

GSA Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2014 Meeting

**GSA Regular Council Meeting, held in the Library at Glencairn School, 7:00 PM

In Attendance: Sarah Holden (President), Cathy Foster (Co-Vice President), Amy Moeder (Co-Vice President), Jana Dean (Co-Treasurer), Jen Zeman (Co-Treasurer), Kate Burch (Secretary), Kristin Clark (Volunteer Coordinator), Lorraine Ware (Principal), Hillary Henderson (School Board Representative), Renee Olance (Basic Classroom Teacher), Jeanine Cull (Parent), Carrie Tansy (Parent)

-Approved Minutes from October 21, 2014 Meeting; Motioned by Jen Zeman, Seconded by Sarah Holden, all in favor.

-Approved this meeting agenda; Motioned by Kate Burch, seconded by Cathy Foster, all in favor.

Principal's Report: (Lorraine Ware) The Student Leadership Team positions were decided this week. The Leadership Team came about through conversations with 5th grade students who wanted to bring together the former Marble and Red Cedar students into a new Glencairn community. Students completed an application telling the position they were interested in, and what their strengths are. Parents signed the applications and they were returned to school. During school hours, the applicants wrote an essay detailing why they wanted to be on the Leadership Team. Staff interviewed applicants during lunch and recess. Over 50 students applied, with 34 students total getting a position on the Leadership Team (28 students will rotate, with 6 having constant positions). This allows for more opportunities for student involvement. There have already been in depth discussions about goals, and their first project will be discussing solutions for the playground and working with their student body to make decisions. Also in the works: Lauren Anderson is starting a school newspaper, and Marc Finger is starting a debate team in January.

It has come to our attention that busing costs for field trips will not be covered this year. Buses cost \$50 per hour and families cannot be asked to pay for busing (they can give donations towards the cost if they choose). The school will need \$3,000-\$10,000 to cover busing costs for field trips this year.

Teacher Report: (Renee Olance) Students have transitioned well from Red Cedar to Glencairn and are adjusting to the new building. She has four new students this year, with student ages in her classroom ranging from 5 to 12 years old. Her classroom is a K-5 program, with students attending general education classes as deemed appropriate by their IEP. Students are learning computer skills, letter matching, sorting, etc. Learning is differentiated for all students in the class. She currently has 8 students and 3 para-professionals.

Terracycle Update: (Renee Olance) Terracycle is a mail-in recycling program that Renee Olance and Krista Baumann organized at Red Cedar. Money is earned for the school by sending in Energy Bar wrappers, Personal care and beauty products, writing instruments, and scotch tape dispensers and cores. Items are sorted by Renee Olance's students as part of their school work and money earned goes directly to the school. Previous money earned through Terracycle went towards the cost of the Glencairn sand box this year. Partnering with the School Leadership Team and the Glencairn Neighborhood Association as well as the East Lansing Public Library are options for getting more items. Renee provided information for the GSA to make a decision as to whether to continue with Terracycle this year. It was decided that we would collect Energy Bar wrappers, Personal care and beauty products, writing instruments, and scotch tape dispensers and cores. This was motioned by Sarah Holden, seconded by Cathy Foster and all were in favor. Information will be sent home to families and collection containers will be put out.

District Parent Council Report: (Sarah Holden) Dichondra Johnson (a Glencairn parent) has volunteered to be the DPC Rep for the GSA and will begin attending meetings and reporting back monthly. Sarah attended this month's meeting and gave the November report. Tammy Baumann the Curriculum Director gave a talk on

curriculum and new changes being made. New curriculum is being brought in for math and reading, and they are using more consistent grade level assessments throughout the elementary schools. It was proposed that the DPC provide information to the community about new state-wide mandates.

Treasurer's Report: (Jana Dean and Jen Zeman) As of October, the GSA has \$9100 in total revenue with expenses of \$2800. We have more revenue than we originally planned on. The GSA voted against buying time on a billboard to support the teachers working without a contract. We felt our funds could be better used to support teachers. Tiffany Talamonti-Burgee has asked the GSA for \$178 to pay for (2) pizza parties and weekly hot-cocoa for the 35 members of the safety patrol. The GSA approved \$50 for hot cocoa and Volunteer Coordinator Kristin Clark is going to work on getting pizzas and baked goods donated for the parties.

Ongoing Activities Updates:

**The T-Shirt order went through. 287 shirts were ordered, altogether with some being ordered as prizes by the GSA for use in the future. There was a \$615 net. Shirts will be sorted Sunday, November 23 at 2 PM at the school.

**Farmraiser was very successful and raised \$940. Parents are sorting and packing orders on Sunday, November 23 at Erica Loomis' house at 1 PM. Pick up is Monday November 24th with parent volunteers covering two shifts between 3 and 6 PM.

**Additional fundraising ideas will be discussed at next month's meeting.