



GPMS School Council
Monday Sept. 27, 2021
7:00pm, Zoom Invite – see email for link

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** - Darryl Christiansen, Lindsey Hagen, Catherine Thorsen, Arlene Anderson, Jocelyn Smith, Jen Carey, Jen Gordon, Annette Siemens, Thomas Nelis, Mike Nightingale (Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Executive Council Rep for GPMS), Vanessa Principalli, Tiffany Mills, Essal, Jen S., Lilli Banks, Carrie Boschman, Natalie Bevans, Jo-Lynn and Mark.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** – Annette Siemens
- 3. Approval of May 2020 minutes** - Jocelyn Smith
- 4. Financial Statement** – Arlene Anderson
 - **Gilbert Paterson Community School Account as of end of June \$1174.24**
- 5. Election of 2021-22 Executive**
Darryl reviewed Parent Council structure and confirmed that no fundraisers, etc took place in last year due to Covid.

Call for nominations but no volunteers so nominations tabled for next meeting.
Arlene Anderson and Vicki Hazelwood to continue on as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, unless new nominations come forward.

6. ADMINISTRATION Reports

Darryl Christiansen (Principal – Grade 8 Administrator)

- a. Enrolment, staffing class sizes – 777 students enrolled total. Class sizes are as follows:

Gr. 6 Eng 30 students	French 29 students
Gr. 7 Eng 28/29 students	French 24/25 students
Gr. 8 Eng 31/32 students	French 27 students

Option classes – lower enrollment in Fine Arts (due to suspension of these activities due to Covid) so increase of enrollment in other options.
Staffing is status quo, more support staff added. 3 PS3 intern teachers (Gr. 6, 7 & Fine Arts).
- b. September start up and fall Covid protocols
No AHS notification or contact tracing this year. School is following Alberta Health Daily checklist.
Attendance tracked daily to see if at 10% absentee rate (trying to see trends regarding illness, etc).
Protocols – Cohorts in effect for Core subjects, masks encouraged but able to be off. Masks in effect for Options classes, common areas. Staggered lunch breaks - Gr 7 & 8 outside first while Gr 6 eats and then switch. Lockers available and trying to stagger amount of kids in common areas at different times, multiple entrances being used to decrease congestion and decrease amount of students in same place.

- c. Athletics, Fine Arts and clubs
 - Volleyball - Camps first week of school, then 35 students attending club volleyball, 24 kids on development team and 24 on rep team. Rep teams had tournament this past weekend. Live stream for spectators, distancing teams, no hand shaking, etc.
 - Fine Arts – Mary Poppins auditions have started. Rock band also up and running. See Paterson Press for times, dates and more offerings.
- d. Communication with parents
 - Paterson Press out via email every two weeks also online calendar has info regarding school planning. Contact grade level administrator or Darryl if any questions.

Lindsey Hagen (Vice Principal – Grade 7 Administrator) – Will be taking maternity leave next month and Mr. Brunner will be filling in for Linsey's leave.

- a. PowerSchool and options
 - Power School is platform being used at GPMS to communicate with parents and students. If there are any password issues, etc contact Lucie or Leanna at GPMS front desk to help get set up or questions.
 - Options – Have been able to accommodate most requests, not a lot of room for options changes. As openings become available at beginning of terms (Nov. 26 term 1 end, Mar 11 term 2 end) then they will try to accommodate requests.
- b. Bussing
 - Rough start. Routes have been adjusted and still some adjusting to do for S1 bus this week. Ineligible ridership to be reviewed this week. 7:50 am bus accommodated as they arrive.
- c. Parent Teacher Interviews / PL Week - Oct. 12-15
 - Online interviews Oct 14/15 and Prof Learning days for teachers 12/13.
- d. Leadership and student involvement
 - Gr. 7 leadership hosted Terry Fox run and \$1600.00 in funds raised. Gr. 6 leadership to host Orange Shirt day.

Catherine Thorsen (Vice Principal – Grade 6 Administrator)

- a. Wellness and counselling focus – students and staff
 - Counselling staff, Christine Oviatt and Cheryl Smith, have been helping students to talk about coping strategies and one on one needs. Support available for parents also.
- b. School absences – reporting and missed schoolwork
 - Covid daily tracking not necessary. Try to be accurate on School Messenger App when reporting student absence. Most schoolwork missed can be found on Teams and by contacting teacher via email.
- c. Learning Support

Melissa Wall is the learning support teacher. She has been working on documentation on meeting standards and take in learning with students.

d. French Immersion

Voyage Quebec – most likely will not happen. Instead, virtual tours and other learning opportunities will be offered.

Currently working on language skills and writing goals.

Delph (international proficiency in French exam) will reignite with U of L this year, with Gr. 8's writing the A2 level.

Administration – Feedback from parents

a. Fall start up feedback/questions

Do we want parents to report Covid to school? Darryl stated parents can instruct teachers what to do with this info, but not asking parents to report as per AHS. Connect with teachers so students feel comfortable and can support learning at home so not feeling overwhelmed on their return to school.

If 10% of students missing due to illness will parents be notified? AHS will be notified, and they will advise public health. Darryl reported we have not had anywhere close to 10% illness reports yet.

Should we be reporting illness as illness and not excused absence? Yes, it helps to track student absence more accurately.

Can we expect teachers to send packages home if student absent? Teachers should always have resources on Teams, so check Teams and contact teacher as necessary. The goal is to have students keep updated on main concepts they are missing due to illness.

Are homeschool learners at same level as in school learners (last year)? No assessments have been done yet, more interested in connecting with students right now and meeting their needs.

Transition times – some report of kids being let out of class late and then being late for next class. Catherine to follow-up with individual student.

4 parents reported that their children are missing nutrition and snacks as not given enough time to eat between classes. Mostly a grade 6 concern. Darryl to follow up.

Wednesday school day shortened to dismissal at 1:00pm as per district planning, not GPMS recommendation. Nutrition break in place VS lunch because not enough time for lunch break.

Dismissal times are complicated and inconsistent for the school week – wondering if they can be reassessed and more consistent next year? Contact Darryl with feedback and suggestions.

School volunteers for Middle School levels? Not great demand, sometimes parent volunteers needed for band, choral and hot lunches. Some co-curricular parent coaching volunteers. Reach out to teachers for opportunities.

- b. How would you like to be involved in school council?
Send thoughts and reflections to Darryl re school council activities, etc.
- c. What types of activities or information would you like to see at school council?

7. District School Council Report – Next meeting Oct 4, 6:00pm.

8. Other – Contact Darryl regarding School Council Executive if interested in any of the positions.

Next Meeting Oct. 25, 2021 (due to civic election).

Tiger Society Meeting to be held in October

Motion to end meeting: Annette.