



**GLENBROOK  
NORTH**  
**PARENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**

## Glenbrook North Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes February 6, 2019

Present: Dr. John Finan, Dr. Ed Solis, Greta Satek, Susan Schueler, Betsy Sharpe, Stacy Seiden, Audra Casey, Carla Martens, Joy Axelson, Sunitha Bellam and Carol Currie

I. Call to Order / Welcome

- a. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Chairman, Greta Satek

II. Guest Speaker, Dr. Ed Solis, Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction

- a. Dr. Solis reminded us of the 2018 Summer Reading Program that the teachers voluntarily participated in. At the upcoming March Institute Day, there will be breakout sessions, some with book discussions. A Parents' Association member asked if parents might be able to attend and Dr. Solis said that might be possible. He will check into it.
- b. Teacher volunteers who read the book, *How to Raise an Adult*, by Julie Lythcott-Haimes, will run a session for professional development.
- c. Dr. Solis talked about student pressure - what is myth and what is reality. The stress can come from parents but students also put it on themselves.
  - i. GPA
  - ii. College acceptance
  - iii. Some parents have a notion from very early on (2<sup>nd</sup> grade, for example) of where a child should be in their studies when they are at a certain point in school.
- d. The Assistant Superintendents of 225 and feeder districts meet regularly to discuss this and other issues.
  - i. An example would be parents concerned about their child's math placement
    1. 40% of students are not taking Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    2. 60% do take Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
    3. 60% of freshmen are in Algebra 2
    4. Students may not be developmentally ready for a more advanced level
    5. Coursework at GBN will match the student's ability level

6. Placement tests help to make and support the placements
  7. Student wellness is a consideration in placement
- e. Hector Montenegro will be coming to speak at an Institute Day about social / emotional learning, competition, self-worth, and more. He will work with selected members of the student body about messaging.
  - f. Standards Based Grading
    - i. Northbrook Jr. High has made a couple of big changes recently. One of them is a move to Standards Based Grading. Scott Meek, Principal at NBJH, came to GBN and spoke with the staff about the change.
    - ii. Standards Based Grading (a hybrid) is coming soon to Maple Jr. High.
    - iii. Stevenson High School uses Standards Based Grading
    - iv. There will be some SBG pilots done at GBS. Robert (Bobby) Cowhey (English and Science Depts.) will be piloting some standards based grading in 2019-2020.
    - v. Course electives find SBG attractive
    - vi. Class placement appeals for incoming freshmen are up this year
    - vii. Homework completion does not count toward a grade when using SBG but it could be required before retakes and re-dos are allowed
    - viii. A parent commented that the stigma of retakes is gone when SBG is used because it is the norm for many students to have them
    - ix. An analogy was made to video games and advancing to the next level in the game
  - g. Surveys
    - i. On Friday, a homework survey will go out to students. The last time this was done was 2015-2016
    - ii. The 5Essentials survey has been out for a while and will close on 2/15/19 (<https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/>)
  - h. The current (second) semester at GBN, there is flexibility on the weighting of final exams from anywhere from 5% to 20% (done by department, not individual teachers)
  - i. Question in AP classes has been – when the AP exam has been taken in April, what motivates the class for the remainder of the year?
  - j. Testing
    - i. SAT and ACT (SAT is the state’s choice but ACT is still very popular)
    - ii. SAT will include 9<sup>th</sup> graders (4/9/19 test date)
      1. 8-9 SAT
      2. PSAT 10
      3. Regular SAT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders
    - iii. Schools have a whole suite of tests from the state
    - iv. ACT is still the go-to test in many cases
    - v. Historically, some curriculum has been geared to the ACT
  - k. The District 225 School Board has approved new courses including:
    - i. Team Sports and Lifetime Fitness
    - ii. Total Body Conditioning
    - iii. Yoga

- iv. Advanced Data Structures and Algorithms
- v. Two A.P. classes – Career & Tech Ed and Computer Science
- vi. Three Science classes (two are summer school)
- vii. Organic Chemistry – History and Philosophy of Science
- l. Future plans are looking at
  - i. Integrating Physics and Chemistry
  - ii. Lab Science class for kids who are not in high level math classes
  - iii. American Experience Honors class which will be combined English and History that is team taught.

### III. School Report, Dr. John Finan, Principal of Glenbrook North High School

- a. Dr. Finan reported that the School Board will announce the new Superintendent at their upcoming meeting on 2/11/19. (Update as of the printing of the minutes: The school board announced the hiring of Dr. Charles Johns, at their 2/11/19 meeting. Welcome, Dr. Johns!)
- b. Kris Frandson, Associate Principal for Administrative Services at GBN, will be retiring at the end of this year. Five candidates are being considered for her position.
- c. February 18<sup>th</sup> will be a makeup day for one of the snow days. It will be an A day.
- d. There will be school on 4/1/19 (reserved snow day)
- e. There will be school on 6/7/19 (Friday of final exams week – tentative last day)
- f. There will be school on 3/4/19 – it will be a late arrival day
- g. Registration for next year will happen in the next few weeks. It will be done during SRT for juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.
  - i. 8<sup>th</sup> grade visits (some) had to be rescheduled due to snow days.
- h. Incoming freshman Activity / Athletic night will be held tomorrow 2/7/19 at 6:00 P.M. in the CPA.
- i. Turnabout will be on 2/9/19 beginning at 8:30 P.M. in the new back gym.
- j. The Variety Show will be on February 21-23 at 7:00 P.M. in the CPA.
- k. Friday, February 22, 2019, will be a late arrival day.
- l. International Education Night will be held on Monday, 2/25/19 at 6:00 P.M. in the CPA. The Parents' Association has donated \$1,500 to help bring in keynote speaker, Dr. Yong Zhao. This is the 2018-2019 PA gift to the school.
  - i. International Education will be the topic
  - ii. One of Dr. Zhao's many published books is titled [Catching Up or Leading the Way](#)
  - iii. The Hellenic Club will dance
  - iv. Dr. Phil Blue, a 2000 Glenbrook graduate will give the opening remarks
- m. Auditions for the Glenbrook Musical, *Mamma Mia!*, will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- n. The Winter Band Concert will be in the CPA on Tuesday, 2/26/19.
- o. Rich Chapman will be retiring. Candidates for his position are being narrowed down.

- p. The Winter Sports Awards Night will be on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the CPA.
- q. The Finding the Fit College Colloquium will be at GBS on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. The program is designed to provide junior students and parents the opportunity to attend sessions that cover topics associated with the college selection process.
- r. Spartans Connect will be on March 13, 2019. The Parents' Association will be baking and passing out cookies outside of the student cafeteria from 10:00 to 1:30 on that day.
- s. Dr. Finan will recommend a change in the school day times to the Board of Education at their next meeting. He is recommending a start time of 8:00 A.M. and an end time of 3:15 P.M. This will line up with the GBS hours.
- t. GBN Cheerleaders made it to the state competition for the first time in school history!
- u. Boys Bowling had their second consecutive trip downstate!
- v. The Chess Team tied at the district level – state is this weekend.
- w. Wrestling has 2 individuals who are regional champs (Casey and Williams) and 9 wrestlers are moving on to sectionals
- x. Matt Purdy has been selected to fill Robert Pieper's position.
- y. Lisa Steffey was nominated and selected as a finalist for the IL School Psych Practitioner of the Year Award.
- z. Erin Rosenfeld took first place at the regional speech competitions in the category of Oratorical Declamation. GBN had several other students place in the top four in their categories.

#### IV. Business Meeting

- a. Chairperson – Greta Satek
  - i. Carol will send out a sign up genius for cookie bakers (Spartans Connect on 3/13/19)
  - ii. Nominating Committee needs to form
    - 1. Carol Currie
    - 2. Betsy Sharpe
    - 3. Susan Schueler
    - 4. Audra Casey
    - 5. Susie D'Orazi
- b. Membership – Audra Casey and Jane Ciancanelli
  - i. No report.
- c. Communications – Carol Currie
  - i. Laconian (yearbook) ad has been submitted prior to the 2/22/19 deadline
- d. Secretary – Kristin Ihrke (absent)
  - i. It was moved by Carol Currie that the corrected January minutes be approved.
  - ii. Carla Martens seconded the motion.
  - iii. All present voted in favor and the January minutes were approved.

- e. Treasurer – Betsy Sharpe
  - i. Current balance is \$52,194.93
  - ii. Wrote two checks in January
    - 1. \$1,000 for Grad Night donation
    - 2. \$2,757 for GBN *Torch* subscriptions from last year
      - a. The price of the *Torch* is up from \$0.60 per issue to \$0.63 per issue.
    - 3. Please submit reimbursement forms (found on the website at [www.gbnpa.org](http://www.gbnpa.org)) for expenses.

V. P.A. Committees

- a. Distinguished Teacher – Susan Schueler and Susie D’Orazi
  - i. Nomination process has been changed
    - 1. Nomination essays will be limited to 2 pages
    - 2. Ed Solis will solicit more information from the Instructional Supervisors of those teachers who have been nominated and are eligible. Anyone can be nominated but to win you have to meet some criteria. Cannot win more than once per lifetime going forward.
- b. Spartan Spirit – Ann Nugent and Laura Callahan
  - i. No report. Carol will reach out to them to get a status update
- c. Paul Pryma Award – Greta Satek
  - i. No report. Greta and John Finan will work on this. No committee is needed.
- d. Grad Night – Carol Currie
  - i. Please sign up to help at [www.gbngradnight.com](http://www.gbngradnight.com).
- e. Staff Appreciation – Margaret Grouzard and Amy Olson
  - i. No report.

VI. GBN Standing Committees

- a. All School Workshops – Coming up on 3/13/19
- b. Curriculum – No Report (Meeting on 2/14/19 unless it is cancelled)
- c. Dean’s Advisory – No Report.
- d. Glenbrook Foundation – No Report.
- e. Members at Large – No Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Currie for Kristin Ihrke  
Recording Secretary  
Next meeting March 6, 2019.