



GFESS School Council Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2025

Attendance: Ray Darukhanawalla, Jim Marshall, Kristin Pisaric, Danielle Brisbois, Melissa Roth, Kashmira Darukhanawalla, Avery Webb, Doug Gilmour, Fred Louws

Location: GFESS Learning Commons

Time Started: 6:00 pm

Time Ended: 6:53 pm

Minutes

Who	Item	Notes
Acting Chair - Rayomand	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acting Chair thanked members for coming out.Brief overview of GFESS PTA history from last year
	Any new agenda items to be added/discussed	None
Principal Louws	Welcome	
	Overview of PTA	
	GFESS School School Council – Elections for 2025/26 Yr	Elections to be conducted at the First GFESS School Council Meeting in September 2025.
	Election of Chair for 2025/26 School Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nomination of Rayomand D. for ChairNo other nominationsAcclaimed
Student Rep – Ms. Avery Webb	Update to Student Leadership Conference	Ms. Avery are new student Representative for this Academic year.
	Student Council Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Avery gave an update on the GFESS Student Council webpage. https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/gfessstudentcouncil/home
	Upcoming Student Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spirit Week – “Saled Based’Terry Fox Run (this Friday) – Periods 4-5Bake Sale for Terry Fox earned \$1,300Gryphon Greatness Points

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch Guess Games on Fridays – Board games Gryphon Colour Wednesdays (Dress in GFESS gear)
Teacher Rep Mr. Gilmour	Update on PD Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smooth start to year Looking forward to PD activities for the year ahead
	Engagement with Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Gilmore encouraged parents to engage <i>Daily</i> with their children on what they are covering in school. Parents can contact their child's teacher through the school's website.
Principal Louws	Principal's Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PD Day Workshops on AI use in <i>Teaching and the Classroom</i> Quiet Lunch Room available for students to use Grade 9 – Science and English
	Grade 10 English Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Louws gave a explanation of the Grade 10 English Literacy Test all Ontario High School students must take. Informed PTA that the test will take place within the school day Preparations are ongoing by Grade 10 English teachers and members of the Literacy Team. Email notification will be sent out in Oct to all Grade 10 students and their parents.
	Support for Student Achievement –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Support available for All students. School Guidance Counselors always available for students to contact
	Standardized Testing & Assessments – EQAO, OSSLT, and other provincial exams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder sent out to Grade 9 Math Students and their Parents on EQAO. Prep Sessions will take place by Grade 9 Math teachers with those students currently enrolled in math this semester.
	Graduation Requirements & Post-Secondary Planning – Credit tracking, community involvement hours, post-secondary preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning Strategies for Numeracy Great support for students to come in and have Math Teachers available for Extra Support/Answering questions Reminder to Students to update their Community Hours on the Portal – Minimum 40 hrs Grade 12 – Information Assembly Oct 1st cancelled do to Niagara College related issues.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology is the 19th Compulsory Credit requirement for Graduation OSAP Info Night last week – appointments always available
	Mental Health Supports – School counselor services, partnerships with local health agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Worker FT (<i>Mr. Doug B. </i>) School Nurse available health related matters (Mondays & Wednesdays) Students are encouraged to reach out to Guidance Department for support.
	Four Pillars	Academics, Athletics, Technology, and Fine & Performing Arts
	Upcoming Events & Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowan's Law Sept 29th – Indigenous Day Sept 30th – Truth & Reconciliation Day (<i>Orange Shirt Day</i>) Oct 9th – Progress Reports Oct 16th – Caregiver/Teacher Interviews Nov 27th – Semi-Formal (Grade 9-10) at the Leisure Plex Jun 25th 2026 – Grade 12 Graduation Ceremonies Intramurals starting in a few weeks, Sign-Up sheets coming out Athletic Council will begin. Gryphon Guides
All	AOB	None
	Adjourned	6:53pm

Next Meeting: Monday, November 17, 2025

Remaining Meetings:

- Monday, February 23, 2026
- Monday, May 11, 2026