

GFESS Parent Council Minutes

Meeting date: Monday December 19th, 2022

Meeting time: start time: 6:40pm
end time: 7:24pm

Location: Board Room in Library

1. Student Council Report presented by *Hailey Hudson (student rep)*

a. Semi-Formal

- Held on December 1, 2022
- Sold out
- Excellent event to build on school spirit between the grades, the student council has noticed a division between the junior and the senior grades.
- Students had a lot of fun.

b. Candy Cane Grams

- Selling them during the week Dec. 12-16
- Handed out the candy cane grams on Monday December 19th, 2022.
- Although, more candy grams were sold compared to Halloween, a lot less than previous years.

c. December Holiday Spirit Week

- December 19-23, 2022
- Great way to get student participation/school spirit. Today was Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, tomorrow Cozy Clothing Day, Wednesday PJ day etc.

d. Winter Colour Wars

- Pre-colour wars between grades.
- Happening on December 23rd, 2022
- Hopefully build school spirit throughout the year instead of a singular event.

e. December 23rd, 2022

- Pancake Breakfast in the morning, talent show in the afternoon. Official schedule will be determined/finalized tomorrow.

2. Teacher's Report presented by *Doug G. (teacher rep)*

a. Talent Show

- Confirmed two teacher acts will be in the talent show

b. Last Week

- The goal is for every student to have an updated mark before they leave for Christmas break.
- When we return, there is only 2 ½ weeks before exams.

3. Principal's Report presented by Fred L. (Principal)

a. December 23, 2022

- Lunch will be later in order to accommodate a later start for the idol performances.
- Teachers will be preparing the pancakes in the morning.

b. Exam

- As per Student Success, 70% work is evaluated during the semester and 30% is based on a culminating activity.
- This activity will vary from department to department. Up to the teacher's discretion for example a written exam can be 20% of their final mark and 10% an assignment or 30% for a written exam etc. Students should make sure they are aware of the percentage breakdown.
- Science and Math final exams are usually weighted more.

c. New Chromebooks

- New chromebooks have arrived at GFESS.
- Last year, GFESS had 261 chromebooks (3.5 students per chromebook).
- This year, GFESS will have 411 chromebooks (2 students per chromebook)
- "Stream" computers are like the chromebooks
- DSNB has schools on a five year rotation schedule. Every five years, all computers will be replaced.
- Fred negotiated with the board to provide another 3 more chromebook carts for storage.
- Students who are on an IEP with SEA claims - they have different computers than the chromebooks.

d. Late Bus

- The issue has not been resolved yet.

e. Online Credit

- Students must complete two online credits. Grade twelve are exempt from this due to Covid. The list hasn't been shared with GFESS students but will be in January. The school should know in January 2023. These are asynchronous courses and can be done during the summer.

4. New and Old Business presented by Heidi Hopkins (Chair)

A. Website

- Anyone with ideas/suggestions please contact parent-council.
- The Student Council did a survey regarding the website. The students have voiced what they want to see. Hailey will share the data with Heidi.
- Fred really likes the Thorold High website. Key is simplicity.

B. OSAP presentation

- Request to have the Niagara College OSAP rep come to do another presentation.
- Parents felt the presentation was very informative.
- Possible date: April's parent-council meeting.
- Hailey will start promoting the event soon on social media platforms.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2023

March 20th, 2023

April 17th, 2023

May 15, 2023

June 19, 2023 TBD