



GLENBROOK NORTH

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Glenbrook North Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes - December 16, 2020

Attendees: Chad Davidson, Mary Kosirog, Principal, Jason Markey, Betsy Sharpe, Jane Ciancanelli, Stacy Seiden, J. J. Hart, Susie D'Orazi, Melissa Copeland and 30+ attendees (via Zoom)

– Betsy Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

I. Guest Speaker, Chad Davidson, Instructional Supervisor for Fine Arts

Glenbrook North's Fine Arts Program is comprised of four departments:

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Broadcasting
- Drama

Currently, all Fine Arts classes are being held remotely. The transition from hybrid to full remote has gone well despite the challenges. December was a busy month for the Fine Arts Department:

- The **winter play**, which consists of three one act plays, was put on hold. Will look to produce when GBN's hybrid model resumes.
- GBN's virtual **art show** opened 12/15 and will run through the end of the year
- A virtual **choir concert** was held on 12/15 with 70 students performing
- **Jazz band and orchestra concerts** were held on 12/16
- **Band concert** was performed on 12/17
- **GBN Express** is being hosted on 12/23
- **Band Fundraiser** was held at Culver's on 12/18

These remote/virtual performances were made possible thanks to great creativity and technology. Students were provided with soundtracks, they recorded themselves performing, submitted, and a single audio track was created for viewing. It is a labor-intensive process but worthwhile.

- Check out GBNBroadcasting.com to access GBN's performance recordings library
- Check out GBNBand.com for links to band performances

Coming in February, look for **GBN's Annual Variety Show**, appropriately named "Virtual Insanity". Work is underway to film talent and broadcast for at home viewing.

Planning for the **spring musical** with GBS is underway. The planning team is looking for bodies of work that students will find engaging and are suitable for virtual performances. More to come.

The virtual platform has been a good opportunity for kids who are more afraid of large audience performances to engage and contribute to the program.

II. Guest Speaker, Mary Kosirog, Instructional Supervisor for Career and Technical Education

Glenbrook North's Career and Technical Education department is comprised of three focus areas:

- Business Education
- Family / Consumer Sciences
- Technical Education

Despite remote learning, the program has been able transition to remote teaching with creative learning experiences including:

- **Business Law** – hosted a virtual mock trial with the Honorable Judge Hood.
- **Woodworking** – focus is on at home furniture refinishing as well as building guitars (upper classes).
- **Family / Consumer Sciences** – Despite no in-person pre-school teaching opportunities, they have continued to engage with their students via Zoom by hosting 30-min sessions planned and led by student teachers. In addition, students are still working on earning early childhood certifications via the Introduction to Human Growth course work.
- **Culinary** – Students are working on their Serve Safe certifications, a requirement for restaurant positions.
- **Business Incubator** – In May, the business incubator class will present their business plans and products via a virtual "Shark Tank" format.

In addition, many of the classes students are taking qualify for dual credit with Oakton Community College.

- Early Childhood course earns 3 credit hours
- Welding course earns 4 credit hours
- Project Lead the Way earns 4 credit hours

For a one-time, \$25 registration fee, students have access to earning unlimited college credits via the Oakton program. Students received an OCC student ID and have access to campus resources such as the library.

A second “maker space” is underway with remodeling and addition of hardware such as a laser engraver and Haas Mini Mill. The department is looking to purchase the new equipment with grant money. Completion timeline is TBD.

During the second semester the Board will review and approve the technology budget. A facelift to the current computer science lab is also under consideration.

III. Update from Jason Markey, Principal

- **Club Craze** was hosted last week which consisted of 3-4 different clubs producing online activities for students to enjoy. Activities ranged from holiday stories to cooking demos and ended with a Netflix watch party. Around 100 students joined each evening.
- **Student Focus Groups** were conducted to improve remote learning by hearing from students about what is and is not working. Results will be reviewed by the instructional leadership team after the break and modifications will be applied to the second semester curriculum.
- In school **COVID Testing** programs for students and staff continue to be assessed for broader deployment. A COVID testing pilot using returning student athletes is planned. Student tests are saliva based and provide test results the next day. Staff testing is also being piloted using a rapid test that provides results in 15min. Mask, social distancing, and quarantine requirements will continue even with a testing program in place. The pilots support potential second semester implementation target.
- Should a student **test positive for COVID** via a school administered test, the student and their family are notified, and results are entered into the student check-in system. If the student cannot be reached and returns to school the next day, they will be notified at check-in of their results and be required to quarantine for 14 days (per Cook County recommendations).

- Return to the District's **Hybrid Model** is still targeted for 1/19/2021. The Administration will potentially conduct another parent survey after the holiday break to better understand intentions/needs for in school instruction. The survey would not lock parents/students into a hybrid model vs. at-home learning decision rather results would be used to inform planning.
- It is estimated that ~20% of teachers have qualified for leave extensions and will not be returning to in-person teaching second semester
- Academic Integrity discussions are being held at the administration and Board levels. When developing this year's remote assessment approach, many factors were taken into consideration:
 - Test answers scrambled to inhibit side-by-side cheating
 - Use of screen shots so cannot copy and paste other's answers
 - Introduction of more application/analysis-based testing
 - Use of "TurnItIn" software to check for plagiarism
 - Looking for outlying performance patterns
 - Annual academic integrity presentations
 - Open book option is available to all teachers
 - Accessibility of student services such as the Math Resource Center, Academic Resource Center, and teacher 1:1 option to support student needs

This has been an ongoing issue even before eLearning and continues to be a focus for the staff. There is no one answer and no top-down directives on how to test as this could impede teaching curriculum objectives. The recently conducted student survey asked for feedback on ways to improve peer-to-peer learning opportunities to help develop confidence with course materials in more informal settings.

IV. GBN PA Business Meeting

Betsy Sharpe, Chairperson:

- Looking for anyone with Facebook experience to help us solve issues we are having with our GBN PA Facebook account. Please send us a note if you can help: gbnparentsassoc@gmail.com
- Dr. Michael Tarjan, Assistant Principal - Student Activities will be January's guest speaker
- Motioned to approve the October 2020 minutes, Jane Ciancanelli seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
- No more CATCH programs are planned for 2020. Look for more programs in 2021 and check out their website for dates and resources www.catchiscommunity.org

Melissa Copeland:

- Planning for the “All School Workshop” is underway. Considering February or March with an expert speaker on resilience.
- If you have any suggestions for guest speakers, please submit by early January

Jane Ciancanelli, Membership: We have 10 new members bringing our total membership to 519 families – *a record for GBN PA!*

Susie D’Orazi, Treasurer: Current GBN PA budget balance is \$52,680.63

– Betsy Sharpe adjourned the meeting at 8:16PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline J. Hart (J.J.)
Communications Co-Chairperson
GBN Parents' Association