



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

October 10, 2017, Meeting

Glencairn Library

In attendance: Karin Polischuk (President), Kim Roland (Secretary), Erin Black (Treasurer), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Nell Kuhnmuensch (School Board), Kate Burch (parent), Kally Darling (parent), Kim Ringlever (Yearbook and Teacher Lunch Coordinator), Jen Pace (Volunteer Coordinator), Mignon Valdespino (5th grade teacher), Shannon Torres (parent), Robert Cawson (5th grade teacher), Terah Chambers (District-wide Bond Committee), Kristin Bellar (parent), Emily Guerrant (parent)

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

September 12, 2017 Minutes approved.

October 10, 2017 Agenda approved.

Principals Report (Lorraine Ware):

The Fun Run was a big success. Was postponed due to weather, but Monday's weather was wonderful. Students enjoyed bandanas and parent turnout was good.

Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIP) – The first grade teachers have met and discussed the new rules, looked at data, determined which students need IRIP's, and wrote out the plans that will be shared with those students' parents at parent teacher conferences.

Today was fall data day. Data from the last 5 weeks, AIMSWEB, M-STEP, behavior data from the students were all looked at. Last year's data was compared to this year's.

Also have talked more about setting up students for success in the lunch room. Now there are yellow recess bucket filler cards. One will be picked each week and the student's whole class will earn a reward.

Five weeks in and kids are getting into the groove. Things are going well and kids getting into routine.

Teachers' Report (Robert Cawson and Mignon Valdespino – 5th Grade):

Excited about new 21st century tools. Learning how to "flip" their classrooms with Google Classroom and then the walls of the schools are extended outside the school. They are seeing students post helpful math videos from home for example. In the class they have been using the 5 new ipads and laptop carts.

This year 5th grade has flipped math to morning and reading to afternoon. This is going great so far and kids seem to be getting the math more quickly this year. This allows the teachers to have more one on one time also.

Glencairn 5th grade is going to Henry Ford and Greenfield Village on May 11th. Buses will be here at 7:30 that morning, leaving at 8:00. The students will be back to school by 5:30. Menchie's fundraiser is going on right now. This runs through Thursday and 20% of sales will go toward 5th grade. Was a very easy fundraiser because teachers and students didn't really have to do anything. Little Caesar's will also be happening later this year.

Lastly, 5th grade will be doing an end of the year picnic at Valley Court Park. Had a blast last year and looking forward to planning it for this year.

School Board Report (Nell Kuhnmuench):

There was a Board Meeting on Monday night.

Following up on discussing regarding the Third Grade reading law – Board did originally not like the bill, but it has improved over time. Turning out way better than anticipated. There was a presentation on it last night.

Bond Update is done by Superintendent Leyko and is posted on District website. As early as February we could learn more about the completion phase of the bond. Decision-making is done while all district directors are present; they listen and share. Then take time to do their homework and data gathering – both quantifiable and through feedback. They don't let past practice dictate, but do research the past practices. As financial stewards, they look closely at cost and financial impact. The goal is a well-informed decision with solid rationale. Public feedback time isn't time for an exchange, but time to come forward and share concerns with the board. Every member honors and respects the concerns and we believe that the administrative team is doing an exceptional job. They go above and beyond.

Looked at M-STEP data with the new curriculum director, Glenn Mitcham. Approved a summer trip for primarily seniors to go to Costa Rica. This is for the Spanish group. They go and help the community while they are there and are also immersed in the culture. The first time this trip happened was two years ago.

Tuition rates were approved for 2017-2018. This is for someone who isn't school of choice or someone who applies. Also did a school plan review with the City of East Lansing. Especially important with the new schools being built.

Yasmina Bouraoui is resigning from the Board effective October 27th. The board only has 30 days to refill that position. Anyone interested should fill out a Letter of Interest. Hoping to get those prior to Thanksgiving. This is posted now on the ELPS website. Following the Letter of Intent, a

candidate would be asked to answer five questions, and then would be scheduled for an interview with the current board.

Financial Report (Erin Black):

Have had the two big fundraisers already this year – Fun Run and Popcorn Sales. We're about \$2,400 short of our goal. We will still be collecting checks and the PayPal link will stay up. We are very close on the popcorn goal and have still been getting some checks. We do have some flexibility in other areas of the budget and we'll continue to look at that. We do have a good balance.

Fun Run Recap (Karin Polischuk for Jessy Gregg):

Everything went well and the kids had a lot of fun. We have about 120 unique donations from our school and currently just over \$6,000. Jessy is thinking about doing one final push. Reminder that this donation is tax deductible and that any amount helps. She might be working examples of how each little donation can help, for example \$5 can buy a box of crayons. For next year, thinking about enforcing the course with rebar covered in pool noodles. An idea was shared to throw the progress toward the goal up on the marquee to let people know how close we are. The room agreed that it's ok to be more aggressive. At another school each kid gets a sticker that says "the fun run is tomorrow." Also have seen the thermometer used in years past to indicate how close to the goal. Can the PayPal link area be made clearer? Can we tell if there are less unique donations this year than last year? We do agree that we need to remain sensitive to the Glencairn demographic. The Facebook reminders that showed what the money goes to were nice.

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

Tomorrow is picture retake day. On the 30th there will be a Halloween concert for 5th graders. On Halloween day the ELHS marching band will come over and play an outside concert. If it's raining it will be cancelled. Then there will be a costume parade and classroom parties.

November 14th is the next PTO and then Science Night is the 16th. They are looking for a couple more presenters for Science Night. Does anyone know of individuals or groups that might be interested? We'll send a reminder email to be sure transportation is set up. It starts at 6:30.

Dining out maybe will be scheduled in November. Considering Blaze Pizza. This would be another activity where 20% of the sales are donated. Maybe we can do both locations on the same day so there is no confusion.

There is a college group that might be interested in volunteering and it sounds like they have experience with popcorn Friday.

Movie night is usually in December in conjunction with the Student Leadership Team. Maybe considering Friday, December 1st or the 8th.

The religious and cultural calendar was sent out by the Board and we find it helpful to refer to.

Imagination Playground and auction – From last year when Matthew Stafford came, he signed about nine pieces of memorabilia. We are thinking of helping the school get an auction started to raise funds for an imagination playground. These are large foam manipulatives that cost approximately \$5,000. We do have a budget for the playground that we could use. The nice thing is that they could move to Red Cedar and back. The auction could be open to anyone, not just from the school. We're looking for someone with experience with an online auction or sports memorabilia. Since there are only 9 items, we're hoping that we could get interest from family and friends who like the Lions too. The bidding can become fun and competitive. One Website that was mentioned was "eflea." There's no timeline on this necessarily, but we could target November/December and people can consider buying these items for gifts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. November 14 at the school.