

Glynn A Green School Council Meeting – November 13, 2018

In Attendance:

Principal: Todd Halliday

Teacher: Ms van Veen

School Council Members: Todd Morgan, Vanessa Pottinger, Sheridan Houghten, Gaëtanne Barton, Heather Storz, Jo-Ann Kinnear, Julie Milligan, Stephanie Hicks, Kim Molnar, Jeremy Storz, Erum Mohsin, Julie Stitt, Kim Whittington, Jennifer Law, Glen Milligan, Sarah Storm, Craig Mustard, Lindsay Yungblut, Amy Bassett, Ty Bolibruck



Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Old Business: September 25, 2018 minutes - (Accepted)

DSBN Superintendent of Education – Kelly Pisek

- Record turnout for this meeting. Kelly came to shed some light on the transition of a new principal for GAG and the retirement of Pam Voth. As expected, she was not allowed to comment on the subtle details of what transpired but there are some on-going internal reviews.
- Gaetanne summarized her previous email from a meeting with Kelly, Todd, Jennifer and Gaetanne. ***The October 23, 2018 meeting summary has been attached to the end of these minutes.***
- Nancy Beamer (School Trustee – Elect) discussed having better communication from the DSBN Board level to students and parents on the day of the transition to provide more transparency.
- Todd Halliday discussed a gift box for the students to write letters, draw pictures, etc to be able to send off to Pam Voth in her retirement.
- Kelly announced that they are planning on having a “parent survey” in the spring to reassess everything and make sure the kids are still happy, safe and in a strong learning environment. She wants to make sure all concerns are dealt with, but also allow enough time for the transition to take effect.
- School Council parents are concerned about the large number of principals at GAG within the last few years and administrative consistency for students. Principals typically have a 5-7 year tenure at a school.
- Kelly will likely revisit at a future School Council meeting in the spring to review the survey findings.

Treasurer’s Report – Todd Halliday with Stephanie Hicks

- Todd will examine the Umbrella Category Summaries to identify where the funds are, what they are allocated for and will clean up some categories
- Scoreboard is coming in soon and approximately \$5000 has been allocated for this.

Principals Report – provided by Todd Halliday

Progress Reports went home on Nov. 8th and Interview Night is scheduled for Nov. 14th. These are designed to give you a broad sense of your child’s progress in mastering the curriculum, as well as some insight into the development of important learning skills and work habits. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. The Report

also includes some specific comments from your child's teacher highlighting areas of strength and areas of improvement.

Our school believes that students learn best when parents and schools can work together. We value the ongoing, meaningful communication between the home and school to support student learning. If you would like to discuss your child's progress, we invite you to contact your child's teacher to arrange an opportunity to speak with him/her.

Our **Remembrance Day assembly** will be held on **November 9th**. It was very well organized by Mrs. Cootes, with performances from our Primary choir (Mrs. Di Pelino) and our Jr/Int Choir (Ms. vanVeen). We received very positive feedback from the community members that attended.

The Scholastic Book fair is running this week (Nov. 12-15). Students will have an opportunity to purchase books in the library during these days. A scholastic book fair is a literacy event for the whole community! By supporting this event, you are supporting our school library. Every book sold, contributes to our book fair bonus total, and enables us to purchase new books for students to utilize in the library.

Our Grade 8 students will be travelling by bus to E.L. Crossley to participate in a Grade 9 Preview day on November 15, 2018. Students will have a chance to visit the E.L. Crossley and see some of the many great things that are available at the school. This will help them make informed choices as they choose their electives for Grade 9.

On November 21, 2018, Guidance Counsellors, from E.L. Crossley, staff will be visiting Glynn A Green School and starting the process of course selection and intention sheet completion. Once intention sheets are completed parents will be asked to sign-off on the program and course selection.

All intention sheets will be due by December 14, 2018

Open House ELC Nov 27 Eastdale Nov 29 Centennial Nov 29

The Nutrition Program is looking for donation and volunteers. A requirement for the program is that they participate in fundraising to help support the program and offset the costs. Volunteers can contact Julie Gledhill, NNCP (julie@juliegledhill.com, (905)380-4689, www.juliegledhill.ca) directly.

Sports and Clubs

Rock and Water session are continuing for Gr 4/5. A Parent Information Night is scheduled for Nov. 28th @6:30 in the gym.

Int Boys Volleyball Champions- Int Boys Volleyball team defeated

Int Girls Tournament

Crayola Club will be taking place on Thursdays until Christmas.

Intramural Jr. Ball hockey sign-ups are taking place right now and the season will start soon.

New Business- Gaetanne Barton

- **Funscript:**
 - Postponed for now due to principal transition and will be re-approached at our next meeting.
- **School Council Position:**
 - Gaetanne gave a summary of the positions available including Chair (Co-Chair), Treasurer and Secretary. No one present was interested in any of the positions and the current positions will remain with Jennifer McGregor and Gaëtanne Barton as Co-Chairs, Stephanie Hicks as Treasurer and Todd Morgan as Secretary.
- **Other Items:**
 - D2L website was liked by some parents and Todd will hopefully get it up and running again.
 - Todd is investigating supervision patterns for fitness and nutrition breaks to see which works best with the number of supervisors at each break. He has closed the climber and lower field for the winter in order to be able to supervise closer.
 - PIC Conference highlight was a "Making the Move to High School" seminar. More information can be found at <https://www.dsbno.org/makethemove/>

- PIC Conference also had a seminar on cannabis and vaping and the Region of Niagara has resources for this that Todd will look into to see if the students would benefit from any presentations, etc.

Next School Council Meeting:

- January 15, 2019 @ 6:30PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 PM

School Council Chair Meeting – October 23, 2018

October 23, 2018

Dear Kelly Pisek and Todd Halliday,

Thank you for meeting with us as representatives of the Glynn A Green School Council.

What we discussed comes from parent concerns received from: a parent driven Facebook group, direct emails and a meeting held on October 18, 2018.

1) Town Hall

- To allow parents to express the concerns they have regarding the well-being of everyone at the school and how that affects the learning environment of their children, a town hall meeting is requested where Todd Halliday, Kelly Pisek, Warren Hoshizaki and Nancy Beamer will be in attendance.

Action:

- Kelly Pisek, Superintendent of Education Elementary will be attending the November 13th School Council Meeting at 6:30 in the Learning Commons as well as Todd Halliday as our new Principal.
- Time will be provided at the beginning of the meeting for discussion but this school council meeting is not about specific student or staff concerns. Parents with any specific concerns should continue meeting their child's teacher and with Mr Halliday.
- All parents are welcome to attend any school council meeting.

2) School Review

- A full and comprehensive review of Glynn A Green is requested that should include the administration, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, parents and students and not be limited to the current school year.
- Tasks and responsibilities of administration and teachers is requested.
- It is suggested that a Respect in the Workplace type training be offered.

Action:

- Information and data will continue to be collected about the reasons leading us to the current situation.
- Kelly has met with school council co-chairs and will attend staff meetings on a regular basis.
- Staff feedback will be requested. Based on the facts discovered, future changes can be made.

3) Administration Continuity

- A plan to ensure administration continuity is requested because, in the past several years, Glynn A Green has had 5 permanent Principals and numerous Vice Principals.
- Based on the size and needs of the school, looking into the need for a Vice Principal position is requested.
- We wish that Todd's tenure be productive, positive and long term.

Action:

- As part of the Board review and planning process, the need for a Vice Principal will be reviewed.
- Even though the goal is to ensure stability and administration continuity, this is sometimes difficult in reality when circumstances change.

4) School Safety

- It is of utmost concern to parents that their children be safe.
- The parents are requesting better supervision to make sure that the fitness break is free of physical altercations and bullying.
- Better supervision is also needed during nutrition breaks.
- It is suggested that counselling for administration (past and present) teachers, students and parents be offered.

Action:

- Todd is looking into the groupings of recess and the physical boundaries available to students.
- Lunch supervision will be reviewed to increase the effectiveness of the supervisors (adults) and lunch room monitors (students).

5) Continuation of the New Glynn A Green Values:

- Child First Policy
- Safety
- Communication (open door, weekly emails, D2L website, physical visibility)
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Consequences
- Quick action
- Energy and enthusiasm
- Inclusivity
- Fairness
- Continuation of new programs, new initiatives, improvements (EQAO scores improvement, Honour roll celebration, school infrastructure improvements, Breakfast program, Rock and Water program, increase in resources in the classroom)

Action:

- Collectively, the principal and the teachers will continue to work together on what needs to be done at the school. The above values will continue.
- Kelly is also involved in this process as she is taking responsibility for the review of what was in place before Todd's arrival and Todd's focus is on moving forward.

Other notes:

- Kelly suggests a survey be sent to parents around March so that enough time has passed to see how the school has been functioning in the past year.
- Parents have the continued ability to contact their teacher with concerns and then reach out to the principal if the situation is not corrected.

Regards,

Gaetanne Barton and Jennifer McGregor

School Council Co-Chairs