



# Glencairn Parent-Teacher Organization

939 Harrison Avenue  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Nurturing Each Child  
Educating All Students  
Building World Citizens

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## Glencairn Parent Teacher Organization Minutes

September 12, 2017, Meeting  
Glencairn Library

**In attendance:** Karin Polischuk (President), Kim Roland (Secretary), Erin Black (Treasurer), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Kim Ringlever (Yearbook and Teacher Lunch Coordinator), K. Sayanthiny (parent), Jen Pace (Volunteer Coordinator), Michelle Collision (parent), Steve Collision (parent), Emily Dunn (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher), Jessy Gregg (FUN RUN Chair), Shannon Torres (parent), Robin Vallender (parent), Ebonia Williams (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher/parent), Terah Chambers (District-wide Bond Committee)

**Absent:** None

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Teachers' Report (Emily Dunn and Ebonia Williams – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade):**

Starting to establish community and expectations. Excited to see lots of readers this year! Still in the process of collecting data and establishing routine. Thank you to the PTO for support for the classrooms and field trips.

We are still a healthy school this year, which includes a "Walk and Run" grant this year. Katrina Norquist is the contact for this grant. Teachers will set up and run, but we are in need of parent support. This would need less parent volunteers than Mileage Club did due to the Sparky lap electronic tracking system that comes with the grant. This program is 10-weeks and will run in the spring, probably starting before spring break. At the conclusion, we would like to host a 5K walk/run event possibly in mid-May in conjunction with Field Day. Looking for anyone with connections to Playmakers for support for the 5K and also for water donations.

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

Parent Perception Survey - At the staff meeting, we reviewed the Parent Perception Survey results from last spring. About 107 parents out of 200 families participated, which is a pretty high participation rate for a survey. Overall results were really positive. Of the 20 questions, only three areas (listed below) were slightly below the 85% positive mark. The staff used this data to develop some goals for the year:

- Adequate playground supervision – There are now 7 locations from which staff supervise students during recess time. The large soccer field (on park property) is no longer being used at recess time, in order to move kids who are playing soccer closer to the school. The teachers are also researching various problem solving/conflict resolution strategies that

could be taught to the students. They would like to implement a common, school-wide approach for students to use as they learn to resolve some of their own problems during recess time.

- The school's report cards/progress reports – Several parents indicated that they would welcome more frequent/regular communication from school, specifically about their child's academic progress. Mrs. Ware talked about possibly conducting a second survey to find out specifically how parents would prefer to receive school communication.

- Accessing support services based on student needs – 20% of parents who responded to the survey indicated that they were "neutral" when answering the question about whether or not there was adequate support services for their child. There was a trend in the survey results, however, that parents would like to see continued/increased differentiation of instruction. This will continue to be a goal for the teaching staff.

Third grade reading law – The new 3rd Grade Reading Bill states that when this year's 1st graders go to 3rd grade (in 2 years) those reading a year or more below grade level will be retained. There are several exceptions to this, however, including ELL students, students with a special education plan, students new to a school, etc. This information was discussed with staff and a letter will be going home to K and 1st graders regarding the new law.

Bond – There will be a Glencairn Community Forum, most likely in late September, to discuss the rebuilding and site plans for the new Glencairn School building. Currently there is a group, comprised of 3 Glencairn parents, the principal, teachers, central administration, and architects, who have met to discuss preliminary plans for the new building. This group will bring proposed information to the public at the community forum. The plan is for a two story school building, due to the available land space. It has been a great experience for Ms. Ware and the teachers to have input in what their future school will look like. For example, all Music teachers were invited to meet and discuss what a great music room would look like. Ms. Leyko is doing a great job and she is planning on sending a regular newsletter out to the community to keep everyone updated. This will be the last year for staff and students in this building. Mrs. Ware and her staff plan to focus on ending the year on a high note and work toward ensuring that the move is a positive experience for all. One thing to keep in mind is that the whole school will be moving together and it will be "like going on a family camping trip."

#### **School Board Report (Erin Graham via email):**

Bond – at last night's Board Meeting, they talked a lot about energy efficiency.

The Board Meeting is recorded, posted on the East Lansing Public Schools website, and you can view online if you'd like.

There are open Work Group Meetings every other Thursday at 10am at the High School. There is also a Bond Update Website: <http://elps.k12.mi.us/our-district/bond-updates/> (**Terah Chambers**)

**Financial Report (Erin Black):**

Generally we compared this year's budget to last years. We are hoping to use current year's revenue for current year's expenses and planning to keep the assets level. Took a look at last year's expenses from the "miscellaneous" category to verify if they were one-time or needed a separate category. Hoping to use more PTO budget so that we aren't asking for little things here and there. Leaving field trip budget the same. Per Ms. Ware, the District is telling PTOs that they can contribute to busses for field trips, school is supposed to track the expenses, then district will look at what the costs were. For Safety Patrol budgeting for hot chocolate, party, and pins. New to this year's budgeting for 5<sup>th</sup> grade grad caps, K-water day, 1<sup>st</sup> Community Project, allocation for winter gear/clothing necessities, healthy snacks support, building transition/moving support. Grounds/playground money may go toward an imagination playground which would be mobile foam climbers.

**Fun Run (Jessy Gregg):**

Fun Run is our one big fundraiser in the fall so that we don't have to keep asking for fundraiser throughout the year. The day starts with some calisthenics and then a run. A little time during the school day, the dj engages the kids in a fun party atmosphere. Kids get fruit and water when they are done. A letter with full explanation of the Fun Run and gentle encouragement to donate will be going out to the kids soon. Parents can pay via check or PayPal. Date is Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> with rain date on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Will be soliciting volunteers to keep kids safe via sign-up genius.

Planning on the same dj as last year because he did such a great job. Will be working out a fair price with him. Karin is working on water and fruit donations. Jessy is still working out if there will be little prizes and what they will be. Also working out logistics of class colors and possibly doing something different than their t-shirt color. Looking at colored bandanas with Glencairn Scottie dog, but it depends on the budget and other donations. Also, still thinking about how to make the cones and streamers better than last year (and also possibly reusable). Goals will be a little more Glencairn community driven this year.

**Moved by Jessy Gregg to approve 2017-2018 budget. Seconded by Terah Chambers. Passed unanimously.**

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

Photo Day is tomorrow, Curriculum Night is Thursday.

Biggest Fundraiser after FUN RUN is Popcorn Friday. We are having trouble finding volunteers to come pop popcorn, so we are making a change. Kids sign up for the whole year rather than weekly and we no longer need to label each bag. Volunteers would have one list for the year. Please spread the word that we need more help. You don't need to come every

Friday, even one Friday helps! First Popcorn Friday is September 29th and we can provide training.

### **Open Discussion**

Can we begin to look into more reusable water bottle usage rather than plastic water bottles? Could buy them online for about \$1.50 each in bulk. What about boxed water? In the new school, maybe we should start helping the kids to learn more about refilling their own water bottles.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

**Next meeting: 7 p.m. October 10 at the school.**