



Glencairn Parent-Teacher Organization

939 N. Harrison
East Lansing, MI 48823

Nurturing Each Child
Educating All Students
Building World Citizens

Glencairn Parent Teacher Organization Minutes

January 14, 2020 Meeting

Glencairn Library

In attendance: Karin Polischuk (President), Kim Roland (Secretary), Jason Weller (Treasurer), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Tiffany Talamonti-Burgee (3rd grade teacher), Kelli Camiller (3rd grade teacher), Rachel Knox (3rd grade intern), Marc Finger (4th grade teacher), Lauren Schefke (4th grade teacher), Nhan Le, Jennifer Harvey, Terah Chambers, Shannon Torres, Jen Pace

Absent: Josh Vincent (Vice President)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Teacher's Report (3rd Grade Teachers):

- The Big Zoo Lesson is coming up during the week of March 2nd-5th. Students are getting excited and will be picking animals in the near future. This is considered a field trip. There will probably be near 60 students going. The teachers ask for donations and offer scholarships for the cost for the students. The PTO does have money allocated in the budget to help with the costs. The zoos educational department does well coordinating the program and it is a top notch, impressive program for the kids. Species Survival Plan is discussed and at the end of the week the students put a book together. Teachers are looking for as many volunteers as possible during the week of the zoo visits and also a couple weeks before the trip for journal preparation.

Teacher's Report (4th):

- 4th grade field trip is next Wednesday to the Capital Building and the MI Historical Museum
- Book Bingo is March 27th and serves as the main fundraiser for spring trip to PJ Hoffmaster Park and Frederik Meijer gardens (this field trip is tentatively June 2nd)
 - There is an economics unit tied to the Book Bingo event where the students are learning about economics while planning and running the event. Students will probably ask PTO for help promoting the event with distribution of fliers. Three parents are handling the silent auction. There is a literacy component also because the students write thank you letters to those who have donated from the community. This is the 6th year that this event has been done and fully funds the big trip at the end of the year.
- Also going to Isotopes in Motion at MSU. This includes an interactive dance presentation and science events on campus.

Principal's Report (Lorraine Ware):

- Ms. Fortner, the Kindergarten teacher who started the year as a long-term substitute, was approved for hire by school board last night. She started the year strong and is excited to work for East Lansing. We are happy to have her in our school!
- The Golden Boot is back and arrived with great pomp and circumstance! The Golden Boot is an incentive for having the nicest area in the hallway during the cold weather months. We see the kids having friendly competition to earn the Golden Boot by keep all the extra snow gear organized and tidy.
- Student Leadership Team is up and running. They met with Kim Ringlever to work with Yearbook Cover.
- Positive Behavior Support Team is going to begin focusing on character traits each month. The first one will be on kindness. There will be books that each class will have the opportunity to look through, skits, other activities related to the traits.
- 5th grade is doing a coin drive this week. They are working on a micro loan project. Kids have been preparing and planning how to raise the money and then they will pick someone to support through KIVA. This was a partnership with Van Andel and their project based learning.

Financial Report (Jason Weller):

- Finances are in good form.
- T-shirt revenue is good and the bill is already paid. This is true of popcorn and FunRun as well. There is an additional \$500 coming that hasn't been entered in the budget provided at the meeting.
- Scholarship category was created and fully funded to the \$300 voted on at the last meeting. There were about 25 forms returned and we've already spent over \$250 of this budget for books from the Book Fair. It looks like we're going to spend over the \$300 allocated. We are getting the money from the t-shirts finalized.
- For teacher reimbursement, we've spent about 1/3 of the budgeted amount so far. This is pretty normal for this time of year with more field trips coming up toward the spring.
- A question was brought up about playground structures. PTO is still planning on investigating how to get permission for some sort of partial structure that could be added onto later.

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

- The school earned about \$4,000 in Scholastic Dollars from the first Book Fair. There are plans to buy sensory tables for Kindergarten and for many new books for the teachers and the library. We learned some things about set up and registers that we will improve on. The next book fair is in March.
- Math Night was last week and went smooth. It isn't our highest attended event, but our school was complimented by the amount of families here.
- Spirit Wear – When these were first delivered, we started hearing that families didn't get their orders. We found out that the first half of orders received were in an envelope that had fallen behind some items in a filing cabinet. The PTO apologizes for the delays, but everything is back in order now and is all accounted for and will be arriving to those families soon.

- Science Night is Wednesday, February 19th. This tends to be a busier event, and a ton of fun. There are animals, freeze dried ice cream, tables of experiments, and much more. If anyone is interested in presenting, talk to Josh Vincent or Polly Sync.
- March – Book Bingo (run by the 4th grade as a fundraiser for their field trip). Pizza, drinks, and baked goods are usually available for sale. Everyone takes home many gently used, new-to-them-books that they've won during the evening.
- Possibly the third week of April – Taste of Glencairn
- Also in April – Ms. Biendenbender is planning a Talent Showcase
- May 8th – Festival of Cultures
- May - Field Day
- June – End of the Year Picnic
- Special Speaker – We have an opportunity to have a parent come in to do an assembly for our school. They are a professional and can come for a 50% discount to our school for about \$500. The theme of this presentation would be something along the lines bullying/self-esteem. We have heard rave reviews from others, including another principal in the district. We have \$300 budget for this under Enrichment Performances.
 - Everyone in attendance moved to approve \$200 additional to Enrichment Performances to support this presentation.

School Board Updates (Summarized by Terah Chambers who is here as a parent, but is on the School Board):

- The bond is still on time and on budget. There are some legal proceedings with the company who was supposed to finish the outside finishes. This is not costing any additional dollars because this is being handled through insurance.
- Our student numbers across the district are on the rise. We are happy about this.
- The financial situation in the district is looking good and much better than about 10 years ago. The district approved bonuses for all part-time and full-time staff. This was amazing and the staff deserved it!
- There will be 3 school board seats up for re-election next school year. Not sure which incumbents will be re-running.
- Passed a resolution that there will be no more door to door fundraising in the district. The Band Extravaganza event is exempt because the spirit of this event is different.
- The Board is starting discussion about not restricting recess time as a behavior consequence.

Final Discussion

- Our Box Top Chair has had to step down due to other commitments. We will find another volunteer. The electronic process does seem to be a bit harder than the old clip-and-send-in process. We can probably plan that we won't make as much money on this fundraiser in the future. Maybe we can set up a table at an upcoming event to help parents see up the app and show them how to use it. This money helps to maintain the fish tanks.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.