

Gordon Head Middle School
PAC Meeting minutes
September 23rd 2015

Present – Brent K, Lisa W, Lesley D, Faye H, Carren D, Bonnie D, Liz L, Neil P, Marion G, Alice M, Laura G, Cecilia V, Sheri Y

Meeting called to order at 7.05pm

Approval of prior minutes – The minutes from the May 2015 meeting were approved with one amendment. (Outstanding items from the previous budget are still to be bought for the Emergency container as they were not available during the spring/summer months). A copy of all the latest minutes can be found under the Parent Info section of the GHMS website.

Update on recent events

The **Welcome Back picnic** event seemed to go very well this year with the introduction of a shared event with Lambrick Park and the addition of the food trucks. Although a few tweaks could be made to the organisation side feedback has been very positive and it is felt that this is a great way to welcome everyone back to school or into the school community.

A very small number of **PAC vacancies** still exist for the 2015/6 however during the meeting Marion G stepped forward to take on the role of Fundraising Coordinator and Bonnie D and Cecilia V offered to help with the Staff Appreciation Lunch on 5th February. Mica K has also stepped up to organise the Grade 8 celebrations and Heather H has agreed to help co-ordinate the Grade 6 immunisations for 2015/6/7. Thank you to everyone who has so kindly offered their time and energy to support our school.

Vacancies that still exist include –

Newsletter/communications
VCPAC Rep
Yearbook Coordinator

Anyone interested in filling any of the vacant positions should contact Lisa Woo – ghmspac@gmail.com for more information.

Update on Upcoming Events

Used Book Drive will be held from 5th to 9th October. We welcome all donations of gently used K-8 books. This is in an effort to fill any gaps on our own library shelves as well as to help support other schools in our community. Our aim is to fill the Grizzly Den!

Committee Reports

Fundraising

Grocery cards from Thrifty and Fairways are up and running again with 5% of your purchases being donated back by the stores to support our school. Existing cards will automatically work so just load them up at the tills before you make your purchases. If you need a new card then these are available via Lisa (ghmspac@gmail.com)

Coupon books have now been sent out and this year include both the Entertainment Book (\$35) and the Save Around coupon book (\$25). Please take a moment to view the books as there are some excellent deals. Deadlines for orders are mid-October and we will be running the money tree again for our top sellers in the school.

The donation drive is doing well and so far has brought in \$2950 towards our fundraising target for this year. As a reminder we fundraise in the current year for the following years purchases.

PAC lunches will start up next week with some new offerings of fish and chips as well as Chinese food. Forms are available via the Parent Info section of the GHMS website.

Emergency Preparedness

The money allotted in last years budget for hats and gloves can now be spent as the items are more widely available in the stores. This will complete the purchases that were planned from last year. The granola bars from last year were donated to the Mustard Seed Food bank at the end of the school year and replacement bars will be purchased shortly. The class lists in the classroom emergency backpacks have already been updated.

Treasurers' report

Carren D proposed a motion to simplify our bank accounts by closing our savings account which will reduce our accounts to the Gaming chequing account and the Operating chequing account. This will also reduce our banking fees. Our GIC will remain in place for longer term big ticket items. This suggestion was approved and seconded by those present.

The accounts currently stand as follows –

Gaming - \$9070

GIC - \$9600

Savings - \$6300

Operating - \$950

Some items from the budget are starting to be ordered and quotes gathered for upcoming purchases. One such quote is the 3D printer which originally had a planned spend of \$1500. However it was proposed that we actually aim for a higher specification printer at a cost of \$3915.80 which comes from a local Sidney company and this motion was approved by those present. The extra cost covers a better standard printer as well as some supplies, technical support, training and a one year warranty. The extra funds will come from the technology budget and may also be cost shared with the school. It is intended that the 3D printer will be used by the

Grade 8s during their new technology exploratory and by the Grade 6s and 7s during a new lunchtime technology club to be started by Mr. Bolton.

Principals Report –

Mr. Kelly welcomed everyone to the school and expressed his pleasure in the start of the school year and the ongoing support of the PAC. This has been an interesting start to the year with the school numbers not showing the decline that had been predicted. We have actually held steady at 357 pupils which has allowed for one additional regular teacher and some additional prep time. We currently have 5 Grade 8 classes, 4 Grade 7 classes and 4 Grade 6 classes.

The dropping of the music exploratory and the additional prep time has allowed for the introduction of the new Grade 8 Technology exploratory. The musical offering in the school is now made up of Band and Choir.

The start of this year also saw the introduction of a new ‘Community Week’ during the first 4 days of school. This involved mixing all the Grades and having them doing some team building with a variety of different teachers. It was very well received by students and teachers alike and some suggestions have been put forward to continue to improve the process.

A couple of ‘start of the year’ reminders were given to help returning students and their families as well as new families –

- The drop off zone is a very busy place and prompt drop off/pick up is appreciated. Please do not park and leave your vehicle at any time. Also please pull forward to allow as many cars as possible access to the drop off zone.
- The daily announcements in the classrooms are added to the school website every day.
- Some terminology that new parents might hear –
 - The Hollow Log – where the students sell snacks,
 - The Fishbowl – the learning support room with the glass wraparound windows
 - The Gathering Space – the foyer where the hot lunches are organised.
 - The Grizzle Den – the studio next to the office where the announcements are filmed.

**Meeting adjourned – 8.35 pm.
Next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st October 2015 at 7pm.**