

**GPMS School Council**  
**Monday, April 25, 2022 - 6:30PM – Learning Commons and Zoom**

**Attendance:** Arlene Anderson, Carrie Boschman, Jennifer Gordon, Matt Bruner, Allison Purcell, Donna Witney, Darryl Christiansen, Mike Nightingale

**2021-22 GPMS School Council Executive**

Chair: Carrie Boschman

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Gordon

Treasurer: Arlene Anderson (trainee Jen Gordon)

Secretary: Vicki Hazelwood (trainee Jenn Prosser)

DSC Rep: Jamie Walburger, alternate Carrie Boschman

1. Welcome and Introductions – Carrie
2. Additions to the Agenda – Carrie, Allison approves agenda
3. Approval of the Agenda - Carrie
4. Approval of March 21, 2022, minutes – Carrie, Donna approved minutes
5. Financial Statement Update – Arlene
  - School Council balance is \$1,174.77
  - Tiger Society balance is \$10,508.13

6. ADMINISTRATION Reports –

**Darryl Christiansen (Principal – Grade 8 Administrator)**

- a. Registration / option choice process
  - We have been gathering registrations
  - Option choices will begin in May and take place at school.
  - QUESTION: Since students will be picking options at school, is there opportunity for parents to help students select options?
  - Yes, information on all the options will be sent home ahead of time so parents can talk with their children and make suggestions on which options may be a good fit for them.
  - Are the option fees listed on the information sheet sent home to parents?
  - We will double check and make sure the fees are listed.
  - Will you continue to have Drivers Ed?
  - Yes, it is a very popular option. We will continue this!
- b. Budget and staffing
  - QUESTION: Do the core teachers with a grade typically stay with that grade year to year?
  - Most of the time, it depends on who else is hired and where all the staffing needs are based on changes in staffing each year. Typically, yes, but not guaranteed.
- c. Grade 8 Farewell planning – We will be reaching out to parents for help planning and decorating. The farewell will be Monday, June 27 in the afternoon. More information will be

sent out in an email to Grade 8 parents next week. We are happy to be back to our standard Grade 8 Farewell!

d. Athletics / Fine Arts update

- We had some students place in the Badminton City finals. A very successful season.
- The Track Meet will be Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the University of Lethbridge Track. Student testing is happening during Gym classes. Students will be notified if they qualify. More information will be sent out to everyone soon. It is a regular school day with approximately half the kids at school and half the students at the track meet.
- Music Festival happened onsite with Judges visiting the school and listening to the Bands.
- Grade 8 Band will be going to Banff the first week of May.
- Rock Band is happening this Friday.
- One act plays will be happening May 16 – 19. More information coming soon.

**Matt Brunner (Vice Principal – Grade 7 Administrator)**

a. Tell Them From Me Survey – We have reviewed the survey. Some of the trends were surprising. Student perception of the importance of school is quite a bit lower, their perception of how hard they work is a bit lower, increase trend in anxiety and depression. We wonder if this was taken again now things may have already started to improve as we have been able to hold assemblies, Japanese Gardens, concerts, and other fun things at school. These are trends other schools are also seeing.

b. Final Exams –

Grade 7/8 exams: June 23<sup>rd</sup> is Social, June 24<sup>th</sup> Math, June 27 is English, June 28 is Science, French will be done during school the week of June 13. Grade 7 exam weight will be 15% and Grade 8 will be 20%. These exams will be done in the morning. Gr 7 and 8s will go home after they write their exam. All the dates are on the GPMS website calendar.

Grade 6 students will be writing PATs. These are not weighted exams. It is just to introduce students to this experience. PAT Exams will start in May. FLA PAT May 16, ELA PAT Part A May 18, FLA PAT Part B June 10, Math PAT Part A June 14, Math PAT Part B June 15, ELA PAT Part B June 16, Social PAT June 20, and Science PAT June 22. They will have 2 hours for the exams but up to 4 hours if they need it. Grade 6 students are done on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

c. Student recognition – Students of the Month are being announced in the Grade 8 assembly. This has been a very positive thing for our school culture. One more thing that is helping things get back to normal.

**Catherine Thorsen (Vice Principal – Grade 6 Administrator)**

a. PL Day – April 25<sup>th</sup> – PL Day for teaching staff. They met in their collaborative groups (reading, writing, numeracy) looking to improve student engagement and learning. We had a presenter come down from Calgary to talk about inclusion.

b. French Immersion – DELF exams, Voyage Quebec – We just finished our largest DELF exam with 90 students take it. It was exciting to see that many students successfully complete the exam. French Immersion students will complete the exam again in Grade 11 and Grade 12.

Voyage Quebec: We are talking about travel. We will be talking with staff and parents to start planning for next year. We will partner up with Jump Street.

c. Spring activities –

- French students will be going to Agnes Davidson.
- Grade 8s will be going to LCI to talk with some of the Grade 12 students.
- Grade 7s will be doing a pool trip in June.
- Every Friday we recognize a few grade 6 students.

Administration – Feedback, Questions, Ideas?

Concern expressed regarding instructional hours of grade 6 students given that they are done a week early. With COVID and interrupted learning the past few years there was questions raised about the need for more instructional hours for students to help bridge the learning gap.

7. Trustee Report – Allison

- We covered our Board Report and Strategic Planning meeting to talk about priorities.
- We've had some great provincial champions in our division with Curling and Wrestling.
- We covered some policies. These are available for parents to review and give input.
- We covered the capital plan. A survey was available for parent input.
- We approved the Victoria Park upgrade.
- Curriculum advocacy is something we as a Board are working on and prioritizing.
- Community Conversations are continuing. Great opportunity for parents and community to build relationships with Trustees. The next one is on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Henderson on the east end of the lake.
- \$250 Council money needs to be spent by the end of June. Discussion around pooling money for a speaker such as David Irving.

Mike Nightingale - Schools have received their budget and working on staffing.

8. District School Council Report – Jamie

- Nicolas Sheran school is hosting a presentation with a Psychologist from Lethbridge 6:30 – 8:00PM

9. Staff Appreciation Lunch – May 26th – Vicki/Carrie

- Carrie proposed a hybrid option of parents dropping off food and the option for parents to give a cash donation instead if they prefer. Donations would be used to buy needed lunch supplies, food, and or gift cards to appreciate the staff.
- Open School Cash Online for donation collection May 13 – May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- In the past, parents sent in their food with students to drop off in staff room or parents can drop off before 11:00am. Two volunteers needed at 10:45am to set up lunchroom, two volunteers needed at 1pm for clean up.

10. Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) Report Business –

- Presentation will be available for attenders and School Councils to watch at a meeting.
- Great break out sessions
- Proxy vote was done for Gilbert Paterson. Only 19 responded to the survey sent out.
- ASCA Resolutions survey results, AGM report

11. Old Business – ASCA Engagement Grant (\$500) – Recommendation to have David Ervine speak about inclusiveness, respecting one another, and how to have positive connection with staff and children.

12. 2022-23 – School Council Executive positions – May meeting - Carrie

13. Other

**14. Next meeting dates - May 16, 6:30 PM**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:50PM**

**TIGER SOCIETY – April 25, 2022**

**Attendance:** Catherine Thorsen, Darryl Christiansen, Arlene Anderson, Carrie Boschman,

**Approval of Agenda**

**Treasurers Report:** Tiger Society balance is \$10,508.13

**Fundraising:** Do we want to raise money for something in the fall? Preference to wait until after fall. Concern about expenses for parents in the fall.

**Hot Lunch?** Logistics were difficult due to the growing school population. The benefits don't outweigh the challenges. It worked well at the elementary school level however with the logistics of middle school it is quite difficult to run a hot lunch program.

**Last Tiger Society meeting next month**