

## GSA Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2015

\*\*GSA Regular Council Meeting, held at Glencairn School in the Library, 7:00 PM

**In Attendance:** Cathy Foster (Co-President), Amy Moeder (Co-President), Cat Schwartz (Vice President), Jen Zeman (Treasurer), Kate Burch (Secretary), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Mike Foster (Teacher), Mignon Valdespino (Teacher), Heidi Phillips (DPC Rep), Suzanne Rojas (Parent), Shannon Shokora (Parent), Fatimat Adebayo (Parent), Thomas Baumann (Parent), Heidi Chen (Parent), Fei Chen (Parent), Cathy Yang (Parent), Jinfeng Wu (Parent), Zhenhua Zhao (Parent), Zhenqiao Song (Parent), Hong Zhang (Parent), Ge Zhou (Parent), Fajuan Chong (Parent), Michael Zhang (Parent), Jasmin Alfonso (Parent), Yuchun Zhang (Parent)

\*\*Meeting agenda approval: Approved

\*\*October meeting minutes approval: Approved

**Teacher Presentation:** (Mike Foster and Mignon Valdespino, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers)

Upcoming events in 5<sup>th</sup> grade: The annual Thanksgiving feast is coming upon Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. It is a Glencairn tradition with 10 different activities for students to rotate through. This gives students an authentic Thanksgiving experience where they will also eat traditional Thanksgiving foods.

Fifth Grade Field Trips: Fifth graders take a trip to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum in the spring. They take the Greyhound bus down which costs \$1,603.44, tickets are between \$650-\$750 for everyone. There is also a Mission to Mars field trip planned at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum for February which has a simulation that connects directly to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. There are hands-on science displays and a planetarium. Students will travel by school bus with a cost of \$388.88, the cost of tickets is \$8 per student for a total of \$432 for both classes. Mike Foster wrote an ELEF grant to cover the Mission to Mars trip and will find out shortly if he received that grant money. As of right now, the GSA has \$250 set aside for 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trips this year. Typically, there is a Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser held 3 times throughout the year (November, January and March) to offset the cost of the Greenfield Village/Henry Ford trip. This year, the November portion of the fundraiser was put on hold. It was decided that he will go ahead with the January and March portions with the understanding that fundraising is completely optional for families and that every child will have the opportunity to go on this field trip.

**A Taste of Glencairn:** (Jen Zeman and Mike Foster) A Taste of Glencairn is being held on December 9<sup>th</sup> along with Open Mic Night. Marc Finger is the lead on Open Mic Night with Beth Peck as the lead for A Taste of Glencairn. Beth will be reaching out to groups at MSU to see if they'd like to participate that night as well. According to Mike Foster, traditionally, food and seating takes place in the gym in an 'L' shaped configuration with desserts and drinks in the back corner. The multi-purpose room was used for traditional dances and was scheduled with different

events every 15 minutes. Parents and students dressed in traditional clothing and shared food. A bus will be picking families up at Spartan Village at 5:45 that night. Lorraine will look into scheduling an early bus for families wishing to bring food.

**Principal's Report:** (Lorraine Ware) Science Night is Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Lots of clubs are starting up at Glencairn. There is Jump Rope Club for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Hula Hoop Club for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chess Club for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Student Leadership for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, and Debate Club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. After Thanksgiving there will be some new clubs; a STEM Club for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, a Game Building Club for K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades and an Art Club for K and 1<sup>st</sup> Grades. Teachers volunteer their time to help children with these clubs.

**Transportation Update:** (Cat Schwartz) The GSA has received \$62.50 per month from an anonymous donor that we are choosing to use for an emergency transportation fund. Cat has arranged a flat rate of \$10 roundtrip from Spartan Village to Glencairn and back with a local cab company. If a child is sick and their parent does not have transportation to come get them from school, this money will be used to pick the parent up and bring them to Glencairn to get their child. Mrs. Z will work with parents who are in need of this service.

**DPC Report:** (Heidi Phillips) The District Parent Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at the high school. The first meeting was an informal meeting to explain the DPC's role. It is an important opportunity to meet with representatives from different elementary schools and share ideas.

**Playground Committee Update:** (Cathy Foster) Last year, \$22,000 was spent on Glencairn's playground. There is currently, \$7325 left to spend in the playground account. The GSA voted to approve this money be spent in the following ways: \$2,000 for gaga pit partial reimbursement, \$1,000 for a sand box cover, \$200 for engraved bricks for previous playground donations, \$150 for plaques for benches, \$1,113.50 for 2 benches installed (based on playground quote), \$618.00 for gaga cart reimbursement, and \$2,244.25 to replace soccer nets, basketball back boards, etc. This was approved by the GSA; moved by Jen Zeman, seconded by Kate Burch with all in favor.

\*Additionally, the Student Leadership team would like to fundraise to purchase a buddy bench for the playground. This is separate from the funds already set aside for the playground.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Jen Zeman) The GSA voted to approve additional grade level funds for field trips this school year. There is currently \$2,600 that is unbudgeted. Jen suggested that K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades receive \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade receive \$250 plus the \$500 already budgeted for Big Zoo Lesson, with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade receiving \$750 each. These amounts are based on the typical expenditures for field trips that were communicated to Jen by teachers. Kate Burch motioned, Amy Moeder seconded and all were in favor.

**“Safe Routes to School”** (Thomas Baumann) 15% or less of children walk to school. “Safe Routes to School” is a program that aims to provide safe and convenient ways for kids to bike and walk to school. This program started in East Lansing at Marble Elementary and they would like to make it a district wide program. They are applying for a mini-grant to get additional funds and would like the GSA to promote “Safe Routes to School” and possibly aid with getting volunteers for things such as a “walking school bus” where volunteers pick up children at their homes as a bus would, except they walk to school.