



Glencairn Parent-Teacher Organization

939 N Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Nurturing Each Child
Educating All Students
Building World Citizens

Glencairn Parent Teacher Organization Minutes - Board Meeting

September 14, 2021 Meeting

Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Jessi Kauppi (President), Olivia Kurajian (Vice President), Tariq Sumbal (Co-Treasurer), Karin Polischuk (Co-Treasurer), Kim Roland (Secretary), Jen Pace (Volunteer Coordinator), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Alexandra Sanchez (3rd Grade Teacher), Natalie Bertoin, Shannon Torres, Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons, Terah Chambers, Katie

Meeting start at 7:00 p.m.

- Opening Remarks
 - What the PTO is: all parents are members, we help the school with their needs, try and fundraise for the school
 - The PTO does not control or make decisions for the school
 - We always need volunteer chairs and often have board member openings
 - We welcome Mrs. Ware and teachers to our meetings for updates
- Teacher update - Ms. Sanchez (3rd grade)
 - Taught in Novi for several years, then to Haslett. So happy to be starting in the EL school district this year at Glencairn
 - 3rd grade focusing on social emotional learning, growth mindset and how our brains work, our identities/background/cultures/languages
 - Academic routines include reading, writing, and math
 - Big Zoo Lesson has a date!
 - PTO has planned funding set aside to support this field trip
- Principal Update
 - Spending time learning procedures and routines. Have already practiced a fire drill.
 - Almost all students are back to our school, so working hard to make social distancing and safety measures work well for our school
 - Being outside as much as possible, keeping doors and windows open for extra air circulation, using the picnic tables outside for lunch
 - Teachers are taking their own classes out for recess this year and this has been nice. Allows the students to have their own space on playground
 - Lunchtime recess is 2-3 classes at a time
 - Spending time working on classroom communities
 - 5th graders have started safety patrol and are going to be working on a

- recorded morning meeting
 - This might include birthdays, teacher interviews, videos put together by the 5th graders, other ways to bring our classrooms “together”
 - Picture day was today and went well
 - Late start next week
 - Teachers spend time on professional development during late start days. Professional training includes topics on justice, leadership, and equity for the teachers during that time
 - Question about the pool covid testing.
 - Testing to stay: Previously, kids had to quarantine for 10 days. Going forward they can quarantine day 0 and day 1. Then for days 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 they can go to school and be tested and be able to stay at school as long as they continue to test negative. The kid who tested positive stays at home because they are in isolation
 - Pool testing that the district is providing as optional: This is cost effective and efficient. Several kids whose parents have provided consent will be tested as a group. Results come in for that group and if any are positive then they are retested. This is quick and efficient and reliable. This hasn’t started yet. Training and materials are happening. Parents can sign up soon.
 - Kids that are out of school due to covid will switch to virtual learning during isolation. There is a coordinator who would work with that student's teacher to get their instruction and school work.
 - Question about outside lunch. There is a rotation for this. It would be about every 3 days for each class to have their turn outside.
 - The kids have been doing a great job in the cafeteria with trying to maintain the social distancing and keeping their mask on if they get up or are done with their lunch
 - Very fortunate that all of our lunch monitors have returned this year!
 - Huge shortage on crossing guards and bus drivers
 - Parents can volunteer to help students cross, but cannot stop traffic without training
 - The car line has gotten much better. There was no backup on Harrison today. Yay!
- Voting on officers
 - Proposed slate of officers
 - Jessi Kauppi (President)
 - Olivia Kurajian (Vice President)
 - Kim Roland (Secretary)
 - Tariq Sumbal/Karin Polischuk (Co-Treasurers)
 - Approved unanimously by all in attendance
 - Also, Natalie Betoia will be volunteering as our social media coordinator
- Meeting schedule for the year
 - Tuesday nights work well with the teacher meetings so that our guest teachers can join us

- We like the idea of pre-scheduling the meetings for the full year
- Create a schedule of the agenda so that parents know what to expect and can pop on as needed.
- Ms. Ware will provide list of teacher meetings to Jessi so that the PTO schedule can be worked on
- Proposed Budget and Vote
 - We don't do a lot of fundraisers. Our large one is the Fun Run, but will not be doing that this year. Amazon Smile and Kroger Rewards have been successful. Spirit Wear fundraising will be done later.
 - Field trip money has been allocated to each grade, also hoping to have field day so budgeting for that
 - We are budgeting to spend more than we earn this year, but this is not concerning
 - Approximately \$23,000 is our starting balance
 - A longer term goal is to be able to help with some playground equipment
 - Motion to approve the budget by Olivia, seconded by Kim, unanimously approved by all in attendance
 - Question about the process for teacher reimbursement. Teachers fill out a form and present receipts to PTO. PTO reimburses by check. The form and process is the same for any PTO reimbursements.
- PTO will send newsletter on alternating weeks with Ms. Ware once the fall settles down and she's done sending weekly updates
- From Terah - There is district funding to put a slide in at the playground next year, more discussion in the future
- Upcoming Events - To be discussed more at the next meeting

Meeting finished at 8:10 p.m.