

# GFESS Parent Council Minutes

February 20, 2024

**Attendance:** MacKenzie (for Hailey), Heidi Hopkins, Doug Gilmour, Kristin Pisaric, Carrie McLennan, Susan Jovanovic, Fred Louws and Roxanne Rees

**Start Time:** 6:34pm

**Student Council:** (Mackenzie presented for Hailey)

- October
  - **Spirit Week** - very successful
  - **Halloween Dance** - great younger student turnout (grade 9 and 10). Looking to see how to motivate older students to attend the dance.
  - **Colour Days** - helps get the enthusiasm for the final colour wars. Students dress in their colours, activities during lunch etc. Great participation from the grade 9 students.
- November
  - **"World Kindness Day"** - Student council members placed sticky notes with encouraging messages on lockers. Overall well received. Many students kept the messages and placed them in their phone case or lockers.
  - **Semi Formal Dance** - Lots of participation from the younger grades. Seniors waiting for prom however student council looking at ways to get more participation from the older students.
- December
  - **Winter Candy Grams** - not too many sales. Lots of grade 9 participation
  - **Winter Spirit Week** - great participation which led to colour wars
  - **Colour Wars** - less popular than the spring one. Video game contest. Great way to have everyone included.
  - **Talent Show** - see all the talent and the teacher band
- January
  - Not much due to exams
  - **PJ week** stress reliever before exam
  - **Take what you need** board - student council board with different encouraging notes in envelope. Students can take the envelope good response to help with the stress of exams - pick me up for exam
- February
  - **February spirit week** - went well
  - **Gryphon Guide** led circles on leadership training presentations on different values of leadership. Have seen a positive change in the grade nine this year versus last with the Gryphon Guide program and grade nine council. Grade 9 students more engaged in the school community and environment -
  - **Prom bake sale** this Friday
- March
  - **Coffee House/ Open Mic** planned by grade 9 council on the 21st

- **Egg hunt** at lunch on March 28th. Eggs will be hidden around the school and students will look for them during lunch.
  - April
    - **Photo Scavenger hunt** April 12 this will be done during student lunch
    - car wash prom fundraiser went well last year (roofing companies competing on \$ amount donating back to school)
    - **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser** for prom
    - **GFESS After hours** April 25 new event introducing this year. Done by Myer
- last year. Many events happening at once to include everyone ex. Gym basketball, caf a dance, video game etc.
- May
    - **Prom** on the 10th
    - **Colour Wars** on the 31st - hoping to do food trucks again
  - June
    - **"Pass down the blue"** senior donate their spirit wear to the upcoming grade 9s therefore helping financially
    - **Senior Week** - doing different spirit days and activities

#### Teachers (presented by Doug)

- Start to semester two going well
- **Extra help** sessions for Science and English in the study lounge on Tuesdays (replaced the after school help in different departments). One area for all help. Most likely there will be a Math, English and Science teacher present.

#### Administration (presented by Fred)

- **Gryphon guides**- grade 9 are very engaged compared to years past. Lots of work was done within the first two weeks of school. A big thank you goes out to the grade 9s, student council and Gryphon guides for a successful program.
- **Enrolment for next year** - 1050-1075. If any returning grads would like to register for grade 12B, they need to fill out the google form. The principal will have a one on one meeting with the student to see if it will work. Staffing depends on numbers.
- **Student Voice Survey/Staff Survey** - student council went class to class to complete a survey. Questions like "*do you believe you belong at GFESS?*" "*What do you think GFESS values and what can GFESS improve on?*" using the data to make decisions for this year and next. All done in one period. The last PD day, teachers were given a survey to complete. The admin is collecting the data which they will share with program leaders and then with the staff at the next staff meeting. The data will guide decision making for the remainder of the year and next.
- Due to student, parents and staff voicing their concerns, **graduation** has been changed back to June 27th at the Leisure Plex.
- **Celebration of Cultures** - Feb. 21

- ***Black History Month*** - Black History Month Kit that was created by GFESS students 3 years ago, was delivered to all the other high schools in the board. This kit includes flags, activities etc. There was a great article in The Standard.
- ***Coldest Night of the Winter*** - Saturday February 24. The Take Action committee partnered with the Head Injury Association. The walk started at GFESS and the culinary students provided soup for all participants. Hoping to continue this participation next year. All proceeds from the event went to the Head Injury Association.
- Skills Competitions late Feb and early March. Gold winners will move to provincials.
- Progress Report - March 7
- Hall Monitor - going well

**Next meeting** March 18th

**Meeting end time:** 7:15pm