

GLA Parent Council Minutes– Thursday Sept 20, 2018

1)

Attendance:

Sara DeCloet*, Christian DeCloet*, Michelle Lemieux*, Nicole McDonnell, Kevin Jackson*, Kim Clark*, Jolene Andrews*, Kathleen Russell, Julie Carr*, Lisa Mantysaari, Paula Wardle, Dorothy Kamphuis*, Lisa Major*, Sara Matthews*, Jennifer Clarke*, Leah Senior*, Karen Koop, Aaron Puley

Regrets:

Candice Romaker*, Shawn Mayhew-Hammond*, Cristina Geissler-Community representative

* = voting members of Council. Employees of the Board cannot be voting members

2)

Welcome new and Returning members!

Welcome Mr. Puley in your first year as VP for GLA! Mr. Puley comes to us as Vice Principal but is also a Parents Engagement Consultant

What is purpose of School Council?

"...to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the educational system to parents" 1.1

Here is a quick link to the "School Councils: A Guide for Members"

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>

Mr. Puley and Chair members will work together to create bylaws for Council

3)

Executive Council members

Chair: Jolene Andrews

Co-chair: Julie Carr

Secretary: Lisa Major

Treasurer: Kim Clark

4)

Principal's report

a) Less rotation this year.

- Students have CORE teacher with whom they get more one on one time

- Student said that they like going from 6 to 8 classes. The classes feel shorter and the day goes by faster

- Less children in the halls

b) EQAO results from last year

- our grade 6 math results are not good

- we will receive results in October

- Math is a Board Focus. Mrs. Wardle and teachers are working on Growth Mindset and positive outlooks on Math and are working on effective strategies

c) **DRILLS**

- Evacuation Drill happened today (previously referred to as Bomb Threat Drill). Community Police members were there today to help facilitate

- We've had 1/3 Fire Drills for 2018 portion of the year, there will be 3 more in the new year

- We have 2 Lock down Drills a year

- Last year, we had 2 Hold & Secures due to medical emergencies and the halls needed to stay clear

d) **Communication of School events**

- want to cut down on paper.

- have been utilizing and will continue to use the sign out front, synervoice, website, calendar on website and kids using their agendas to share information

- calendar was not included in the agenda because agendas needed to be sent off for production before the Board approved dates.

- the calendar for the school year is available on the board website. Parents requested a hard copy. Hard Copies will be sent home

- Here is the link to the Calendar-

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/plan-for-school/calendar/> There should be an option to sync the calendar with your google account

- Suggestion was made that in June, parents are given an option as to whether they will get information via paper or electronic so that next year, we can save more on paper

Vice Principal's report

- a) Kindergarten Area is finally getting its renovation. Work has started already and should be done in about a week, weather and supplies pending
- mention of Bylaws: Bylaws have been by twice already this year. We are on their list to check in on at the Kindergarten area
- b) Eco School! GLA is committing to changing our culture and making better ecological decisions
- Focuses being on Energy Reduction and Waste Reduction. This will be easier thanks to single stream recycling
 - Standings: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. We are currently a Bronze* (please see clarification at bottom of report)
 - Students will have the opportunity to have leadership roles, Mr. Puley will be working with Care taking staff, students and parent volunteers
 - **If you are interested in being part of this ECO Subcommittee, please contact Mr. Puley (APuley@hwdsb.on.ca) **
- c) Subway has shown interest in working with the school for Sub days. Pita Pit is also interested in working with the school again

Teacher's report

- a) Lots of new teachers this year
- b) Always a continuous need for Volunteers. Even if it's not for your child's class for in-class help or class trips
- Police checks are needed
 - please consider putting your name on the list of Volunteers in case classes don't have enough parent volunteers
 - **Visit the office to give them your information**
- c) 3 pick Athletics happening now
- COMING SOON: cross country, volleyball, basketball, swim team (maybe?), robotics club, sewing club, social activism committee run by Mrs. Wardle
 - Terry Fox day next THURSDAY. Donations welcomed but not necessary. Form coming home soon

- Orange Shirt day next week. Wear an orange shirt for Residential Awareness. Mrs. Wardle has shared recommended Picture Books, there will be announcements all week, she can post video clips on line, *please correct me if i'm wrong in the spelling but we also have a *Wampum Belt to be circulated for learning about the Indigenous people and their culture

New News

a) Pita Pit is offering Small Pitas for \$5 and Large Pitas for \$7 with a Teacher's option. \$1 from each sale comes back to the school. They are willing to do all the work

- We decided on Wednesdays on a monthly basis

b) Lunch Lady left information, offering warm lunches for children. Only a 35c return to the school per order

- check out www.theLunchLady.ca for more information

c) Adopt a School. Coles in Limeridge Mall has adopted our school. From September 15 to October 7th

- <http://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/school/2342> will take you to our school's site.

- i just checked and as of this moment, we are sitting at 143 books after 6 days of fundraising! Our goal is 490 books, 1 per student

- please feel free to share via social media with friends, family, coworkers, etc

- When looking at website, you will see that I posted a story. If i get the most "hearts" for my story, our school will get an additional \$2500 for our books!

- I'm currently sitting at 7th in Ontario. Please also share this option as much as possible. <http://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/stories/view/5218>

- Jolene, Leah and Dorothy will be setting up a table at Sidewalk Sounds Friday night on Concession to try and get more donations from our community

d) Fundraising

- it was recommended that we form a subcommittee so that when we meet as a council, we are bringing fully formed ideas and plans to our meetings and not using our meetings for these discussions.

- Subcommittee: Jolene, Julie, Lisa M, Lisa M, Sara D, Nicole, Kim, Kathleen, Dorothy

- will discuss Fundraising plans next meeting

e) Bake Sale and Family Fun Night

- Don't know if we have the Grant for Fun Nights yet, should know in the next week or so

- October 25th will be our Bake Sale date, anything left over will be added to Family Fun Night which will take place that evening

- Mrs. Scouten has CYW students to run the Haunted Houses again

- Will discuss specifics next meeting

Questions/Comment:

1. Update on the Elevator that was supposed to be installed? No update. Mrs. Koop will inquire with *Paul Denomme?*

2. Do we have a representative that helps support new Immigrants to our school? We have an EOL teacher, Renee Rettan. There are settlement workers available through the Board of Education. Need to look up who the contact is at the Board of Education.

3. Kim asked when the next Primary K-5 assembly is. We have won the Dunville Fair trophy and herself and the Fair committee want to present it to the students. This is 4 times out of 5 that GLA has brought back the trophy from the Fair

Next Meeting: Thursday October 18th at 6:30pm

Other dates to note for those who were not with us last year:

November 15th- School Council meeting

December 10th- meeting the day before the Holiday Store (aka set up for the store)

December 11th- 12th- Holiday Store

December 21st- Last day before School Holidays

January 17th- School Council meeting

February 21st- School Council meeting

March --

April 25th- School Council meeting

May 16th- School Council meeting

June 3rd- School Council- At this meeting, we will be making signs, etc and preparing for the School Carnival

June 6th- Carnival

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm

*** Tweak:**

VP Puley made a clarification RE: the reference to Environment Friendly school

-we are not a Bronze yet, but we could easily get a bronze

GLA Parent Council Minutes– Thursday October 17, 2018

Attendance (names and emails)

Karen Koop (Principal) kkoop@hwdsb.on.ca
Aaron Puley (VPrincipal) apuley@hwdsb.on.ca
Jolene Andrews (Chair) joleneandrews84@gmail.com
Julie Carr (Co-chair) julie_carr@rogers.com
Kim Clark (Treasurer) kleenex70@gmail.com
Lisa Major (Secretary) lisa_major@me.com
Sara De Cloet * sara@decloet.ca
Christian De Cloet * christian@decloet.ca
Candice Romaker * c_copland@yahoo.com
Nicole McDonnell nicmc23@gmail.com
Paula Wardle pwardle@hwdsb.on.ca
Dorothy Kamphuis * krisanddor@yahoo.ca
Amber Yorke * amber.yorke@gmail.com

Dawn Danko ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca

* = voting members

Minutes of last meeting

A) First Pita pit day we had 108 orders, made \$108 (we make \$1 per pita)
-still trying to get in contact with Subway rep to work out details

B) -Halloween events: there will be a dance for grades 6-8 and a parade for K-5. The parade will be outside weather permitting, in gym otherwise

C) -School Council by-law, still need to meet and create by-laws for School Council. The by-laws will be an ongoing project throughout the year, we will tweak throughout the year to create a solid set of by-laws

VP Puley added – pulling text/ideas from, have a starting point
-committee, can meet and make tweaks,

Principal's Report

A) Paper Calendar sent out to parents

B) Elevator-must be in compliance by 2025, have been asking the board for it every year since Eastmount joined Armstrong

-We had the budget for an elevator, however, there were severe roof issues and we had to use the elevator fund to fix the roof. The board has capital funding, but the project needs to be approved by the Province. Dawn Denko will keep pushing

C) -Dawn Denko helped push the funding for Kindergarten turf to be done

D) EQAO results

-Principal Koop added some context to the test scores

-during testing, students cannot have any help from teachers or posters or anything

-this test covers everything from 4, 5, 6

--the current grade 6ers did not write them in grade 3

-it is stressful, sitting in rows rather than groups, can't use any visual aids or help from teachers as they are used to.

-they also do a survey about their attitudes and behaviour about school, attitudes about reading and math

-1/3 says that they like to read and they like math

-understanding the data – haven't gone over it with the staff yet

-have test writing dates for the next 2 year tests

E) What are they doing to improve?

--CORE teachers

-grades focusing on where students are (not where they necessarily should be) to ensure they gain all of the skills they need

-math professional development on a regular basis from Math facilitator

-additional math facilitator

-support for students from M. Wardle in small groups on regular basis for skills and mindset – only 1/3 of the kids say they like math, working on making kids feel more confident in math,

-School Council support???

-program to help teach parents how to tutor their kids

Christian – what percentage of student did not write math? A: nobody refused to write

Sara: how many had IEPs (Individual Education Plan) students? (not many?),

The letter sent home about EQAO – what does it mean? Kim said she found confusing

--in elementary school, it is a small snippet of time, doesn't count for their mark, it covers a lot of information they covered much earlier in the year and in years past

-in high school it does go towards their mark and they must pass in order to graduate

Question asked: what is the ESL population of GLA? A: Principal Koop Don't know # at top of her head, there is an ESL teacher to support

--ESL students are allowed support during tests such as dictionaries in own language

Vice Principal's Report

A) -Grant: Parents Reaching Out grant – up to \$1000 for any type of engagement for parents participating in school

--can it go to the fun fair? – GL did have a grant and didn't know that so was not used, in past the money could roll over, but it will not roll over to this year, we lost it

--we missed the deadline to apply for the grant this year

--however, Ford government put the grant program on pause as of today

B) Eco-school initiative – beyond the recycling club, creating a culture of eco citizens, helping recycling initiatives, make posters about what you can and cannot recycle

The Eco club has 10-12 students with variety of rolls, recyclers, promoters, reviewers (checking classrooms, turning off lights)

-no team name yet but will get them t shirts or something to make them proud

-team is registered and they are going for GOLD!

-(did not like the suggestion to name themselves the Eco Eagles)

C) -issue with "hands on" in the playground, P and VP checking in on students while they are outside
--they are endeavoring to encourage a "hands off" culture ie: no horse play,
-they have discussed this over the announcements
--Asking council parents to try encouraging "hands off" at home and work on different ways of working out differences rather than physical
--can we fundraise for a motivation speaker to talk about caring culture?
----yes, Principal Koop will research speakers and costs
--currently students can earn points for their nest or house colours for good citizenship
--working on Zones of regulation

Teacher's Report

A) -asked to chat with staff about what they would like to see to improve school
--most teachers are concerned with promoting a caring culture within the school, suggested events held in the school such as family info nights, parent classes about healthy eating, anxiety, caring practices
--reaching out to parents to get them involved in implementing caring practices at home
--focusing on children's work ethic, pride in learning
IDEAS-family math night, family reading night, more brainstorming appreciated

Motivational presenters – suggested that hiring motivational presenters the speak to the students and parents within the school
-- police liaison will do talks,
--Principal Koop suggested Gary Dierenfeld- he takes cues from audience and discusses issues that matter to them, he is a Hamilton local, he is pricey, P Koop will look into costs – one council member suggested that the more general approach Gary D offers will bring in more parents (rather than just focusing on math/English)

B) Volleyball started last night Ms Vanderbeen excited about how the girls are doing

C) Basketball should be starting soon

D) Boys and girls both won slow-pitch

E) Cross country – kids behaved, helpful, respectful in racing, weather warmer than last year, all handled the pushing from other runners (people from other schools) very well, they were proud in their achievements, even if they didn't win or came in 70th

New Business

A) Bake Sale

-Jolene wrote news about it on sidewalk, it is on Thursday October 25

-Leah will have an allergy free table with non-consumables (ie bracelets and fangs) and pre-packaged goods that have ingredients listed on packaging

-ensure there are absolutely no nuts in baked goods

-staff signup for bringing kids in to shop

--Dorothy suggested to try to bring the little kids first so they have some selection. In the past the bigger kids would bring in more money and buy a large portion of the goods.

--encouraging to limit only spend \$5

-no raffles this bake sale because we did not get the lottery license on time, will get it in time for next event (we are still in a learning process)

-need volunteers for bake sale

Bake sale: who can volunteer:?

Lisa during the morning, Christian during the morning, Dorothy in afternoon, Amber (not sure when)

-leftovers from the bake sale are free at the family fun night

--some ideas about possibly selling some things at family fun time

--we need to keep volunteers working the tables the entire time

--the idea of not spending money is to keep the nights inclusive, not excluding on any level

--ie: for the Halloween bake sale, the whole class goes down, every kid is able to take something even if they don't have any money (either the teachers will give them some money or the volunteers give the kids a couple of items at no charge – we want to make sure everyone feels included

B) How much money does the Council have?

Kim (treasurer): We are at \$108, we have not received the \$500 grant from the government yet

-P Koop: we have a slush fund of \$2000 that was raised in past years, but don't like to use it unless we have to

Bake sale leftovers usually used for family fun nights on Halloween

The budget for the Halloween Family Fun night is usually around \$300

C) Family Fun night

Activities ideas

-like the craft building skeleton with cotton swabs

-contact Jolene via email about what you want to do for family fun night, with what supplies you need, etc

D) Fundraising Plan

For each fundraising project we need to list:

-type of event, purpose of funds, time period, anticipated revenue

For example, last year the Holiday Store anticipated \$1300

The council funds need to be spent on the children, not teacher training or parent workshops, would need to include children in events like math night, motivational speaker

-we can allocate certain percentage of earnings to different items, eg 25% to go to gym equipment, nutrition, library, tech

--the Principal and teachers try to heed advice of Council as to allocation of funds as closely as possible

Spring Carnival

-it costs us money, didn't make money, but that's okay. We need to decide what we want to do with each event

Bake sale in December happened, spring bake sale did not happen

All money that was raised was used for trips and trip subsidies

Halloween Bake sale

--funds for Holiday store

-1 day

--revenue anticipated \$350

Pita Pit

-as of right now we are doing once a month, we are testing it out to see if its popular, we can do it as often as we like

-anticipated revenue is **\$1000/month**

Discussion:

Where do we want the Pita Pit money going?

--subsidize buses for end of year trips?

Teacher noted—at the beginning of the year planning trips is difficult because teachers know that field trip costs will be impossible/unaffordable for many families

--motion put on table that from Pita Pit funds that up to \$1000 will go to end of year trips, anything extra will go into a miscellaneous trip fund (ones for throughout the year)

7 voted for, 0 voted against

MOTION CARRIED

-Pita Pit Fund allocations: up to \$1000 to subsidize end-of-year trips, any leftover funds will go into misc trip fun

Holiday Store and Bake sale together

-\$2000 anticipated

-cost to run \$600

-\$1400 – spend on?

--family engagement nights

Revenue allocation:

-50% for the teacher classroom engagement/trip subsidy/general trip

-50% for family engagement nights

Year End Carnival

-cost was \$1041

-it was a terrible windy night

-food trucks were unreliable

Will research other catering ideas:

-Harvey's doing BBQ

-M&M meats will give 10%

E) More fundraising ideas:

-make focus to fundraise for motivational speakers / math nights etc?

-family fun night – organized event with a performer, Bubblologist

--want to use funds for another family fun night?

Family math or literacy or well being night

--doesn't cost a lot

--bring the kids, parents more likely to come

F) Indigo Adopt a School program:

We had 449 books donated to our school library through the adopt a school fundraiser.