

Glad Park School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 8, 2008

Attendance: Jim Thomas, Carolyn Dobson, Sarah Carrick, Janet Park, Andria Stevens, Lisa Hume, Diana Bohemier, Tracy Grensted, Catherine McCowan, Michelle Rennie, Zoie Williamson, Natalie Wood, Jennifer Rose, Drew McNaughton

Regrets: Dalene Serebro (Vice Chair), Natasha Baage (Vice Principal)

Guest Speaker: Lucy Valleau New Trans-Fats Regulations in Schools

Parent Observers: Derra Dunsmoor, Allyson Valcheff, Ada Seebach, Kelly Atkinson, Trish Maxwell, Sarah Barkley, Heather Anderson, Maria Nadeau, Marianne Deeks

Review September Minutes

September minutes approved by: Natalie Wood, seconded by Diana Bohemier.

School Crossing Guard Update Jim Thomas

There has been an ongoing parking problem on Millard at Glad Park Ave. Some residents on the south side have been parking between the sidewalk and curb and it has caused a visibility barrier when crossing at the intersection. Jim has spoken to community members and asked them to move their vehicles to prevent visibility barrier

Jim also shared that he is happy to see children embracing diversity and differences within the school community and amongst their peers which is visible in seeing children walking hand in hand together

Discussion included: the positive atmosphere at Glad Park PS and the emphasis within the school and Board on Character Education and character traits.

4 Way stop turn down.

Dalene Serebro volunteered at last meeting to draft a letter on behalf of Glad Park Council to Town of Whitchurch Stouffville Council. Natalie Wood agreed to edit the letter.

Discussion around safety at 4 cross walks and the need to re-address with Town the need for a flashing cross walk and a 4 way stop as ninth line is realigned to improve traffic flow.

A suggestion was made to approach St. Marks Council to see if they may like to support our initiative with Town Council to ensure safe walking of all students

New Trans-Fats Regulations in Schools-Lucy Valteau, Public Health Nutritionist, Chair of Health and Safety Committee

Healthy Foods for Healthy Schools Act

Public Health Nutritionist educates and creates awareness

Summary of Health and Safety Committee Mandate

- Help school community promote and support healthy practices in the classroom throughout the school and in homes to improve the health and learning ability of our students

Based on Comprehensive School Health model or 'whole school' approach

Essential Elements of Nutrition Education

1. Quality Instruction & Programs,
2. Healthy Physical Environment healthy, culturally appropriate food choices are offered, safe food practices
3. Supportive School Environment
4. Community Partnerships public health, parks and recreation, local heart health program

New Trans-Fats Regulations -Amends Education Act to give power to Ministry to regulate the sale of food and beverages containing industrially produced trans fat

Effective September 1, 2008 in all schools

Industrial Trans fat is found in

- Spreads, baked goods, packaged snack foods (pudding cups, granola bars, micro popcorn, Convenience foods (taco shells, etc
- Naturally occurring trans fat does not appear to have the same harmful affects
- All school boards must meet new standards for all food that is sold within schools and school events
- Exemptions Special Event Days 10 allowed per school year where trans fat can be offered
- Fundraising in community

- Coming soon...comprehensive nutrition standards in development for September 2009. These may affect all fundraising

Trans Fat Regulations

Less than 2% of total fat can be trans fat in spreads

Less than 5% on all other foods

Schools are responsible to ensure the trans fat regulation is in place

Healthy School Role Support the spirit of the policy

Improve nutritional quality of all foods and the health of all students and staff

Public Health supports and encourages school communities to improve school nutrition environments

Health and Safety committee will produce a version and healthy FAQs to submit to the newsletter

Student Achievement & Literacy Committee- Carolyn Dobson

Carolyn and Sarah met with Melissa King School Library Teacher-Literacy Lead

Literacy initiatives already in place:

- Links to literacy
- Parents as partners
- Primary home readying program
- Newsletter insert
- 12 teachers on school literacy committee
- More reading and writing materials for French Immersion

Shared ideas on ways council can support literacy

- Writing Contests
- Judges from Community
- Mystery Readers, community
- Pen pals with seniors write and visit
- Where you can go when you write-career presentations
- Freedom Writers-film

Literacy Night- increasing family involvement

Environment Committee

Will hold their first meeting on Friday October 10, 2008

Diane Green is the Staff Rep on environmental committee

Fundraising Committee- Michelle Rennie

Two big fund raisers already commenced QSP magazine subscriptions and Pizza lunches

QSP has been extended, families keep selling!

Fun Fair

Purpose of fun fair includes: community building, both the school and larger Stouffville community, make some money, have fun!

Has the past fun fair committees ever considered hosting the fair on a Saturday?

Yes, and it has been decided to ave it right after school on Friday because everyone is already at school, its exciting for the students, many families have weekend plans

Worthy of discussion

Fun Fair Committee will meet before November meeting to choose date for fun fair Meeting date: Tuesday October 28, 2008

Funding Proposals- Natalie Wood

All funding proposals will be vetted by November meeting
Mr. Vikse will be invited to November meeting to share music program and re-present his original proposal for sound and stage enhancements

Communications

New board in between double doors to share information with families

Treasurers Report- Catherine McCowan

Current working funds \$19 000.00 **please see attached**

Chair's Report- Michelle Rennie

School Council Forum at Bur Oak Secondary October Wednesday Oct 22, 2008

Allyson Valcheff, Diana Bohiemer, Zoie Williamson, Dalene Serebro and Drew McNaughton will attend on behalf of GP School Council

Principal's Report- Drew McNaughton

Curriculum:

- EQAO results (as shared in the October Newsletter)
 - Power Point Presentation: The Data, Beyond the Numbers, Think About, Next Steps
- 6+1 Traits of Writing
 - New writing program at GPPS to address SPCI focus for 2008-2009
 - IDEAS will be the first area of focus (November-January)
 - Parents as Partners (monthly newsletter entry) will focus on school-home connections for writing with the traits
- Celebrating Student Success Assembly (as shared in the October Newsletter)
 - Changes to “Student of the Month” Assembly
 - Academic Achievement (effort, improvement, subject performance) and Learning Skills to be considered

School-Home Communication

- Class/Grade Newsletters
 - Monthly class/grade newsletters will be a priority this year
 - Focus on: units of study, curricular expectations, assessment measures, reminders, parent feedback

Respectful School

- Be Cool Program (guidance program for primary classes)
- Peer Mediation
 - Peer Mediators have finished their training and will start on Tuesday, October 14
 - Last year was an enormous success
- “Me to We” Moment at Celebrating Student Success Assembly
 - Activity led by student council at each Celebrating Student Success Assembly
 - Modelled after “Me to We” (Craig Kielburger)
 - Philosophy: we can all build a better world through reaching out to others
- Tree of Respect (Celebrating Student Success Assembly)
 - One student in each class may receive a leaf of respect for demonstrating respect
 - All student leaves to be placed on Tree of Respect in the front foyer

Parents can request to see EQAO tests once they are received at the School

Staff Representative- Graham Scrimgeour

- Grade 6 and 7’s annual trip to Muskoka Woods is scheduled for Nov 19-21

- 150 kids participating from GP in Track and Field, Cross Country Running
- Specialty teachers are teaching non-core subjects which is great
- Skiing Skating Winter Electives are being scheduled over 3 days one per month in Jan. Feb. March. Students in grade 4-8 will be able to choose between skiing/snowboarding and/or skating
- Jump for Rope for Heart /Hoops for Heart April
- Parents need to think about kids being too busy after school and on weekends, Sports are important but finding a balance is also important
- Student Council Leadership Team 15 students Ms. Stapley, Ms. Osborne are teacher reps.
- Will be involved in monthly assemblies
- Grade 7 and 8 students can apply with recommendations from three teachers. No election avoid popularity contest

Other Questions

Unicef Program

Diana Bohemier asked if Glad Park ever considered fundraising for Unicef?

Glad Park has participating in the following fundraisers which have a Global mandate:

- Nelson Mandela Day
- PGL
- Stephen Lewis Foundation

Glad Park PS has committed to 3 charity fundraisers this school year. They are:

- Terry Fox
- Heart and Stroke
- Sick Kids Hospitals

Next Meeting: Monday November 3, 7pm in the library.