

GFESS Parent Council Minutes

Meeting date: Monday January 16, 2023

Meeting time: start time: 6:30pm

end time: 7:17pm

Location: Conference Room in the main office

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

a. December Spirit Week

- Cut short due to the storm which was very unfortunate
- Great participation and enthusiasm from the students

b. Winter Colour Wars

- Canceled due to the snow storm
- Council will be meeting tomorrow for possible rescheduling

c. Parent-Council social Media post

- Posting on social media platforms to gain more interest in the group.
- New parents/guardians/students are always welcome

d. Student Equity Alliance Group

- Tamil Heritage Workshop
- Q & A along with a workshop for all.
- The workshop was a huge success and expect more from the group throughout the year.

e. Exams

- Can feel the stress among students with one week left of school.
- Prep day on January 19th for grade 9 students to support the anxiety/mental health

2. Principal's Report presented by *Fred L. (Principal)*

a. Student Council Staff Advisors

- Meeting tomorrow morning with staff advisors
- Possible Colour Wars the Friday before March Break

Exams

- Discussion to have a service animal either the week before or the week of exams. Due to a schedule conflict this wasn't available for this semester. Will try for a week during the second semester, if successful will book them for second semester exams. Coordination will be done with Ms. Briggs
- Exam schedules have been shared with students
- Student transportation will be available during exams at regular times.
- January 31st - Conflict Day or Snow Day if needed

- February 1st is a PD day
- First day of second semester is **Thursday February 2nd**
- **Period One Exam:** Tuesday January 24th 12pm
Period Two Exam: Wednesday January 25th at 8:20am
Period Three Exam: Thursday January 26 at 8:20am
Period Four Exam: Friday January 27 at 8:20am
Period Five Exam: Monday January 30 at 8:20am

c. Parent Involvement Virtual Speakers Series

- “**Benefits of choosing a career in the skilled trades**” with Dr. Jon Callegher January 18 from 6:30-8pm
- “**Helping your kids create balance**” with Dr. Shimi Kang on January 25th from 6:30pm-8pm.

d. Staffing

- Communications Technology Program growing
- Additional section available for second semester

e. Grade 12 Grad Photos

- Normally a \$35 sitting fee however, many students were not included in the grade 12 composite photo due to lack of funds.
- GFESS has decided to pay the sitting fee for all graduates therefore, all students will have their picture taken and the opportunity to be part of the 2022-2023 grad composite picture.
- Edge Imaging will include the composite picture with the diploma at graduation

f. Signage/Wall

- a few changes will visually be seen in the school hallways. GFESS is redoing the 2021-2022 Honour Roll wall display due to students changing their names and/or misspelled of first/last name. This will be ready by Wednesday.
- New display for Tech class medalists. Signage displaying tech students achievement at the SHSM. Some of GFESS students continued on to the regional and provincial level. Name of students and colour of medalist will be displayed.

g. Grade 8 Students

- this week (Tuesday, Wednesday) and next week (Tuesday and Thursday) there will be a Q & A session with the grade 8 students outside the GFESS family of schools.
- As of now, GFESS is predicting 80 students from outside boards will be registered for the September start.
- Next year, approximately 275 grade 9 students at GFESS.

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

A. Financial Literacy Speaker

- Planning on having Niagara College rep to speak to parents and students about financial literacy April 2023. This presentation will also focus on OSAP application.

B. Website

- Looked at several other school websites and concluded simplicity is the key.
- Have an easy link to sport/clubs (co-curricular activities) for students to know staff in charge and time frame of the activity.

C. Course Selection

- Hopeful to have this completed in December prior to Christmas break however, the new program is causing major difficulties with the staff.
- Course selection will be done January/February for all students. Deadline is before March break.

D. Vending Machine/Lunch Menu

- Request to have a vending machine for students to grab a quick snack.
- DSBN has a contract with a vending machine company, the money does not go back into the school.
- Students can grab snacks from the cafeteria at lunch.
- Mr. Louws will check into a potential vending machine
- Request to post a weekly menu for students and parents therefore, they can plan meals for the week.
- Hailey suggested posting it on social media.
- This may eliminate students going out for lunch or ordering uber eat/doordash.

E. TIFF

- Fort Erie Film Circuit Presents "The Good House" on Monday January 30th at 6pm.
- Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00
- Located in the GFESS theatre
- Available every last Monday of the month
- For more information contact Katherine Rogers

F. Student Equity Alliance Group

- Students will speak to staff at the next staff meeting to explain what the role of the groups is and how this can be a positive experience for all staff and students at GFESS.

H. Director's Recognition Away

- Celebration at the end of February 2023
- GFESS very own Mr. Vandervoet is the recipient of this award
- Congratulations!!!!!!

Next Meetings: 6:30pm start

February 21, 2023

March 20th, 2023

April 17th, 2023

May 15, 2023

June 19, 2023 TBD