

GMS COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 28, 2009

PRESENT:

Kristin Ryan
Susan Rabb
Suzanne Lewis
Angela Slobodian
Robbie Judd-Lunt
Mark Cooke
Michele Douglas
Cindy Graham
Chris Noxon
Chantal Racine
Nicole Maclaren
Jacqueline McKenzie
Jim Leask
Kerry Bjorson
John Harvey
Karen Tanner

1. Welcome/Opening:

Jacqueline opens meeting. Motion to approve Agenda: Robbie motions, Jim seconds: **motion approved.**

2. Approval of March '09 Minutes:

Robbie motions, Karen seconds; **motion approved.**

3. Previous Business:

None

4. Principal's Report:

It's a baby girl for teacher Jen Benoit. Congratulations!
Some very sad news regarding Trustee Alex Gettie, who died suddenly. He will be missed by all who know him.

Guest speaker: Candace from the Ottawa company "Best Tools for Schools", which delivers a pre-ordered, customized school kit. She gave a presentation explaining the premise, the brand names that will be used, cost, delivery to the school, etc. This is the company's first year. All supplies are ordered and paid for by parents on-line, and the products are delivered to the school prior to the first day, boxed and labelled with the student's name/grade. Each grade's required supplies are on the website, and have several options, ie: lock included, higher-end calculator, etc.

2/

Grades 6/7/8 prices are:

\$39.02/\$52.93/\$52.93, without including the lock. This idea was quite well received by the parents at the table, as the prices provided are very competitive compared to shopping yourself. Another option, provided by Chris Noxon, was from a company in B.C., called "Smart Packs", with a Grade 6 price of \$32.50. The supplies from this company would be shipped to the school, then sorted, with cheques being paid to the school. These option will be included in the upcoming newsletter, with a prompt to order early if parents want to go ahead with this. There is a fundraising option to this as well: approximately \$4.00 from each purchase will go back to our school.

Update: A thank you note was indeed sent to Talos Homes for the wood delivery.

Enrolment Projection for 2009-2010:

-474 student population

-27 F/T Staff, with 1 French Immersion, and .5 Special Ed.

-1 French Immersion position declared surplus

-at this time, with a Positions List posted on May 1/09, staffing is still quite "fluid".

A/

-2 new local schools are set to be opened September 09.

-D and T teacher Mrs. Paula Walker will be leaving GMS to take up a position in one of these new schools. At this time, Mrs. Samson is to take part of this position, and the position will be fully staffed. Lengthy discussion ensued, as council very concerned that the new teacher is fully qualified, ready and able to continue the program as Mrs. Walker has done so wonderfully over the years. The council is also very concerned that the students will still have the same use of the tools and equipment that they currently enjoy. The D and T program at GMS is known throughout the community, and it is a high-light for the majority of students. The council does not want to see the program slip away, or be absorbed/diluted into another subject. Chantal and Chris stressed they understood the parents conviction, and stated the staffing is still in its early stages.

-a big Thank You and Farewell will planned for Paula Walker. She has given countless volunteer hours for the extra-curricular programs like Marsville, Robotics, Cardboard Boat Races, etc. These as the types of "extras" that have a significant impact on the D and T program that the kids know about even before they get to GMS, and work hard to be chosen for.

B/

-Arts are designated 150 minutes per week for all 4 strands (visual, drama, dance, music). Currently, the dance portion is incorporated into Gym, so we have 150 minutes left for the remaining 3 strands. For 09-10, the Board states that 1 ½ periods / week for visual art/drama, then we will rotate at the half way point in the year to 1 ½ periods / week for music/dance. This arrangement still fulfills the 150 minutes per week requirement.

-Staff are wanting to offer all 7's and 8's an instrument and music book next year, and are asking Council to give a "yes" or a vote of confidence to back this initiative. This will involve "voluntary fees", like the school fee's. If the student can't pay, they will still be provided with a music book and an instrument. **By a show of hands, Council gave full support.**

3/

-Feeder school Parent's Info Night Meeting is May 20/09, for parents in Richmond, Munster, and Stittsville. The Grade 5 student's from those schools will come for a visit on Friday June 12th.

-New possible initiatives, maybe run through the Public Health Nurse. Maybe fresh fruit, etc. About \$1000.00 required to fund this. Further discussion at next meeting.

5. No OCASC report.

6. No Health Bar report, except Milk Money is paid and up to date.

7. Teacher's Report:

-litterless lunch Friday's will be in effect until the end of the year. Mr. Peacock's Chess Club placed 4th. In a Tournament at Stephen Leacock. Well Done!

-The Girls Hockey Team played at the Sensplex and missed advancing to the Semi-Final's by 1 little goal, an outstanding achievement for the girls, who had minimal practice time.

-In Badminton, boys played very well, and the girls won Bronze. Great Effort! Thanks to Mr.Noxon, Wolf, and Jessimen for all the time spent coaching.

-in Robotics, Mrs. Walker reports that both the boys and girls had very good results.

-in Band, Mrs. Crawford reports that the very busy schedule is going well. The equipment sign-out program is up and running. This is a student-run program.

-the Talent Show auditions have been completed, and there may be a show in the evening so parents could come and watch. This is being led by Mrs. Freisen, Wiggins, and MacLaren.. Check website for more details.

8. Treasurer's Report:

-\$29,580.00 currently in our account. Karen states this is not entirely accurate, as there are outstanding bills to be paid to some of our suppliers. The school is about 1 month behind in payments to our suppliers. Karen suggests that a more efficient way for the future Treasurer being able to pick up the bills from the school.

9. Other Business:

In local Curling news, several GMS students came 3rd. In their division (out of 80 teams!!) in the recent Provincial Championship's! The GMS student's were: Sean Lewis, Colin Cooke, Ian Harvey, Carson Ryan, and Liam Maahs. Well Done!

A motion to spend \$200.00 for a grocery gift card to a special family was put forth after some discussion. **Motion to spend \$200.00 from Jim, seconded by Kristin. Motion approved.** This topic should be re-visited at the next meeting of the year to see what else our school can do to help alleviate some of the pressure for this family.

Motion to adjourn: Kerri, seconded by Karen. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Next meeting: May 2~~4~~, 2009 at 7:00pm in the library.

26