

GFESS Parent Council Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024

Minutes

Location: Library

Start time: 6:32 pm

Attendance: Hailey, Kristin, Raymond, Doug, Marie, Fred, John, Stephanie, Susan, Carrie, and Ashley.

End Time: 8:18 pm

Agenda

Council Member/Rep	Item	Notes
Student Rep Hailey	Grade 9 Registration Day (Thursday, August 29)	First Gryphon Guides event. Started of the year with a BBQ, games and tour of the school.
	Grade 9 Orientation Week (First Week of School: Sept 3-6)	Gryphone Guides helping grade 9 students—full experience with an introduction, icebreaker activities on Wednesday, assembly by guidance to discuss learning skills, work habits, and community services hours, etc.
	Candy Jar Guess to Win! (First Week of School: Sept 3-6)	During lunch. Students had to guess how many jelly beans were in the jar. Winner got to keep the jar.
	Learning Commons Clubs Begin (Friday, September 6)	Opportunity for students to see all activities offered at the school, such as anime club, chess club, etc.
	Gryphon Wednesday's Start-up	Every Wednesday, students will be encouraged to wear Gryphon spirit wear.
	Gryphone Guides	Parents can sign up their child, or the feeder school teacher recommends students for the program. This year, 80 mentors and approximately 80-100

		<p>mentees.</p> <p>Support system for incoming grade 9 students</p> <p>Mentors and Mentees will be attending a Ball Falls leadership day. Great opportunity to build on the relationship and instill leadership skills with our grade 9 students.</p>
	Terry Fox Walk Sept. 20	Buy out periods 4-5 for the walk. \$2.00 donation for the Terry Fox Foundation
	Breakfast Sept. 21	Dream Drive Fundraiser from 8-12 at GFESS \$12.00 to support culinary class.
	School Pride Sept. 13	Lunch kahoot, spirit wear, this will be happening once per month
Teacher Rep Doug	Startup	According to teachers, smooth startup. The new cellphone policy has made a huge impact on student learning.
	Washroom	Washrooms are cleared. Implementing the 15 minutes at the start and end rule. Only one student at a time - washroom
Principal	School startup	Thanks to the Gryphon Guides and new hall monitors, very smooth transition into the school year. Our first Friday Night Lights - had great turnout and good vibes. GFESS opted out of security - felt it was unnecessary since Fort Erie is isolated.
	Enrollment	1100 students

	Crystal Beach Hockey Academy	Great opportunity for 30 of our students. GFESS provides the education for students who are in the program. Students from Ontario no tuition otherwise it would be \$14200 per year. Perfect opportunity for students to further their hockey skills. Last year, this program was a success. This year we have a junior and senior boys team and a girls team. The school keeps none of the money.
	Cellphone Policy	New policy from the Ministry of Education. Teachers, students, and administrators have seen an increase in participation. Students are only to use it if it is needed for curriculum purposes. This new policy helps to teach students how to use their phone in a more productive way, utilizing the D2L platform for additional support. All social media platforms are blocked.
	Home Build	This DSBN program is excellent for students wanting to have a career in the trades. Students learn how to build a house from the ground up. GFESS has three students in this competitive program. This program is a full day. Open to grade 11 and 12 students.
	SHSM Program	Students who participate in the trades program - SHSM will receive a red seal on their diploma, which can help with scholarships.
	Hall monitor	GFESS will continue with

		<p>Scott as a hall monitor to help students get to class and out of loitering in the hallways/washrooms. This year the school board has provided GFESS with an additional hall monitor. Students, teachers, and administrators believe this is a huge advantage for the school.</p>
	Fort Erie Rotary	<p>Zombie Walk Students can gain community service hours.</p>
	Progress Reports Oct. 10	<p>Progress reports will be handed out on Oct. 10. Parent-teacher conferences will be 4-6 in person. If anyone cannot make it, please reach out to the teacher to make alternative arrangements. Date: October 16th.</p>
	DSBN Student Voice	<p>Using the data to address the areas of student needs.</p>
Chair	Bingo	<p>Anyone interested, please let Roxanne know asap. Deanna Ward is the school rep for Bingo. This is GFESS main fundraiser for the school.</p>
	Events	<p>Parent-council members help out with school events and sports games. This is not mandatory. Night games, open houses, etc. need help with.</p>
	Ideas	<p>A variety of fundraiser ideas were brought up: selling merchandise, naming the classroom. Fred will do a separate meeting to discuss these ideas. Potential speaker about financing for parents and</p>

		<p>students. Prep work for college/university. Royal Bank or Pen Financial.</p> <p>Fire Dept. to talk about fire safety</p> <p>Mental health lead to discussing whether your child may need intervention.</p> <p>Volunteer Fair - for students to complete their community service hours.</p> <p>Job Fair - for students</p>
	Civics/Careers	<p>Election: have members from each rep on the ballot, including school trustees.</p> <p>Student voting happens days prior to the election.</p>
	<p>Cadets</p> <p>Oct. 3</p>	<p>Cadets - presentation of flags</p> <p>Many opportunities for students through cadets. Will be coming during lunch to speak to students. Not just for military.</p>