



Glencairn Elementary Community Council

Quarterly Meeting

September 12, 2023 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Attendee Roll Call / Introductions

Jessi Kauppi + Erin Cazal

Present:

Officers - Jessi Kauppi, Erin Cazal, Shannon Torres, Karla Forrest-Hewitt, Jen Pace, Lara Hewson

Parents - Bethany Mueller, Cassie Davenport, Kristine Tomlinson, Molly Szpunar, Mary Murray

Staff - Anna Threatt, Whitney Sell, Jen Fortner, Kathy Maloney, Stacie Criswell, Lorraine Ware, Joe Simowski, Ginger Ogilvie, Andrew Arbaugh

- Review of minutes from previous meeting; move to approve by Erin, second by Karla
- Review of updated budget - Karla highlighted major changes to budget increases in healthy snack budget, teacher reimbursement, field day; decrease in playground equipment. Shannon moved to approve budget, Jen seconded.
 - Lorraine asked about a line item “Pizza with the principal” which was in past budgets. Jessi moved to amend the budget to include \$300 for this, Erin seconded.

Teachers Reports

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Fortner & Mrs. Sell: Focus on teaching them the day to day, how to be at school. Currently planning on having the East Lansing Fire Department come for a visit next month.
- Second Grade - Mr. Simowski & Ms. Threatt: Starting the bookworms literacy program this week. They will have a couple field trips later in the year to Impression 5 and the MSU Children’s Garden. Introduced Ms. Threatt as the new 2nd grade teacher this year. She knows someone who works with the Children’s Garden and hoping to have them come to do some teaching in the classroom as well.
- Resource/Intervention - Mrs. Criswell & Mrs. Maloney: Predominantly supporting academics but also assisting with emotional and behavioral support a bit as needed. Start the year with AIMS Web testing and then determine which kids they will be working with, which also shifts throughout the year as progress is made. They are beginning math intervention in addition to reading intervention; they may benefit from getting some math manipulatives, which the GECC may be able to assist with. They are developing a “read with Ernie” corner to support reading intervention.
- Social Justice Committee – Mrs. Sell and Mr. Simowski shared that they are bringing back holidays to Morning Celebration and they are looking for families who may be interested in sharing some about holidays that they may celebrate by submitting a picture or otherwise

sharing about it. Jessi suggested it may also be helpful to post about this on the PTO Facebook group.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Ware

- It was Picture Day today, all the kids and staff (including dogs!) were able to have their pictures taken. Retakes will be in October.
- During these first three weeks, the focus has been on getting used to procedures and routines.
- Morning Celebration started again this week. This week they have started a Morning Celebration team of students (5th Graders) who are responsible for the technology and providing additional leadership and ideas.
- Teachers just concluded AIMS Web testing that provides a baseline of data that can show where students are in comparison to national averages. This will help identify where there are students who may need additional support and how to support students who may already be demonstrating mastery.
- Reviewed having Charlie Brown as a service dog for the school.
- Jen asked for an update on possible new playground equipment. Mrs. Ware reports that they were unable to get a summer installation date. She has not yet heard about an installation date but she continues to be in communication with them and believes it has been ordered. There was discussion of how parents could advocate this and it was shared that the next Facilities meeting is 9/22 at 12:30.
- Shannon asked whether there may be an opportunity for a school wide field trip, which had been done in the past to go see a movie. Mrs. Ware said they could look at possible opportunities now since it hasn't been done since before COVID. Wharton Center performances were also raised as a suggestion; Mrs. Ware reports that Mr. English (a parent) who is affiliated with the Wharton Center is coming to speak with teachers about opportunities soon.

Officer Reports/Committee Business

Fun Run Committee

Erin Cazal

- Erin introduced Bethany, who is also on the committee and is a fundraiser; Ryan Shaw is on the committee and taking the lead on the obstacle course.
- Erin is currently planning to reach out to businesses who might be interested in being community sponsors and encouraged people to suggest if they have anyone in mind as a possible sponsor; sponsors will be mentioned in the newsletter.
- They will look for volunteers to send texts to friends and family to promote the GoFundMe.
- T-Shirts are ordered but not arrived yet.

Volunteer Updates (science night, math night, teacher appreciation) Jen Pace

- Volunteers are needed for the fun run - the link has already been shared.
- Math Night October 26 - the Chair is on it and will eventually need some volunteers for set up/clean up.
- Science Night will likely be in the spring and still need a Chair for it if anyone is interested or knows anyone who is interested.

- Teacher Appreciation - Mrs. Ware met with the Chair of that committee to select dates and the monthly luncheons will begin in October.
- Student Directory - so far about 115 students are signed up; Mrs. Ware agreed to have an email sent out to remind and explain a little more to hopefully get a few more people.

Treasurer's report

Karla Forrest-Hewitt

- Question about Kroger and Amazon rewards – the Amazon rewards are no longer available; the Kroger rewards we will have to look for how to sign up and put it in the next newsletter.
- No other updates other than budget already reviewed.

New Business

Safe Routes to School

Andrew Arbaugh and Ginger Ogilvie

- Walk and Roll to School day on October 4th - Encourage students to get to school via active transportation like walking, biking, scootering, etc.
- Walking School Bus - students gathering together at an agreed upon place and time to walk to school together. If anyone is interested in that then they can talk with Andrew and they can help to try to organize it.
- Update on grant funding - the team has been working with the city to determine information needed for grant application. Had hoped to apply by October but will have to wait until February. Implementation is targeted for 2027. For Glencairn, the goals are making improvements to the crosswalk outside the school, including flashing lights. North of Saginaw at Pine Forest they are looking at getting a flashing beacon and pedestrian island to make it safer to cross Harrison.
 - The plan is also available on their website.
- Mrs. Ware mentioned they are missing a stop sign with lights for the crossing guards.

Other New Business

Jessi Kauppi

- Lara mentioned GotSneakers fundraiser and the preferred method for collecting. Mrs. Ware said she would be ok with having a box for collection at the school as long as someone is picking it up. Lara is willing to do that.
- Molly asked about a community garden – had heard that all schools were going to be able to have a community garden and asked whether Glencairn will have that. Mrs. Ware explained that some of the barriers are not having a good location for it or staff/parents who are willing to champion the cause. Molly expressed interest in trees or other kinds of greenery if Glencairn isn't going to do a garden.
 - After discussion on the gazebo, Karla mentioned she could ask the city about taking it down or fencing it off.
- Cassie asked about a building sub - Mrs. Ware reported that post COVID they had 2 and this year they only have one because the shortage isn't as bad. They can be called to other buildings if needed though they are housed here.

Adjournment

Jessi Kauppi

Moved to adjourn by Shannon, seconded by Karla; meeting adjourned 7:55pm