

Glad Park School Council **Minutes: October, 5th 2009**

Attendees: Dalene Serebro, Natalie Wood, Lisa Hume, Drew McNaughton, Natasha Baage, Kelly Atkinson, Diana Bohemier, Janet Park, Rod Hardman, Jim Thomas, Sarah Carrick, Andria Stevens, Andrea Smerek, Andrea James, Maria Nadeau, Graham Scrimgeour.

Regrets: Gloria Rincon

Approval of minutes from Sept 21/09

First- Diana Bohemier
Second- Kelly Atkinson

Andrea S- commented on an idea for litter-less lunches - primary grade teacher brings a small Rubbermaid container for their class garbage during recess.

Committee updates:

Health & Safety: The H & S committee is going to put the **hand washing campaign**, into action. The HINI flu concern has made this a priority. They committee will start a **health and safety student club** in which the students club members will be involved in the hand washing campaign, **November** is the kick-off for the hand washing program for JK- grade 3. There will be 2 PA announcements a week to remind students to wash their hands. The H & S board will be updated and the committee will **update** the Glad Park **website** with some flu and health and safety information.

Some members of the H & S committee attended the Health & Safety networking at Bill Crothers School it was great information & brainstorming day.

Dalene raised a concern about the no peanut policy. It should be a **NO NUTS policy**. Mr. McNaughton commented that he and Mme Bagge have already discussed this and will change the policy to NO NUTS. Mr. McNaughton commented that 30 % of students with an allergy to peanuts also have a nut allergy. Glad Park is peanut/nut sensitive school. Health & Safety committee will address this as well.

Student achievement: meeting this week- no report. The **writing contest** will start in **November**.

Environment Committee:

The Committee will meet soon. There is some interest in green/eco school certification and Rod will look into this.

Fundraising:

QSP- slow- deadline is to after thanksgiving Tuesday. Every subscription brings a ballot for winning a Smartboard. (Andria Stevens)

The first **pizza** day is Oct 9th.

No peanut products are used at 2-4-1 pizzas Diana asked at management and we have a letter stating this. We have a **projected profit of \$3000 1st term.**

Cupcake days- no dates set- Andrea Smerek – to email Janet Park last years cupcake bakers email list.

Jim Thomas: all is going well at the cross walk/ commented on the students' positive behavior. Mr. Thomas comment on the Markham Fair craft entries from Glad Park.

Mr. Thomas was impressed with meet the teacher the night turn out. Mr. Thomas asked why the school does not participate in the local student music scholarship contest. This year it is the 17th annual contest, which will take place at SDSS.

CTV- Me to We- Bonnie (McLaren) Skinner and Nikita Brown took students down- Mme Townend & Mme Bentley- 50 on student leadership team out of 110 students- 13 students went and will be making a presentation at Oct student assembly.

Principals Report:

School Plan for Continuous Improvement

Curriculum Implementation: Student Writing

- 08-09 School Data Presentation
- Areas of focus for the September 25 PA Day included: Informal Writing Conferences, Revised Arts Curriculum, Class Profiles (Education for All), Literacy Circles

Parental, Family and Community Engagement: School Communication

- Based on a request from the School Council (Student Dress Code – School Uniforms), YRDSB Procedure 635 (Dress Code) was shared.
- Meet the Teacher night was a great success; many thanks to all parents/guardians who were able to attend.

School Climate: Respectful School

- Members of the Student Leadership Team (with GPPS staff) attended the Me to We Day Celebration at the ACC on Monday, October 5; this group will share their experiences at the October Student Success Assembly.

Miscellaneous Items:

- Great start to the school year, no reorganization was needed at GPPS this fall.
- Terry Fox Run, over \$1500 raised – well done!
- I-Walk day on Wednesday, October 7.
- Ski Trip Guidelines have changed. All students need to wear a helmet when skiing on a school trip. Still seeking volunteers to assist with the planning of our Winter Electives (Jan. 21 and Feb. 25).

Comments:

Diana- commented on how grade 6 EQAO results were higher than provincial (grade 3's are lower).

*note -The school is given additional funds for primary reading improvement with a focus on the primary reader.

Sarah Carrick- question re Boys, Books and Basketball, which was once a very popular program at Glad Park, is no longer running. Drew explained that there is no longer a gender gap now and the focus has been transferred to other programs.

Other info: What the Glad Park Staff did on the September PA day
They participated in an informal writing conference & had carousel training session.

The curriculum night was a big success with a good turn out.

15 Glad Park Intermediate students and staff attended the Me to We conference on Monday Oct 5th. Bonnie Skinner and Nikita Brown took students down to the conference. Mme Townend & Mme Bentley & Ms Skinner run the student leadership team. There are 50 intermediate students on student leadership team. The students who attended the Me to We conference will be making a presentation on the conference at the next student assembly.

International walk to school day is Wednesday Oct 7th.

Ski trip guidelines have changed this year and now helmets are mandatory for all students participating. **Parents interested in helping should contact Mme Townend.** The dates are January 21 & Feb 25th . Another activity will be added to the winter elective program.

Treasurer report (Diana Bohemier)

Finance: balance from last year \$14 309 available.

Committee funds: \$500 max for each council committee, this will be set aside.

Fun Fair 2009 funds- money is supposed to go to Technology- **Natalie Wood and Drew McNaughton will confer on a technology proposal**. Smart boards – the Glad Park Admin hopes that every teacher who wants one- should get one because if technology is not in the classroom it is not often used by staff.

Publishing House: - no sure if it is go?

Dalene: Council Report:

School uniform question: Jim- recommendation- (re) read motion to put in place uniform dress code. Jim thinks motion should be withdrawn due to lack of support.

Drew must support the interest of all parents at the school. The school needs a certain 80% of parents agree to uniform dress code.

Rod Hardman commented on pros and cons of uniform dress- feels that there is enough merit in concept to have a discussion. Rod- thinks an investigation committee should go forward,

Maria Nadeau- “what is the purpose behind a uniform”- who will monitor uniform dress, what consequences will happen if a child doesn’t wear the uniform.

Janet Park- what is our motivation-(?) What legacy will be giving the younger families? This could be a huge task- will it detract from other focuses that the school is currently is working on.

Dalene: survey Y or N to see if there are enough people motivated to look into the idea.’ Should we investigate or not ...

And the **survey** says: **3 “yes” and 10 “no”**- so the motion is **withdrawn**.

Families helping families: All were in favour of setting aside \$1000 for FHF

Sarah Carrick- asked for a little more notice for **Christmas wish list**.... A note will go out in the next newsletter for families wishing to participate in the Christmas gift fund.

Awards- Natalie Wood. There are already many grade 8 awards and perhaps another one may be redundant.

Sarah Carrick motioned-that council donates a book in honour of the student valedictorian. (\$50 value). **Rod Hardman** seconds the motion.

Jim Thomas asked how the French immersion/ English dual tract school works and asked for Drew to explain how the program works at the November council meeting. **Mme Bagge-** said the same program delivered in the same way just in different language. Graham- the kids all live and play side by side and so there are no differences.

There are 3 grade one French immersion classes at GPPS this year.

Teacher report: Mr. Scrimgeour is the teacher representative for council. No report this month.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25pm