARCH 2nd (Friday the 3rd is a PA day). Mike check with the gym to ensure no conflicts
- Start at 6 - movie start at 7
- Best seat in the house again
- Do an intermission so they can get snacks
- Parents must attend - put all info up front
- Ideas for movies - Secret Life of Pets, Trolls, Sing (still in theatres)
- Popcorn, twizzlers, mini chocolate bars - keep it simple, coffee for parents
- Bring mat's and sleeping bags, no camping chairs
- Bench was good in the middle for parents to sit on

Pizza night at BP - 2 nights j/k-gr3 - superheroes and princesses on one night

- Priceline - personalized pizza, salad caesar or house, hot or cold drink - \$10 from BP - \$15 charged. Kids \$5 from BP - we charge \$7.
- March or April - after March break - before Easter - April 10th/11th...Jen to check if those dates work - will let Mike know on 01/31

What do we think of a pasta day - cost the child \$6 - pasta and a juice box - hot drop off - \$1/child fundraiser - let's pilot it on the 24th of February - get some advertising on it, get it on school cash online , butter, veggie, bolognese, with a juice box. - fusilli - 21st is the hard stop

Just before end of school - pay \$10 - BP charges us \$5....personal pizza with 2 toppings - school cash online

??Indigo - pick a day - kids can buy books - some kickback to the school ??

Robyn - thank you - kids looooooove Booster Juice

Susie - question - before and after school program - what door is open in the morning vs the evening? Not always consistent - we have a temporary custodian at the moment.

- Mike - response - not a big fan of the doors remaining wide open for safety of the children. Up until 7-8:30 doors would be open, locked at 8:30. Preference is to go through the daycare doors. This is the direction we are going - front doors will be locked.
- At the end of the day doors are always locked - Umbrella is great - pick up your children through the daycare doors. Office has been advised not to buzz people in.
- Maybe umbrella can send out a letter advising parents where to pick up and drop off. Mike and Sue to discuss

Segway into positive school culture - 150-200 students to feed for lunch of Champions - first week of March - need some assistance

Sue (daycare):

November - promoting well-being in Ontario's curriculum - talks about ways to bring the community in to be involved - could assist in parent engagement with Child wellbeing- could tie in with the active transportation plan

Lost and found - suggestion to have wire baskets in the hall to reduce lost and found - contain the bits and pieces.

Teachers - no items

Mike/Marissa:

100-120 students to feed for Lunch of Champions - can include a plus one. Mike wants to look into it as well - can possibly spend some money on it. To make it a special lunch for the kids...Mike's on it. Some teaching staff - some volunteers required - pictures etc. First week of March possibly. 37 x 3 plus a parent for each kid.

Trips - asked teachers what year end trips are going to look like for each class - to assess subsidy

Grade 8's - wonderland

Rest are still deciding

Montreal - has 2 buses going - no parents - just staff

Grade 6 is camp wanakita - no parents - just staff

Ski trip -170 kids going

Have enough supervision ratio with just the staff for these trips

Fundraising - principal conference - lots of vendors - 1 company does coffee sales - good coffee - connected with Camp Wanakita somehow - local - naturalistic - organic coffee \$17 for 1lb of coffee, school gets ½. Free sample at Open House with sign for upcoming fundraiser.

Susie to check with Starbucks to see if they could match

Report cards - go home February 17th

We don't want parents to be surprised with what they are seeing on their report card - teacher will be in contact with the parents ahead of time so -

Shock - drastic changes - D's or N's - expect all students to achieve a B. Don't push panic button's on C's....conversations when D's show up.

Marissa and Mike are spending a lot of time with staff - teachers know the students the best- and give the students the benefit of the doubt and encouraging to the children. Report cards are meant to be Accurate. Then have a conversation to understand what that means and what happens now.

If students need support - they need the learning skills and academic report cards to build a case.

Going to start getting busy - February begins staffing season for Marissa and Mike - looking to next year 2017/2018

Parking - bring your comments

Anita - 15 min at start and 15 min at end - going to make a bump out where the crossing guard is - going to try to educate people to stop jay walking across the street.

Question - if we go with the active travel plan - does that mean you get some budget to assist?

Answer - you get all key stakeholders from the city, board, police etc, to review your situation, provide possible solutions and possibly advocate for change (no budget supplementation).

To bring up again at next meeting - Active Travel Plan

Gatestone Parent Council

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

Attendance:

Jennifer P
Steve
Mike
Robyn
Marissa
Susy
Chantelle
Corene
Kylie
Sonya
Heema
Ron
Sue
Shelly
Krystal
Maja
Jen G
Kathleen

Robyn - feedback is good for updating agenda as we go. If you are not comfortable - email Robyn, or Robyn can create a google docs for random ideas

Order Management (Robyn):

- Larger group and would like to make sure all voices are heard and create order in a timely manner
- "Group collaboration" is imperative to a successful council. Encourage all to have a voice while keeping the amazing enthusiasm that the last 2 mtgs have brought
- Important for us all to discuss.....email Robyn or feel free to bring up at meetings

- Create google doc for agenda ideas or send me an email directly - no structure just update and then I will take those ideas and apply to the agenda or answer them before the mtg?

- **summary of hwdsb mtg** -thank you to Susy, Pouya and Marissa for attending with me
- Development of schools based on bums in seats - many schools with overflow
- Robyn point is - they are building schools for bum in seats - new schools for summit park etc. What about High School?? - development of new elementary schools, what happens when those kids get bigger? IF you already know the bums in seats right now for elementary, why can't we project to high school numbers?

- (Robyn) - concerns / frustrations from community re:development (“bum in seat” too late, saltfleet numbers and no plans to prepare for current planned enrolment) and unfortunately lack of support - send complaints to representative Jeff Beattie (our representative) and the minister of education Missy Hunter, “fix our schools” ...tax dollars being misdirected??? - “pik” via margaret can send something on our behalf but would prefer from us!
- Our presence at the meeting was not enough....ACTION - email Jeff Beattie (our Trustee) and tell him we need high school situation addressed! - more kids are coming....let's start planning now!
- Saltfleet is allowed to have up to 15 portables by the board.
- Shelly - would it be helpful to send something out to all parents (R - lets start with Parent Council).
- Sign it 'name' and Parent Council Rep

- **McMillans** - susy p to discuss overview
- Forms - Were all orders returned by Friday November 18 - put out Nov 3rd
- About 20 late
- Totals / profit
- Susy - \$2484 profit - woo hoo! Over \$9000 in sales!
- Future Idea - stamp or sticker to file by classroom to make it easier to sort out at the end
 - sticker it prior to giving out to the classrooms
- Maxwell Legge - raised \$597 - will probably do something special for them
- Classroom winners have been announced on the website
- 684 units sold
- Volunteer status for dec 6
- **Jen - Volunteers:**
 - 1:30-3:20 - heema, Donna, susy, jen p, Kathleen - delivery
 - 3:20-6:30 - susy, pouya, Sonya, jen p - pickup
 - MacMillans supply us with bags - will need trolleys - have enough volunteers
 - Location to be determined by Mike
 - BIG THANKS!

- heritage green grant approved - all council members are invited to the official presentation on???

- student council hot chocolate/pj day success and thank you to susy support via local company donations and volunteers (Kathleen, pouya, Donna) for helping with distribution
- “The team of parent volunteers I have had the chance to work with are amazing - very positive, supportive and extremely helpful. These lovely ladies are: Pouya Alidadi, Susy Popovic, Kathleen Crawford and Dona Dyer”-Gillian Vinall

- Mike pls add company contributors to social media (website/twitter) and front sign - Tim Hortons Swayze Road, GT French, and Gillian to confirm about the Hot Chocolate volume
- Teachers perspective - great day....too bad we ran out of hot chocolate (each kid got 1 ½ cup) - some research has been done (Kathleen) about how much we need next time.
- Get older grades to come down and get their own hot chocolate due to limited number of carts
- What time should it be delivered?
- Next year - have it all in one location - come and pay & pick it up OR
- Give it out to everyone - and request donations
- Frustration - no help because teachers weren't around at delivery time
- Some parents/teachers - donated \$\$ for the fundraiser
- Didn't know it was supposed to be pre-ordered
- Confusion about kids paying or not paying - some kids wanted 4 hot chocolates for \$1.
- Feedback - lids caused more spillage - maybe no lids

- **bizarre summary** - huge success - thank you to all that volunteered and those that donated to bake sale - jen g for details
- Jen G - 26 vendors and a photo booth
- Not time consuming - vendors pay you before the event
- 1 hour to set up - very self sufficient
- Made \$1400 in 5 hours - \$400 in the bake sale (included in \$1400)
- Vendors - booked for \$20 ,and have to give a prize for \$20 for raffle
- Raffle went well as well
- Just a bit of set up the night before <7hrs of hours of total time + wrapping up raffle baskets
- Signs were made by Jen's kids
- Photo booth was \$40 - willing to come to any event we have (not a lot of kids at a Bazar)
- Susy, Renee, Jen, Donna, Kathleen and her mom
- Next year - Susy's husband can be Santa - Mike knows a Santa too!
- Probably add 6 or 7 more vendors
- Next year Shelly in/Krystal Legge's mom
- Open it from 9-10 to the students and have vendors offer \$5 or \$10 items to purchase
- Start earlier next year to collect raffle prizes

Idea - mom2mom sale & bake sale

Gym is going to be rented - after hours - school has priority use - program displacement doesn't normally happen - only group that can override a rental is the school.

Groups who rent don't have to pay if they are displaced

Marissa and Mike - absorbed cost of renting the gym for a Saturday - \$370 for a day. After hours in the week are free - custodians are already here until 11pm.

Is there a discount for registration for next year for the event that was pushed out as a result of Bazar

Leggings lady made double what she made at the Binbrook sale the weekend before

Organized so that people weren't pitted against each other (ie - not 2 legging vendors etc)

- volunteer list updates - will add those submitted
- **Additional position - treasurer** - haven't had one in the past 4 years - there was one prior to that
- School changed money organization - now money goes to secretary - school generated funds are kept track of there - free to appoint a treasurer, it won't change the management of the money, have our own internal way of breaking up parent council from other school generated funds
- Policy - Money belongs to school and it is at the discretion of the school how the funds are distributed
- Fundraising - efforts need to have a direct link - what are we raising the money for - specifically - we have about \$8,500 in the budget
- Maybe a treasurer would keep track of those initiatives
- Update on the bank account - Krystal has volunteered as treasurer - next month - needs update on balance

Fundraising update

- Movie night - January/February - park for next meeting ACTION - think of movie suggestions

NO MEETING in DECEMBER

Umbrella - Sue

Excited about upcoming PA Day December 2nd - school age children going to Dofasco park, skating or crafts or sports

Kindergarteners are going to the movies

Holidays - quiet first week - full force second week - plan lots of fun activities

Having a small family gathering this Thursday - pizza night, crafts

Marie Pliura

- Highlight Pita Pit Fundraising happening once a month - money going to phys. ed equipment
- Holiday Hamper - Forms sent home today - items for your child's age group as a suggestion
- Holiday assembly - Parents only - December 22nd @ 11:20 - last year it overran - that's why it's been moved earlier - and putting tighter timelines on the performances
- Volunteer emails

Corene/Marissa - lost and found is overflowing - any ideas on what to do with it? - Garment rack - after 30 days - donate!

School already keeps a few extra sets of clothes and winter mitts etc. Last Monday of every month it goes

Send it to another needy school? Or Diabetes foundation

Lots of younger kids stuff - not labelled - grade 1-4 - drops on the floor, kicked down the hall - gone missing.

Idea - 2 bins (1st -15th) & (16th-30th)

Side note - Clothes - set of gym clothes = required to change - but they are encouraged to change for gym - grade 4 and up = required to change

Mike/Marrissa:

Mike

1. Heritage green grant - cheque last monday = \$35, 000 - scoreboard has been installed and 450 new chairs have been delivered - quotes for new sound system are coming in - hoping for that and curtains by the Christmas concert
2. Assembly - trustee's from Heritage Green - Wednesday 30th 9am - Stoney Creek News - Big Cheque - asked council for money - but turns out we didn't need to do that because they gave the whole grant - but, there is some upgrades to the new sound system so request **\$1000 - ask to Parent Council - voted YES**
3. **\$500 for new tables** - ask to Parent Council - **voted YES**
4. ACTION for council - Going into January - money not ear-marked to anything - need to identify what the money is going to go towards - bring suggestions for what you would like done with that money - can we put question to teachers and see what THEY believe the money should be used for
5. Budget process - teachers on committee - recommendations from staff for school generated funds - Mike will provide that feedback regarding what teachers are asking for. Rules regarding what we CAN use the money for and what we CANNOT use the money for. Shouldn't put printers or iPad's etc....what WOULD be ok would be a sound field in each room - any device - play sound (currently using laptop speakers) - mount smart board projectors. Niceties. - money towards Principals trips - can donate money to the school to use at their discretion. - Scientists in the school - teach levers, hands on allows a certain science to be taught - a specialization - pricey, but great. When we are thinking about ideas - think about the equity lens, who are we serving, how many students are we benefiting. Entire community contributes...keep that in mind. Perks, exciting, cool for the class, improving overall school experience. Mike to bring a list of what the teachers brought to the table for ideas for SGF. And more refined school plan, where we're headed and what the school budget is focused on. Go home - ask the kids!
6. HUGE THANKS for all the volunteers - keep encouraging people to participate and help out - on behalf of school and kids
7. HUGE THANK YOU to all the staff - huge busy month coming up - great things going on - Sports, Dance, Kylie - very much involved in Christmas Concert, countless hours of work. All teachers are involved - which is awesome. Every student can find something to be involved in - Proud of our school! Revision is happening over a couple of years - school year plan is a 3 year plan - instructional practice - school vision.

8. Friday PD Day - teachers whole day of Math
9. Back field is pristine - fence still up - will come down at Christmas Break - dec 23
10. Sue - Thank Mike for fixing parking situation - parking is much smoother - still a work in progress - Staff have to walk farther - looking to put sensor on gym door so staff can enter there (at least \$1500), not just for staff, but for gym time as well. Mike only calls for his lot - must be the neighbours - crossing guard could call too

Parent Concerns/Questions/feedback:

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

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

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

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

Gatestone Parent Council

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

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
-
- 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.

- 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