



# Glencairn Parent-Teacher Organization

939 N Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Nurturing Each Child  
Educating All Students  
Building World Citizens

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## **Glencairn Parent Teacher Organization Minutes - Board Meeting** **May 24, 2022 Meeting** **Zoom Meeting**

**In attendance:** Jessi Kauppi (President), Olivia Kurajian (Vice President), Karin Polischuk (Co-Treasurer), Tariq Sumbal (Co-Treasurer), Kim Roland (Secretary), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Becky Acheson (5th Grade Teacher), Nicole Pell (5th Grade Teacher), Natalie Bertoia, Shannon Torres

**Unable to attend:** None

Meeting start at 7:00 p.m.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Teacher Report (Becky Acheson, Nicole Pell (5th Grade Teachers))
  - What 5th grade is doing to celebrate the graduating 5th graders...
    - Next Thursday is 5th grade graduation celebration and family and friends are invited
    - There is also a 5th grade pot-luck lunch
    - Felt graduation caps were paid for by PTO. Thank you!
    - The younger elementary students will get to see the 5th graders do a school walk out celebration with their caps on.
  - Thank you also for the help with some costs for the Safeties this year.
  - Is there anything more the 5th grade teachers need this year? Or anticipate needing next year?
    - Hoping to go on the 5th grade field trip next year. We have usually gone to Greenfield Village on a charter bus. Not sure if PTO helped with this, but there have been fundraisers by the 5th graders to support this. Memory of the past is that there was a set amount the PTO budgeted and the 5th grade used it for whatever was needed. Mrs. Ware also contributed from her budget.
- Principal Report (Mrs. Ware)
  - 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades have finished the M-Step assessments. This is quite a bit of work and organization.
  - With the nice weather the students have the option of eating lunch outside. The students love that there's no seating chart when they sit outside. Eating indoors is always an option.
  - Next year we will be returning to typical lunches with options and getting food through

the lunch lines. Lunches will not be free for everyone any longer. Seating charts may likely still be in place because it does cut down on some negative behaviors and patterns.

- There are plans to install a slide on our playground this summer! Yay! The cost is being covered by the district. They are also installing outdoor classrooms at all ELPS elementaries. The Facilities Committee meeting is where this was discussed. Equitable playgrounds have been a topic of these meetings. Parents can attend these meetings if interested.
- Little house village pieces have taken a beating over the years. There are only three houses in good condition right now. They were not initially new, have weathered 3+ Michigan winters, and been well loved (and unfortunately sometimes roughed up) by kids. Some kids play in the little house village. Ideally we'd love to have some sort of climber, which is quite expensive.
  - Discussion from all: Natural elements such as climbers and musical implements could also be nice. Could a subcommittee be formed to help determine what types of equipment we'd be allowed to add and how we could pay for it? Some of these ideas are very large and may not be able to come together for next school year, but we should really keep these ideas moving and determine some good short term solutions to close the gap with the little house village being smaller. There is good interest in having the Fun Run next year and this is our largest fundraiser. We could tie this with the goal of adding to the playground.
- There are three teachers leaving us next year. Ms. Pell (currently 5th grade) is moving closer to family, Mr. Finger (currently 4th grade) is moving to Red Cedar to be their Physical Education teacher, and Mrs. Nordquist (currently 4th grade) will be the new Interventionist. Three new staff members have been approved at the Board Meeting and those names will be shared in Mrs. Ware's Friday newsletter.
- For next year, we may want to add a budget item for the prizes for little contests that the kids participate in (i.e. the cleanest hallway area during the winter).
- For next year, we may want to consider increasing the Safety Patrol budget by another \$100.
- Budget Review (Karin & Tariq)
  - Still have receipts coming in at the end of the year. \$6,500 has been spent so far. Field Day is coming up and that will be about \$1,000-1,500. There will be a net decrease of \$5,500, which is fine because we have a very healthy cushion in savings.
  - There were a lot of nice donations for Teacher Appreciation and that was really nice.
  - Karin will email a couple teachers that haven't sent any requests for reimbursements yet this year.
  - For next year, will we need to consider budgeting any extra for any of the three new teachers? One new hire only has one year of experience. So maybe budget \$300 instead of \$500. The other two teachers have had their own classroom and are coming to us to teach in the same grade.
- Field Day (Shannon)
  - Tuesday, May 31st with Rain Date of June 1st
  - We are in a good position with Field Day and the sign up is looking good. Could use a

- couple volunteers for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade transition helpers.
- A receipt will be coming for the water balloons and for the Kona Truck.
- The Kona Truck will arrive at 1:00. They are giving the teachers a free large sized Kona Ice. The PTO is paying for each student's small Kona Ice. The Kona Ice Truck will be a station that will be rotated to among each of the other events.
- It's going to be really hot next week so reminders to the kids to bring water, apply sunscreen, and bring hats would be helpful. We may also put out the water container.
- Thanks to Cassie Thornburg and Mr. Smith for helping to organize too!
- 2022-2023 PTO Officers and Volunteers
  - Thank you Kim and Karin for your long service to the PTO. Thank you to Tariq for stepping in for this year.
  - There are quite a few gaps for the officers next year. There haven't been any volunteers or nominations yet. Hold tight...Natalie Bertoia has nominated herself for Secretary. Jessi asked for an election and this was seconded by Olivia. All in attendance voted via chat and all voted yes. Mrs. Ware abstained from voting.
  - The last opening that is very important to fill is the Treasurer opening. It would also be nice to fill the second vice president position if we can drum up interest.
- Additional discussion:
  - Spiritwear - Reach out and talk more with Kristin Kratky to discuss some of the hurdles that we've run across in the past. What could we do to streamline the ordering?
  - Fun Run - We really want to bring this back next year! Colored t-shirts seem to be a good and popular idea. Karin has offered to look into the shirts.
  - Fasting during Ramadan - The kids have the option to hang out in the office conference room or be outside at recess longer. Would it be helpful to have someone come in a couple times to do crafts with them or anything? It seems they mostly spend time praying or having some reflecting time. We'll talk more with Cassie about this because she'll know more.

Meeting finished at 8:15p.m.