

GCA School Council Meeting Minutes

School Council	
Date	Mon. Sept. 12, 2011
Time:	6:30pm
Duration:	1.5 hour
Location:	Library, Glenmore Christian Academy
27 people in attendance Andrea Taylor - Chairperson Robin Petropoulos - absent Tasha Schindel - recorded minutes	NEW MEETING DAY - First "school" Monday of the month
Special Invitees:	Quinn Barreth (Grade 6 Teacher) to discuss "Evergreen Project"
Expected Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review discussion items on agenda

AGENDA

	Topic	Owner	Start	End
1.0	Greetings and Prayer	Derrick Mohamed	6:30	6:35
2.0	Review of discussion items	Lead as indicated	6:35	7:30
3.0	Action items	Andrea Taylor	7:30	7:55
4.0	Close meeting and prayer	Derrick Mohamed	7:55	8:00

MINUTES

- **Greetings and Prayer**
- **Review of discussion items**
- **Palliser Updates:** Don Zech Palliser Trustee assigned to GCA reported.
 - Class sizes in the district vary widely.
 - Accountability Pillar is improving ever year over the entire district.
 - Palliser has been in the media quite a bit lately due to the hiring of several teachers to fill the gaps throughout the district. Very few other districts have hired at all this year due to cut backs.
 - Don praised GCA parents for the continued growth in School Council attendance and has put out a friendly goal to have 66 parents in attendance at our School Council Meeting. (The previous record set out by another Palliser School Council)
- **Construction Update:** Bob Montgomery and Derrick Mohamed reported.
 - Grade sixes are now in their classrooms. HUGE answer to prayer. The final safety and inspection sign off was this morning, just in time for the students to come to class. Incredible! Derrick and Bob gave all parents a tour of the space at the end of the School Council meeting. The progress and plans for the rest of the expansion were also briefly discussed. We are on target for scheduling and budget.
- **Parking Update:** Andrea Taylor reported.
 - Classroom training for ALL students is already started. Parking Lot lines and arrows are painted and the new parking protocols and process although slow are improving. Volunteer forms went out this week.

- **Childcare Update:**
 - The Childcare will be up and running in September 2012 not in January 2012 as we had originally hoped. Mrs. Miller will lead this program and the implementation of it. ALL questions regarding GCA Childcare and any suggestions or desires to be on a wait list should be sent to Mrs. Miller directly. There will be room for 75 students in the new Childcare program. Although we already anticipate the need will be greater than 75 students.
- **Running Club Money Fund**
 - We have \$3000 in the fund for spending on Recess play equipment. The equipment wish list that parents created in the June School Council meeting has been sent out to bid to 3 vendors. We expect to have the equipment ready for November. There will be 2 different roll out times. One in the fall and one in the spring to extend the life and user responsibility of the equipment. Teachers and Angie Peters will participate in how that will work best.
- **School Supplies Results and feedback and Evergreen Update**
 - fundraiser has raised over \$4000 up to this point for this year. School Start seems to be a better company to work with. Quality is better and orders are more accurate. This fund has a balance of just over \$8000 from the previous year. The funds are recommended to go to Grades 4 and 5 Science enrichment. Quinn Barreth (Grade 6 teacher) is the main contact now for this program and described the Evergreen Project and how beneficial it is for the students. He has the program booked for the current grade 6 classes. The grade sixes will still be going to participate in the January trip as the cost for that trip was included in the registration package and the funds already budgeted for the Outdoor Ed trip.
 - Lisa Hoshizaki will be handing over this School Supplies fundraising project to another parent as this is her third year and she wants to pass the torch. Please contact her if you are interested in leading this worthwhile fundraiser for the Evergreen Program.
- **Fundraisers throughout GCA**
 - Judith asked why this seemingly mandatory fundraiser is not just rolled into the fees. Parents appear to be nicked and dined sometimes without any clear explanation to where the money goes.... Can we change this somehow? The judgment to not participate in these fundraisers is not comfortable. The request is to communicate better what the money is going for.... it should not be a part of the registration package if it is optional.
 - Mr. Mo has told parents that this "All School" fundraiser money will be going towards the technology for current needs. He wants to make sure that not just parents but the students can recognize where this money goes and how GCA is spending it. Mr. Mo has a technology focus to keep our children up to date. There is a Technology Committee made up of experts and GCA parents who are creating a long term "Technology Plan." Mr. Mo said, "GCA has received a quote from Apple for a classroom set of iPads..."
 - Andrea Taylor requested that parents have a list of what is coming up regarding fundraisers or requests for donations at the school... for household budgeting and planning. ie: Coffee sales, poinsettias, grocery gift cards, spring flowers, Grade nine auction, OCC boxes, Hampers, Mustard Seed Toile-trees and other classroom community support initiatives .
- **Meeting with Society Board and Collaborative Future Plans**
 - Andrea Taylor has planned the joint meeting our regular School Council Meeting time, October 3rd - 6:30pm. Please come with ideas you want to share and suggestions for the Society Board to consider. Grant Vogeli GCA Educational Society Board Chairman wants questions to come to him about opportunities or possibilities for GCA. He supports the idea of the Society Board becoming more transparent about the Society funds and the Strategic planning, so that we can all work together. Some ideas could include: ways to build the school community for all of us, parenting workshops, family discipleship, and a huge range of other suggestions or initiatives that directly involve our school community. The Society Board really wants to be more collaborative with Parents. Bob Montgomery, (Interim General Manager) Brenda Giroux and Janine Altamirano represented the Society Board.
- **School Changes: Cafeteria, Christmas Production, etc**
 - Mr. Mo gave an update for all the changes that have occurred with the start of new school year.
 - The cafeteria changes.... Hot breakfast, second cafeteria cash machine, new menu items... Angie Peters is in charge of this. The feedback from students and parents has been very

- positive. Food and service quality has improved. Sodexo has been given a 3 month contract instead of a full year contract. The parents will be asked after 3 months how the changes have improved the cafeteria. If sufficient changes and expectations are not met, a new vendor will be chosen. The food Allergies in the cafeteria situation has been discussed and the time consuming process for the exchange of milk or juice is the responsibility of the child. If the child is too young ie: grade K or 1 it can be administered through Angie Peters. Parents need to contact Angie if they have other concerns that are even further advanced and can't be handled by a school wide policy or protocol.
- The Christmas Production is going to be Tuesday December 20th at First Alliance Church. The elementary students will have a rehearsal at FAC all day on Monday, December 19th. So children need to be dropped off at FAC for their school day. The ticket sales and logistical details will come home closer to the event. The reason for this change to the First Alliance Church is to include all of the GCA parents in the Christmas production and to eliminate the need for multiple shows.
 - The PAT results are posted from last year on the website. PAT Documents including in last June are there for comparable inquiries. We have a high percentage of our students who are achieving excellence. That is FANTASTIC. GCA is one of 30 schools in Alberta who is up for an award for Excellence in teaching Language Arts. If we win we will be awarded a monetary prize.
 - The new teachers are doing great and are becoming part of GCA with ease. Thank you for welcoming them and introducing yourselves when you see them in the halls.
 - Grounds landscaping and campus clean up needs addressing. The school did not secure the landscaping company they used in the past and the upkeep was handled in house. Some gaps transpired and the yard maintenance was low priority with heavy budget costs this year due to the construction. Bob Montgomery said we will address this need and he welcomed the idea of parents helping or creating a committee to support the school with grounds keeping. Watch for more information and certainly a committee being formed in the early spring of 2012.
 - Field Trips – How is the money that comes from our registration that is designated to go on field trips being distributed equally? Parents are concerned about the classes who have not had any field trips and those who have had several. One of the inhibitors is that the teachers now have less planning time. Mr. John Bird commented that the venues availability and readiness of the children is also very key for teachers planning field trips. Suggestions are welcome and Mr. Mo asked for parents who have skills or professions that they can share with students to provide professional expertise or interest that matches curriculum to please contribute where and when possible. Mr. Mo said, “Sometimes a special guest is as valuable as a field trip.”
 - Morning Supervision - When is the supervision started in the morning? There is a teacher scheduled outside at 8:10am. Supervision is at the Division 1 playground only before school. The official new school first bell time is 8:20am. Children are required to be lined up at 8:20am when the bell rings. All students can enter the school building at 8:20 and get their coats hung up boots or outdoor shoes put away and be ready at their desk in their classroom for 8:30 sharp.

ACTION ITEMS

Topic	Owner	Due Date	Status
Joint meeting with the Society Board	Andrea Taylor	Oct 3	Scheduled
Parking Lot new Protocols	Andrea / Judith	On going	In progress
Creation of Grounds Committee	Bob/ Tasha / Marcy	Oct 3	In progress
Money from Running Club	Tasha	Nov 1	In progress
Fundraiser money for Evergreen Gr 4 & 5	Lisa H. / Ms. Thirsk	On going	In progress