



# Glencairn Parent-Teacher Organization

939 Harrison Avenue  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Nurturing Each Child  
Educating All Students  
Building World Citizens

## Glencairn Parent Teacher Organization Minutes

March 13<sup>th</sup>, Meeting

Glencairn Library

**In attendance:** Karin Polischuk (President), Kim Roland (Secretary), Erin Black (Treasurer), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Mrs. Olance (Basic Class), Mrs. McGuire (Social Worker), Kate Powers (School Board), Terah Chambers (parent), Hima Rawal (parent), Suvafron Madan (parent), Angela, Manjichi (parent), Mazin Hnewa (parent), Andrea Besley (parent), Shannon Torres (parent)

**Absent:** None

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

### **Teachers' Report (Mrs. Olance, Mrs. McGuire, written update from Mrs. Olmstead):**

- Mrs. McGuire – Social Worker, helping students' social and emotional development
  - We've started the PBiS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) team. Working on coming up with ideas for positive reinforcement and expectations for behavior. Trying to make sure that each grade is getting the same message. Bucket Filler cards are still being used, including the new recess version. Will be starting Role Model Tickets after spring break. These will be for specific positive behaviors such as hallway behavior. There will be prizes, a whole school reward, and a trophy, which will be passed from classroom to classroom.
  - Shared information about the Weekend Survival Kit. There is a form to fill out and turn in to Mrs. Fromson. If you know of any families that could use this, please share this information. This needs to be filled out every year, but the form is pretty brief. This is available to anyone. The food kits get delivered each Friday to students' lockers.
- Mrs. Olance – Basic Classroom (this is the classroom for children with moderate cognitive impairments)
  - Kids are learning to read and count and do many of the same things the other children are learning. The classroom is completely differentiated as each child's needs are unique. Glencairn is a great community for this program, and our children are so kind and inclusive.
  - Starting this year the Basic Classroom students give out birthday cards at Morning Celebration to children with birthdays that day or the coming weekend. The birthday card is also an invitation for them to come to a "Birthday Cotton Candy Party" held in the Basic Classroom at the end of each month.
  - Project Unify - Joining with Ms. Dunn's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class once a week, they play games such as bowling or bocce ball. This group of students rotates and brings the kids together so they can learn to be friends and be kind. This is a nice way to develop

relationships between the general education students and the Basic Classroom students.

- Mrs. Olmstead – Art
  - There is an art exhibit at SCENE Metrospace with art from surrounding schools made by local children. See <http://www.art.msu.edu/galleries/scene/> for more information about this event.

### **School Board Report (Kate Powers):**

- School bond and building construction updates
  - Following Glenclair and Donley in 2018-2019 will be Pinecrest and Whitehills in 2019-2020, Marble will be last in 2020-2021.
  - Approved two new bids for Red Cedar and hoping to have an open house in the near future.
- The district is currently looking at different security options for the schools, including a buzzer system so that the office can buzz people in. Hoping to install some over spring break. Number one priority is student's security.
- New course for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in STEM. This will be in addition to the already existing 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses.
- Approved a joint statement on gun violence and school safety. Oppose pending legislation that proposes gun and weapons changes related to school campuses. A couple weeks ago, the School Board released a joint resolution on their gun stance.
- Tomorrow evening is the EL Education Dream for STEAM event from 6-8 in the Student Union. Free to anyone who wants to attend. There are many different corporate sponsors that will be there hosting activities.
- Always welcome to come to any Board meeting on second and fourth Mondays of each month at the high school on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the Board Room.

### **Principals Report (Lorraine Ware):**

- Morning Celebration is held in the gym every morning with the whole school K-5. Morning Celebration begins with students and staff being invited to say the Pledge of Allegiance. A different country is featured each week including geography, foods, animals, music, culture and traditions. Announcements are made in person. Students also are invited to play "Around the World with Teacher/Staff Names", which help the children learn the names of all staff members in the school. The entire school signs to anyone with a birthday and Morning Celebration ends with the entire school singing The Peach Pledge, while also using International Sign Language. The sign language tutorial is in a video and on the school web site if anyone wants to learn it. Parents are welcome to join Morning Celebration which takes place from 8:50-9:03 daily.
  - The countries featured are shared in advance. Students and families from those countries are contacted in advance so that they may participate in presenting information about their country if they choose.
- Conferences are next week. Tuesday and Thursday are ½ days and Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> there is no school. Parents may request to meet with a teacher at any time. Just call and ask.

- March is reading month. There are special guests coming to read to students. Teachers have a “Hot Pick” book that they share at Morning Celebration. Students enjoy “Wear a Word Day” and “Change your name to a favorite book character Day”. There is also a Photo Contest where students can submit a photo of themselves reading a book.
- There will be a Talent Show for the very first time this year, on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Students have been asking for a talent show and putting their requests in the SLT “Suggestion Box”. Organized by the Student Leadership Team, it will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the evening, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Second through Fifth Graders will perform. Everyone is invited to come watch! We are having auditions on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> so that children can plan and rehearse (shh...everyone makes it). If the talent show goes well, it may be expanded to include more grades next year.
- National School Walk Out day is March 14. This is for 17 minutes in the morning to protest gun violence. The school is supportive of students wishing to participate in this, if this is something that you and your student would like to be a part of. For students that would like to do this without their parents, Mrs. Ware will go outside with them. At the elementary level, we need to be sensitive because of differing levels of awareness.

#### **Financial Report (Erin Black):**

- Through today we are over where we budgeted for revenue. Getting some spending in from teachers for field trips. Karin recently reminded them of this.
- March is Reading Month allocation is for photo contest.
- STAR Program expenses will probably not be spent this year, so that will be extra revenue.
- Safety Lunch recent had a pizza lunch and will be getting pins. We got a nice card from them for this.
- Winter Gear allocation was fully spent and we will go over. This is fine and we’ll budget more there next year.
- We may not do any more Dining Out this year.
- Since we don’t really need to raise any more money, should we cover the Year End Picnic Celebration rather than have it be a fundraiser?
  - We’ve had a cushion for several years now.
  - Imagination Playground has been a huge hit. It is a great cooperative playground piece of equipment. Should we consider doing something more here? So far have purchased \$5,000 worth and this covers about 25 kids max. It’d be great to double this so that a whole grade level can use together. Right now they are on a rotating schedule by teacher. We have the base set and would be interested in curve or angle set. The Talent Show will be raising money for this too.
  - Maybe a donation jar at the picnic with a promise that the PTO will match the donations.
  - Maybe continue to carry some cushion over so that when the new school gets built we could earmark some money for teachers to put some personalization in their rooms.
- Don’t forget about the money set aside for building transition support.
- Some people have asked about salvaging pieces of the building before it’s torn down. Kate Powers will be looking more into this.

### **Calendar Review and President's Report (Karin Polischuk):**

- Coming up
  - Milage Club will start after Spring Break. This year there will be an automated penguin system, but we will still need volunteers.
  - Tentatively on June 8th, there will be a 5K in conjunction with Milage Club. Looking for volunteers.
  - Talent Show
  - Teacher Appreciation – Cat Swartz and Dilsia Santana are heading this up and starting to coordinate.
  - End of the Year picnic
  - March is Reading month
    - For the Photo Contest, how could we accumulate photos better? Maybe a specific email address.
- Events already passed
  - Special Persons Day – This went well and was well attended. We learned some things that we'll do differently next year.
  - 2 Book Fairs – Over \$4200 in credit for the year. This was the first year that we've done two fairs.
- Looking for PTO members for next school year!!
  - Possibly invite next year's Kindergarten parents to the End of the Year Picnic.

**January 9, 2018 Minutes approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**Next meeting: 7 p.m. April 10<sup>th</sup> at the school.**