



GLENBROOK
NORTH
PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Glenbrook North Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2018

Attendance: Mindi Rench, Joanne Mock, Betsy Sharpe, Greta Satek, Stacy Sliden, Rick Rosenfeld, Audra Casey, Meghan Rosenfeld, Carol Currie, Bill Eike, Ed Solis, Mike Tarjan, Kris Frandson, Eric Etherton, John Catalano, Kristine Schwandner, Decima Panitch, David Mitchell

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:04 P.M.
- II. Guest Speakers: The Administrative Leadership Team (Kris Frandson, Associate Principal for Administrative Services; Ed Solis, Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction; Bill Eike, AP, Dean of Students; Mike Tarjan, AP for Student Activities; John Catalano, AP, Athletic Director; Eric Etherton, AP for Student Services)
 - A. Each member of the ALT introduced themselves and described the work each of their offices does.
 - B. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions about various topics including:
 1. *Can a child who wants to participate in a sport but may not be able to make competitions do that?* It depends on the sport, and the child should talk to the coaches.
 2. *There were questions about STEM classes/curriculum.* South has a unique STEM program, but we don't have a specific STEM program. Our science offerings include Project Lead the Way engineering program. There is a movement toward these comprehensive engineering program while still offering classes like woods, welding, and automotive.
 3. *How does the ALT want parents to communicate?* Parents are welcome to pop in, make an appointment, call, send an email. Depending on the topic, the needs are different.
 4. *Are coaches/club sponsors doing anything to address student wellness similar to how these needs are being met in academic classes?* Dr. Tarjan mentioned several ways: moving the start time of plays up to 7pm, working with other activities that meet at night to avoid late night rehearsals, bringing relaxation and times for joy into the school day. Mr. Catalano discussed different things coaches are doing to help reduce anxiety and stress in student athletes, knowing that some stress cannot be avoided.
 5. *What is happening with the school start time?* The Board will be meeting in the next several weeks to discuss this issue. The recommendation from GBN is going to be for the start time to move to 8AM.

6. *What would the collegiate calendar look like? Other districts have a shorter first semester.* Ms. Frandson discussed how the collegiate calendar looked like in a district she worked at previously. Other members of the ALT chimed in on other ways that the calendar could be adjusted so that it could be impactful without starting too early in August.
7. *Two questions regarding vaping: Is it going on? Do the kids understand what the consequences are?* If kids are caught vaping in the building, it is considered a smoking violation, and students are giving the smoking consequence, which includes a Saturday detention and confiscation of the vaping device. Many of the kids are vaping because they wanted to see what it was about or because they think it's cool. If it is suspected that the oil pod contains THC, the resource officer can test it. If it tests positive, then the drug policy kicks in. Parents are encouraged to have conversations with their kids about these issues.
8. *On that note, can the school send something out to parents educating them on this issue (including photos!)?* About a month ago, the student services held a coffee talk on this topic. Coffee talks are held about 4 times a year. This year, Student Services has been talking about starting a newsletter that would go out to parents. It would cover various topics from registration to suicide, etc.
9. *Are the bus drivers randomly drug tested?* That is an outside vendor, and is handled at the district level. Ms. Frandson would be happy to follow up with the district and find out more information. If parents have concerns, feel free to contact either her or the district office.
10. *What are key distinctions between GBN and other high schools?* 1. Our students. They are polite, respectful, engaged, and impressive. They are passionate about doing well. 2. The professional staff. Many teachers are willing to try new things and take risks in the classroom. They are motivated. 3. We do have so many great things to do and try, it can also be a stressful place. It can be hard to strike a balance. 4. The school accepts the diversity in the kids who walk the hallways. Kids are accepting of others. 5. Parental support is huge. 6. Besides academics, we have amazing music, arts, and sports programs. The support for kids who need academic support are there. What happens to the kid in the middle? At GBN, that kid is not left out; teachers work to find a place for every kid. 7. The facilities are taken care of. GBN also feels like a home. 8. There are so many ways to connect students to their passions or help students find new passions. 9. The teachers are given professional autonomy and are encouraged to pursue their passions as well.

III. School Report - Dr. Finan

- A. No school on Friday.
- B. Finals are next week: T, W, Th
- C. Friday is off next week as well.
- D. Semester 2 begins on Monday, Jan. 22.
- E. Incoming freshman curriculum night is on January 18.
- F. Feb. 1: Driver Education meeting followed by Parent Night in the Classroom

IV. New Business: None

V. Executive Board Reports

- A. Chairperson - Greta Satek - no report

- B. Membership - Audra Casey, Katie Trout
 - 1. We have a new member.
- C. Communications - Carol Currie
 - 1. Torch and Yearbook have been contacted for ads
- D. Secretary - Mindi Rench
 - 1. Carol Currie moved to approve minutes; Kristine Schwandner seconded. Minutes approved.
- E. Treasurer - Susie D'Orazi
 - 1. A line item was added to the agenda for the cost of maintaining the web site.

VI. P.A. Committees

- A. Distinguished Teacher - Alison Whitlock and Susan Schueler
 - 1. Alison and Susan met with Mr. Solis and Jodi. We do not have enough readers for the award. A signup is available. It's a lot of fun.
- B. Spartan Spirit Award - Traci Parks and Chris Lay - no report
- C. Dr. Paul Pryma Award - Greta Satek - no report
- D. Grad Night - Debbie Jutzi
 - 1. There is a meeting coming up. Check the GBN calendar
 - 2. It's very fun!
- E. Staff Appreciation - Margaret Grouzard and Amy Olson
 - 1. We will be there with dinner for the teachers at Night in the Classroom

VII. GBN Standing Committees

- A. All School Workshops - Decima Panitch
 - 1. Was held in November. Got great positive feedback. It focused on identity.
 - 2. There will be no All School Workshop in the spring this year.
- B. Curriculum - Carol Currie
 - 1. New classes are being added for next year. The information was in an email from the school this afternoon
- C. Dean's Advisory - Deborah Phadnis and Devon Roane
 - 1. Meeting is on January 31.
- D. Glenbrook Foundation - Kristine Schwandner
 - 1. The foundation awarded five innovation grants to teacher; 2 of them to GBN.
 - 2. The foundation annual night of Glenbrook Theater. April 28. Dinner starts at 4:30. Tickets will go on sale before the musical tickets.
- E. Members at Large
 - 1. District 27- Lorna Cohen
 - 2. District 28 - Susan Schueler and Carol Currie
 - 3. District 30 - Sarah Sanford
 - 4. District 31 - Leslie Resis

VIII. Adjournment at 8:34 P.M.

Next meeting: February 7, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Mindi Rench
Parents' Association Secretary