

GPS School Council Minutes: December 6th, 2021

Meeting Commenced: 7:05

Attendees: Heather Purcell, Lorne Boyle, Shanaaz Hasanali, Queenie Shang, Sophia Ali-Yusuf, Mark Quan, Tina Sharma, Peter & Joyce Wong, Carol Wong, Heather Elson, JP WU, Jaime Lee, Loretta Lee, Carla Leo, Mahlena-Rae Johnson, Melissa Nieuwenhuijs, Manjit Parmer, Aminah Baig.

1) Indigenous Land Acknowledgement (7:07-7:08)

- *"Let us begin our meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat Peoples. We also pause to take a moment to acknowledge the historic treaty claim settlement that was signed last September between our federal and provincial governments, in agreement with the seven First Nations affected by the treaty which includes: Alderville First Nation, Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Rama, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. In the spirit of meaningful reconciliation, the settlement was a major step towards helping to rectify some of the historic injustices found within the original Williams Treaty of 1923."*

2) Minutes from last meeting (7:08-7:11)

- Approved by Queenie and Sophia

3) Student Council (7:12-7:15)

- Announcements for International Day of Women to raise awareness
- 4 spirit days next week. Virtually assembly on the last Friday before the break
- Each day will have activities and outdoor events
- New position of minister of culture
- Have student created positions
- A lot of work being done by the students planning events.

4) PEAC:Tina Sharma (7:16-7:22)

- Sharing some information on PEAC (Parent engagement advisory committee)
- Roles is to represent and support school councils
- Support high schools and elementary schools in Markham east
- Provide information to board about parent engagement
- Have parents, admin and other members.
- Previously the council has not interacted with PEAC members
- Want PEAC members to have discussions about policies, for example faith-based decisions
- Local decisions are done by PEAC, but anything more is at the board level
- Support is here from the PEAC, information will be shared with co-chairs
- Pass along thoughts on hybrid to the co-chairs

5) Principal's report (7:24 - 7:52)

- Filled out form for pro-grant (\$800), usually is accepted, need to think of speakers
- All schools will receive \$500 to support student council for parent engagement
- Just finished gifting screening for grade 3
- Medical emergency protocols. One occurred on Thursday. Two trained first aid staff.
- School assistants wanted, need more with the cold weather coming. Less assistants showing up. Trying for outreach with the kindergarten classes

- School holiday giving campaign-wraps up next Wednesday, school wide assembly on December 17th. You can watch if you have your child's GAPPS account.
- Fundraising plan, try to balance how many times asking families for fundraising. Also if families in need reach out to Heather/Lorne and they will be happy to help. Have given gift cards for groceries, and connected to community assistance.
- Soccer for junior and intermediates.
- RAT being distributed to the students before the break. Letter will be sent home once those arrive. If waiting for results can join online class.
- Food for learning program, applied for more funding with the PC program. Received \$8000, if take it in form of gift card instead of cheque, get an extra 10%. Students are asking for more snacks, because of the longer snack times.
- Under 100 students learning virtually, more students returning, possibly after getting vaccinated. Online student enrollment varies across the board.
- Bullying prevention week was two weeks ago. Student council was involved. A big focus in the school. Ministry is focusing more on bullying prevention; possible money being put into it.
- School photo day retake day is January 27th, as well as grade 8 grad pictures
- Down to one crossing guard, Heather and Lorne have tried to help out. Trying to get more people. Finders fee for the school, as well as a signing bonus for anyone who will sign on. Lights were supposed to be in for this spring. Contact local MPs to get a light put in.
- Parking lot safety, happy with morning routine. Afternoon is difficult with staggered pick up. Lots of people parking in spots. No parking in the parking lot at anytime. Not safe with pedestrian traffic. Less traffic but will be busy with snow fall.
- No more coyote sightings. Just have kids be aware. Make loud noises, look big, go to nearest house.

7) Treasurers Report (7:52)

- \$1820.95

8) Fundraising (7:53-8:07)

- Fundraising goals: to get a new sound system in gym and have some more outdoor learning spaces
- Mabels labels, pretty straight forward, got to website and put in the school's name
- Possibly ask for donations in a letter.
- Fundraising would have to be virtual and possibly delivered straight to the parents, or delivered to the school and parents would pick up. Possibly the big box of cards.
- Toy drive, the children from the guradwara (Manjit Parmar) also want to participate. More time this year, so hopefully more toys. Next Wednesday would be the last day for drop off. Also contribute food to the drive.

9) Additional Items (8:08 – 8:14)

- Email for a light at the intersection. Contact the co-chairs for email address.
- Parents and kids are jaywalking, also double parking. Asked for police presence, also will try to have support staff come out. Need more calls from parents, call into by-law officers or YRP non-emergency number.
- If councilor needs support can have Khalid Usman support them (Manjit Parmar)

Upcoming Meeting Date: February 2nd

Adjournment: 8:16PM

