

Glenbrook North Parents' Association
Meeting Minutes: September 7, 2016

Attendees: Dr. Riggle, Dr. John Finan, Greta Satek, Carol Currie, Jeanette and Matt Ward, Decima Panitch, Beth Congbalay, Traci Parks, Elisa and David Mitchell, Sarah Sanford, Alison Whitlock, Devon Roane, Debbi Jutzi, Abby Lasky, Marisa Boffa, Mindi Rench, Joy Ebhomielen, Laurie Shults, Kristine Schwandner,

I. Call to Order / Welcome

A. Chairperson Carol Currie called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Riggle, Superintendent

A. Dr. Riggle began by sharing his background

B. Dr. Riggle then shared information about the district:

1. Enrollment:

a) Enrollment is larger than it's ever been with Glenbrook South at 3,062 students and Glenbrook North at 2,051.

b) The 2021-2022 school year is expected to be the peak enrollment at South, but the school has sufficient capacity for the projected growth. There is no reason to look at moving boundaries at this point.

2. Finances:

a) The District is doing well. Lower than expected insurance costs led to greater savings.

b) Possible concerns:

(1) Increase in enrollment requires hiring more teachers.

(2) Possible property tax freeze would reduce revenues.

(3) Possible shift of pension costs from the state to the district would be a considerable cost.

c) On the horizon:

(1) The District is negotiating with Allstate to avoid a tax appeal.

(2) The District is in talks with Moody's and Standard & Poor's to call in bonds issued in 2002. Calling in and reissuing these bonds could result in a rebate to taxpayers of \$6.8 million. This would allow the District to pay for necessary life safety projects and protect the operating budget.

(3) The District expects to be debt-free by January 2027.

3. Initiatives:

a) Homework

(1) The board is looking at homework to consider both quality and quantity of homework being assigned.

(2) Work will continue, including consideration of current practice from both the student and staff perspective.

b) Digital citizenship

- (1) Both students and staff have identified digital citizenship as an area of weakness.
 - (2) Parents will see efforts toward addressing digital citizenship, including responsible use of social media.
 - c) Student wellness:
 - (1) The District is looking at ways to address student stress that arises from many different areas including school start time, finals placement, homework, etc.)
 - (a) Many different elements contribute to the calendar and school start time, including the elementary feeder districts' schedules.
 - (2) Drug use at GBN:
 - (a) After some parents raised a concern over the summer, the District scheduled a presentation on September 26 to share with the community information on discipline reports and steps in place to reduce drug use in District 225.
 - d) Employee benefits:
 - (1) Next year is a negotiation year, and one area of volatility continues to be the price of health care, including pharmacy benefits. The District is self-insured.
 - e) New website design; look for changes during second semester.
 - f) Professional development for this year will focus on mindsets for learning at both campuses.
4. Dr. Riggle then fielded questions, many of which were related to the points discussed above.

III. School Report: Dr. John Finan, Principal of GBN

- A. Dr. Finan shared some of his background.
- B. Administrative changes:
 - 1. Ryan Brietag moved back to the District Office as the Director of Innovation and Technology.
 - 2. Eric Etherton is serving as the interim Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.
 - 3. Two retirees are serving as the interim Director of Student Services.
- C. Several new teachers joined the staff this year.
- D. The book sale process is continuing to evolve.
- E. The Loyalty Day assembly was a great success.
- F. Parent Night in the Classroom is tomorrow night.
- G. All juniors will take the SAT on April 5. Sophomores will take the SAT 10.
- H. Test score update:
 - 1. ACT scores went up significantly last year. GBN's average is 26.5.
 - 2. PARCC scores: students didn't value the test.
- I. Information from the National Clearinghouse, based on data from 2006-2009: 96% of kids from GBN return to college for a second year; 77% get a degree

within 6 years. 18 kids last year were National Merit Scholars. Last year 97% of the AP exams scored a 3 or above.

- J. Illinois Youth Survey: 92% of 10th graders report feeling safe in school. 94% of 12th graders.
- K. Illinois Seal of Biliteracy: seal on transcripts that show strong functional proficiency in another language before you leave high school. Will be offered in all the languages taught in 225 beginning this year.
- L. Drug use at GBN: Drug use issue: Dr. Finan doesn't see a school that has a serious drug problem. He sees a school where students are very involved in extra-curricular activities. It's a healthy school environment, but he also needs parents to report if they see things happening in the parking lot or in the school.
- M. Growth mindsets will be an area of professional development focus. Community mindset will be addressed on a building-wide level. Faculty also identified two other areas of mindset to be explored as well.
- N. Several GBN alumni competed in the team rhythmic gymnastics competition at the Olympic Games in Rio!

IV. New Business:

- A. Calendar sale was successful. Membership is up to 566.

V. Business Meeting:

A. Executive Board Reports

1. Chairperson Carol Currie
2. Membership Devon Roane, Audra Casey, Katie Trout:
 - a) 566 at this point. Forms are online. Book sale went well. Thank you to all who helped. We also sold about 150 calendars to nonmembers.
3. Communications Beth Congbalay:
 - a) If you follow GBN parents association on Facebook, you'll see updates and photos. We have a budget for ads in the Torch.
4. Secretary Mindi Rench
 - a) June 2016 minutes presented for approval.
 - b) Debbie Jutzi moved to approve; Tracy Park seconded.
5. Treasurer Susie D'Orazi (not present at the meeting, Carol presented)
 - a) 2016-2017 budget presented for review, to be voted on in October.
 - b) We have sufficient money to run the year at this point.
 - c) Some questions were raised about the budget for gifts for nominees of the Spirit Award and the Distinguished Teacher Award.
 - d) It was decided the committees can decide on what to give as long as they stay within their budgeted amount.
 - e) Financial Report
6. P.A. Committees
 - a) Distinguished Teacher Alison Whitlock and Robin Bear
 - b) Grad Night Debbie Jutzi
 - (1) Grad night is overnight June 2, 2017. The committee is looking for volunteers.

- (2) Look for information at GBNgradnight.com.
- (3) Like Grad Night on Facebook!
- (4) First meeting is at September 14 at 7:30 P.M. in the Green & Gold Conference Room.
- c) Spartan Spirit Award Laurie Shults and Traci Parks
- d) Staff Appreciation Marisa Boffa, Margaret Grouzard, and Sunny Kim
 - (1) September 22 is the staff lunch. Volunteers who want to send in desserts would be appreciated.
- 7. GBN Standing Committees:
 - a) All School Workshops Decima Panitch and Greta Satek
 - (1) Information is forthcoming next month.
 - b) Curriculum Leena Ramachandra, Abby Lasky, Elisa Mitchell
 - (1) This committee has not met yet.
 - c) Dean's Advisory Traci Parks and Anni Goldberg
 - d) Glenbrook Foundation Kristine Schwandner
 - (1) Kristine explained the work of the Foundation.
 - e) Members at Large
 - (1) District 27 Lorna Cohen
 - (2) District 28 Susan Schueler
 - (3) District 30
 - (4) District 31 Leslie Resis

VI. Adjournment:

- A. Alison Whitlock moved to adjourn, Devin Roane seconded.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Next meeting will be in the Spartan Conference Room on Wednesday, October 5, 2016.
Our guests will be representatives from Peer Group.