

Gatestone Parent Council Meeting

January 29th, 2018 @ 6:30 (library) cancelled due to weather, reset for Feb 5 2018

Attendance:

M. Castellani principal, Pouya, Sue Kowch (umbrella), H. Tank (chair), K. Schmidt (teach rep), Billy Dhillion, Bryan, Sonya, Renee, Sue, Dragana, Suzy, Barb, Lee, Heather

Current Business

Flip of the recess time - Update? Mike talked to staff - seemed like a good idea; (primary's going out first). Not going to switch at this time. Will revisit in June for September 2018.

Traffic - Mrs. Boucher doing a great job in the lot in the morning. Traffic jams still happening but there's only so much to do. Traffic circle may not be open in September; decals for umbrella kids

Eventually it will have to be enforced - knock down pilons an idea

Curriculum - Mike: board wants to highlight to Council: council is not just for fundraising ect.

Would like to see council involved in strategic priorities and how the school is advancing child's education

Strategic directions

- 1) All kids reading at B level at end of grade 1 -80% - created 5 domains, indicators, assessments and tracking tools; how are we reaching the kids not reaching the goals - if a child not reaching goals immediately put into an intervention; knowing classroom is best place for kids to learn is to be in the classroom- if this happens there needs to be just cause and solid explanation; last year it was about 84% of kids were reaching a B at end of June but how was that number reached; now there is an assessment tool for all grade 1 students - all data now put into a database - at risk meetings next couple of weeks for grade ones and FDK's focus is on reading

Question- 1 assessment, this means all children go through the same assessment? DRA was the old system; only addresses the 5 domains - the new system tracks more accurately. Board has given school some freedom to change their assessment tool (ex. dibbles). Now we use nonsense words ie sounding out words/DRA/Dibbles - gives us many scores

Kylie - DRA didn't tell if they could rhyme/put words together/sounds

Bryan- will this tool be used for other grades - MIKE - not yet but it will be in the future; every grade is different so need to spend just as much as did with FDK - will take time; now we need to deal with math for the entire school - need to figure out why our kids are struggling with math; identify what are best bet is - developmental pace girls vs. boys; pick a weave that makes sense

- principles of quantity

Question - Is it standard across the board? Not standard across the board, staff created a system to focus on this issue

Question - is this school held to a higher standard? Board = 80% Gatestone = 85% based on past stats

Mike - accountable to superintendent - every school given the autonomy to create the system

SUZY- what can we do to help ie volunteer ect. To make things move quicker? In terms of capacity building with staff best thing for parents can do is come in and read with kids. Time is best commodity

Mike- by grade 4 we don't give up we change focus; there may be something else going on.

Goal for grade 2 and 3's bring them in to the system

Question - is reading skill connected to writing skills? Kylie, emphasis is on reading now so that in future it will translate into writing Mike - reading at the end of grade one is not the end of the program; we are microscoping reading at the moment - grade 123 they are doing a combined language curriculum its intertwined

2) Grade 6 students achieving B or above - all kids achieving

3) All students graduating from High School

Mike - next meeting will bring us up to speed on Math curriculum

Draga - is there info about the need of volunteers? Kylie; at the beginning of year there is something that goes out.

Mike - the police check has been downloaded to administration- set something up for clarity on volunteering needs that goes home for parents

Fundraising Update

Nothing new, movie nights,

Suzy - it went well

- Not as much popcorn was perfect
- Intermission was great
- Setup was great
- Seemed a success
- Pizza; ordered only what was needed - was great, no extras

Next available date is MARCH 1st

How much money made - \$600 ish - in meeting minutes last time

Parent council funds to go for basket next time

Movie Ideas - Jumanji, force awakens

Mike - Muskoka would like to run a coffee fundraiser - pre ground coffee - for every dollar that is raised we get a dollar

Billy - are there goals for fundraising? No. Is there a tracking record? Yes.

Suzy - no updates from Jen.

Heema- Thanks to Donna for the lunch from Burger Priest

Heather - do parents know about their children being student of the month? Supposed to be notified.

Mike - Need to clarify to parents regarding their students being student of the month

Question - you find out if the child wins award at graduation actually at the Graduation

Only kiwanis and Yes I Can

Macmillian - Heema - thanks to everyone that helped, thanks to jen's mom

Suzy - thanks to Jen's mom.

\$2785 made from macmillians

Treasurer update

Mike - wanted to do a budget tonight but karen was away

Allocation of funds - buses to movie

- Quotes for hydration stations
- Quotes for projectors in classrooms
- Have many legacy ipads in this school go to ios 9 therefore these ones (30) are outdated.
- Can sell them on govdeals.ca for approx. \$100
- Plus apple care \$60 per ipad
- Projectors will have a direct impact on teachers and classrooms *perhaps something PCA can support! Plus proper sound and wireless

Draga - certain classes at a time? Mike - yes, can't afford to do all at the same time - \$2000 per room 25 rooms in the school

Billy - like to see why we are fundraising and what for and how much goes toward the fundraising

Mike - newsletters communicate where funds go; all trip buses paid for for the past 3 years; money goes back to students

Mike - we campaign to parents about what we are working towards ie. projectors therefore parents can get behind

Interactive projectors are the next generation technology

Suzy - 2 types of fundraising 1) something immediate 2) a legacy piece ie projectors

Draga - put it in the newsletter once decided

New Business

Saltfleet - Robin/Suzy - additional funding from saltfleet perhaps approx. 1 million in turf. Making headway on artificial turf. Between saltfleet and OP. Robin will update further at next meeting when more information is available.

Billy - does Robin need our help? More socialization with trustees and such

Suzy- when are we up for heritage green? Next year. They aren't big on technology so we need to think of something else

Suzy - Robin is planting garden in spring - naway

Suzy - sidewalk going to back gate- Mike- up to capital

- Enquire at saltfleet regarding horticulture and planting in the FDK grass area

Community Liaison Officer - Mike - is willing to come in during the day just not after his work hours - we think about it and let Mike know.

Sue - lets not lose sight of how concerned we all were. Community Needs to be aware of police protocol and staff protocol

-protocols are on hwdsb website

-if child was exposed there would have been an offering of counselling

Pouya - called a student absence in, and got called even though left message

Mike - will deal with this

Mike - we are going with cinervoice - March 1st

Round table

Umbrella Update

Sue - next activity is March Break - planning is happening now

- Very happy that Leon called snow removal back to get the parking spots cleared

Pouya - special thanks to Mrs. Omara for doing the books for the kids with their writing and illustrations

Teachers Update - Kylie - reports cards go out on Feb 13th

Principals Update

Mrs. Boucher- will be here til April

Marisa is doing great - will be back in September

Not sure who will be here May and June