



GPPS November School Council Minutes

Monday, November 23rd, 2020

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Date approved:

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2309854052?pwd=YW9sYTV2S1VEZF4ZGpjdEpsUzNrdz09>

Meeting ID: 230 985 4052

Passcode: 9Dxh1W

In Attendance:

- *Marina Cochrane, Marlee Corcoran, Susan Dunham, Brian Fowlow, Caroline Johnson, Sarah Lake, Rachel Lefebvre, Bisma Lodhikawala, Jodi MacAndrew, Susan Morris, Natalie Murphy, Tara Owen, Danielle Siapas, Jenny W.*

Items:

Welcome and Introductions - Land Acknowledgement

Online Meeting Norms - Natalie and Sarah

Approval of Agenda

Acceptance of Last Meeting Minutes - [October Minutes](#)

- *Meetings passed by Caroline and seconded by Sarah*

School Update (Marina and Susan)

- Focus of Health and Safety ... not letting down our guard with COVID
 - *Reinforcing masks, proper handwashing and physical distancing to keep everyone safe*
 - *Making sure on top of Health and Safety protocols*
 - *Already been through one class, learned from that and modelling for staff and students and continuing to message that around morning announcements, weekly bulletins and FYI to staff*
- Remembrance Day Rock Garden

- *Over 300 rocks painted with poppies for a rock garden, several grades involved and up to 70% of school completed*
- Interview Night
 - *Went well, a few tech hiccups*
 - *Great feedback from parents*
 - *New learning for all re: virtual*
- Anti-Bullying Week
 - *Was held last week, met with physical distancing in gym; over 60 students came out*
- Student Leadership Team - Over 60 grade 8 students involved\
 - *Eco team, social justice team, and mental health and wellbeing team*
 - *Driven by students*
 - *How they could social distance within square in gym*
 - *Meeting every week, will start to put in monthly update in e-bulletin that students will write*
- Library Helpers
 - *Teacher librarian has been redeployed to classroom*
 - *Bringing in school assistant to help with supervising, and library helpers will be done in cohorts so library resources can be used*
- Graduation - Grade 8 Hoodies
 - *89% of kids interested*
 - *School is purchasing composite photos of graduating class with folder, diploma and awards/medals being engraved*
 - *Graduation was challenging to coordinate, many schools had challenges but worked out well*
- Student Announcers
 - *Students in grade 8 as it's their final year*
 - *Students can sign up to be announcers, every two weeks turnover*
 - *Sanitizing a key component to ensure H&S*
- Funds for Learning Commons, Third Environment in Kindergarten, Outdoor Learning Games
 - *Learning Commons – needs a refreshing as 20 years old; been focusing on with Council re: modernizing*
 - *Kindergarten – smaller furniture/third teacher and the learning environment*
 - *Outdoor Learning Games – got approved for higher amount; put out to staff for learning games, about \$5K; need outdoor learning classrooms b/c of COVID as well, so looking at what is needed to teach outside*

Upcoming:

- Families Helping Families - Gift Cards; School Cash Online (Donation)
 - *How we can get school cash online and have donations come in, instead of through the School Office*
 - *Sarah: Done hat and mitt drives in the past, but even at food bank, not accepting food donations b/c of COVID; asking for donations instead as easier to manage and gift card piece goes a lot farther*
 - *Natalie: Have about \$18K in Council funds as lot was outstanding from last year due to school closures (COVID); suggest voting on donating \$1K or another amount set aside by Council to help 'Families Helping Families'; if don't end up needing it, then don't use, but as we have the money*
 - *Put to vote – unanimous voting yes, none opposed - approved*

Staff Professional Learning

The staff at GPPS will continue our journey around Anti-Oppression Learning, which is based on the YRDSB Equity Plan. The goal is to become more aware of how our biases and privilege. all of us to have a greater understanding of our student and families lived experience, in order to create a stronger sense of mattering and belonging within the Glad Park Community.

- Oppression “refers to a social dynamic in which certain ways of being in the world are normalized and privileged while other ways are disadvantaged and marginalized” (Kumashiro, 2000, p. 25).
- Privilege refers to “unearned social power accorded by formal and informal institutions in society to all members of a dominant group... Privilege is usually invisible to those who have it because we’re taught not to see it, but nevertheless it puts them at an advantage over those who do not have it” ([YRDSB Equity Action Plan](#), p. 34).
- Example of learning: [Microaggressions](#)

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- *Looking at school data from an anti-oppression lens*
 - *Big focus of school is mattering and belonging, but includes family as well, and need to understand their lived experience*
 - *Look at new ways and include those voices of lived experience now, to keep pace with world changes*

- *Google form that staff are working through; this month, looking at resources and putting through critical lens to see whose voices are being heard and will it stand time for multiple people or one-of applicable to one program*
- *Reviewed Microaggression video, will be doing this learning with staff; learning how to navigate conversations so can have discussions with students and staff*
- *Helpful for awareness for students*
- *Microaggressions compared to bee stings, relatable way to explain; not a joke, can be harmful to others*
- *Be aware and change mind frame*
- *Intent and impact, using such language daily*
- *Work to be restorative first, don't go to consequence immediately; progressive discipline*
- *Tool that board has created to look at resources, looking at from variety of lenses and not just our own experiences, to help decision-making around resources*
- *Will be coming to Council for funds as well*
- *How do we reach out to other parents so they feel like they matter and belong?*

School Council Initiatives

- **Spirit Wear Update**
 - *Should be up by end of week and will be available for School Cash Online*
 - *Tuques were too big, but everything else is ready to go*
 - *Decided that this would not be a fundraiser, but instead community building event, so charging roughly cost*
 - *Will also aim to promote as community building experience for EVS and face-to-face students*
 - *Cotton t-shirt \$11, dry-wick t-shirt \$15*
 - *Put together photos once everyone gets their spirit wear*
 - *Vendor can't ship to every individual, so packages will have to be quarantined and also determine how to get to students in EVS*
 - *People will have 7-10 days to order*
- **Oliver's Label**
 - *Fundraiser, portion of purchases goes back to school*
 - *Great masks that can be labelled with kids' names inside, similar to a scarf so good for cold weather*

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **Monday, January 25th**

- Monday, March 8th
- Monday, April 26th
- Monday, June 7th

Questions/Clarifications	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brainstorming other meaningful ways to bring together “Keeping Community Connected”; ideas to bridge the gap; pairing up grade 6ers online and in-person and sending messages back and forth</i> • <i>Lost items status as colder weather moves in? What is messaging to parents?</i> • <i>Cost sharing for technology?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If anyone has any ideas, please share</i> • <i>Lost and found is quite minimal right now; trying to message to parents that if caretakers find things; nothing is gathering in lost and find area; teachers have been very diligent ensuring kids have everything</i> • <i>Ask parents to send everything to school with their children as there is no drop-off</i> • <i>Encourage parents to label things</i> • <i>Nothing yet</i>