



GLEN CAIRN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - 6:15pm - Virtual

Minutes

In attendance:

Crystal Boutilier (Chair), Patricia Fitzgerald (Treasurer), Jaime Routliffe (Secretary), Angela Chaplin (Principal), John Saschenbrecker (Vice Principal), Tracy Spear (Teacher Rep), Julia Zuliani, Chris Pouliot, Andrea Wills, Paula Chang

1. Welcome - Crystal Boutilier
2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2023 - Crystal Boutilier
 - a. Approved.
3. Approval of Agenda - Crystal Boutilier
 - a. Approved.
4. Principal's Report - Angela Chaplin
 - a. Received the first allocation of the school budget. Another portion will come after the new year. Budgets are received based on enrollment which was captured in the first week of October (Enrollment was approximately 340 students).
 - b. Continuing to get new registrations which is the normal trend. This was the first year with lower than projected enrollment so aren't sure how many will continue to register throughout the school year.
 - c. 99% of the reorg is complete. There are still some families hoping for a class change but that is hard as classroom numbers are high. Some other changes such as lunch room changes may be possible.
 - d. Staffing is good. The two EA's on leave will be returning in December. Have been lucky to have good, consistent replacements.
 - e. Spec Ed - working with Keri Hillier and sticking to the same model with Learning Resource Teachers in classrooms supporting within the classroom space, doing Empower which is a withdrawal program to help with reading, will have EA's scheduled into Grade 7 classes. In Grade 8, looking for more of an as needed basis using the ISST space and having

that space fully staffed for students working on alternative programs or who are catching up on work.

- f. Keri Hillier and Trevor Powers are working together to start a program for students who have demonstrated strengths in math. There will be 1 hour a week and it will be a 4 week schedule per module. Students identified by staff will be sent to Mr. Powers to work on a STEM activity. This will be starting in 2 Thursdays and students will work on that group project.
- g. Progress reports and interviews - Progress Reports go home Thursday afternoon. Remember that progress reports are a report of how each child is progressing/growth - changes in abilities from September until now. Staff have been encouraged to reach out to families of students who are not progressing well and to meet with those families the evening of the 23rd and morning of the 24th. Also reaching out to families progressing more than anticipated and seeing how they can help those students. Emails will be sent Thursday regarding interviews to schedule interviews using the online system. If a time slot does not work, arrangements may be made to meet at a different time.
- h. Philippe Lajoie has spent some time going through the science equipment and seeing where there are some needs. Science is an area that spending is planned for this year to enhance the hands on piece of science and being able to do more labs. Pizza and Lunch Lady funds will help go towards this spending.
- i. Received funding in outdoor education budgets and have funding for an activity as well as actual items. Kyle Washington (outdoor education lead) and Phillippe Lajoie (phys ed lead) are working together to determine a plan for that funding. They are looking for something that can be actioned right away.
- j. High School Information is starting for Grade 8 students. On the GCPS website under parent resources section - information is up to date there regarding open houses and other virtual nights. All students will visit AY Jackson. Students interested in Sir Guy will have an opportunity to go there too. Canterbury is doing a virtual visit.
- k. Next week is the Scholastic book fair Tuesday to Friday and will be open during school hours and interview times. Online fairs during covid were successful so were hoping that there would be in person and virtual link but that's no longer an option so it will be in person only.
- l. School clothing store is up and running online and can be found on the website. If ordered by the 17th it will be free shipping and sent to the school but the online store will stay open all year.

- m. The school wellness team (Tracy Spear, Kami Francis and Angela Burns) met and one of the feedback concerns was parent connection to the school. They are looking to engage families more. There will be a focus that is two pillars - student relationship development and parent engagement. Looking at 3 events - possibly math olympics day (during school hours), an evening event with individual presentations such as wax museum, and a career day for students but having parents do the presentations and students could choose which presentations they go to and see a variety of careers. It is hard to get data because students are only at GCPS for 2 years. Parent engagement is different in middle school but there are a lot of parents looking to have that involvement with their students especially because they've missed some of that with Covid. They will also run a wellness day (in the spring) where students sign up for a workshop - ex. Drumming from Wabeno, an artist doing art journaling.
5. Vice Principal's Report - John Saschenbrecker
- a. John is doing the ISST support with Angela Burns and they are working on the transition to high school for Grade 8 students. December 13th is the student visit to AY. Showing students the Xello system for high school course selection which will be done in January. It will be done with teacher guidance and can also be done at home. Parents will receive a print out of selections. All students register at AY which is the home school and then can apply to other programs and make changes if necessary
 - b. Peer groups are up and running - making friends, talking on the phone, conversation starters and other activities
 - c. There is an Early Intervention Program with a nurse from the Royal Ottawa. The Grade 7's got a presentation and forms were sent home for interested students. The program focuses on mental health knowledge. The students learn skills and do other activities. Some Grade 8's continued it this year after starting in Grade 7.
6. Staff Report - Tracy Spear
- a. Interviews - some staff will be paired together when booking for interviews. The interviews will be 4:30 to 7:30 on Thursday evening and 8:30 to 11:30 on Friday morning. Families can book up to 2 interview slots.
 - b. Halloween Dance and activities were a great success. The students raised \$703 for Furry Tails Rescue. Student Council did a great job. The suggestions were an animal shelter, CHEO day program and Shepherds of Good Hope and students voted almost unanimously for an animal rescue. They also collected 487 food items for the Kanata Food Cupboard.
 - c. Student Council will be meeting soon to discuss an activity for December.

- d. Football is over, teams had a great time! A lot was learned and students represented GCPS well. Volleyball has started. Tier 1 and 2 Girls and 1 Boys team.
 - e. Almost all clubs have started. Musical practice is running Tuesday and Thursday. Some of the clubs are DandD, brain boosters, makers club, baking club and pride club. There is something almost every recess.
 - f. On Monday Eva Olsen is coming for a full school presentation. She is 99 years old and will be doing a presentation about the Holocaust. There will be some pre teaching for students before the presentation. It's an amazing presentation with a strong impactful message.
 - g. Bill Mason - Grade 7's ecosystem outdoor experience, all classes went. Looking at a trip for the Grade 8's as well. Bussing makes it harder so they are looking at different opportunities.
 - h. Lots of science happening with lots of labs and the school has been great with supporting those.
7. Financial Report - Patricia Fitzgerald
- a. There was no report this meeting.
8. New Business - Crystal Boutilier
- a. Principal Profile
 - i. May be updated if needed, last year's will be shared for review
 - b. Annual Year-End Report
 - i. Will be completed by last year's Chair. Angela will reach out to them.
 - c. Request for Services: There are a lot being sent to the School Council email. Such as babysitting courses, Farm2Fork, Right 2 Safety. They have not been done in previous years as the Student Council is strong at GCPS and typically does the fundraising.
9. Round Table
- a. Julia - What is the role of the council at GCPS? Angela - It can be whatever we would like it to be. It is for parents and community and help will not be turned down but there hasn't been a council for so long. It has tended to be an opportunity to get together and discuss what's happening in the school. Some year's they have organised Pizza Night fundraisers. Funds have typically gone to a Staff Wishlist or Grade 8 T-Shirts. Tracy - it used to be more involved with Graduation, Book Fair and other activities and they would organise a picnic in the Spring but with the strength of Student Council it's been less because the students are running most of those fundraising events.
 - i. Parents will meet separately to discuss what they would like council to be this year.

- b. Patricia - What has been done before for Teacher Appreciation? Two years ago they started pizza nights and used some of those funds for a teacher appreciation breakfast.
 - c. Julia - Could we start an email list to share ideas? Crystal will create a mailing list.
 - d. We discussed the reviews of the school and the possibility of starting something in the school for students to provide their real feedback. There was some discussion about how middle school is different for everyone and for some it can be a real challenge. Students being there for only 2 years makes it harder to really engage in that sense of community. There are students coming from many different schools and they don't have a lot of time to adjust.
 - e. Julia - Is there a parent group on social media? No, there has never been a parent group. There is a school page but it is not used for information because it's not monitored and things might get missed. The Glen Cairn PS website is the best place to get information regarding what's happening at school.
 - f. Julia agreed to Co-Chair with Crystal this year.
10. Adjournment - 8:20pm

Next Meeting - Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30pm