



GLENBROOK
NORTH
PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Glenbrook North Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2018

Attendance: John Finan, Ed Solis, Greta Satek, Carol Currie, Mindi Rench, Kristine Schwandner, Amy Olson, Stacy Seiden, Susie D'Orazi, Jane Ciancanelli, Debbi Jutzi, Decima Panitch, Betsy Sharpe, Alison Whitlock, Shinna Alava, Stital Pancht, Liufang Xiao

- I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.
- II. Guest Speaker: Ed Solis, Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction
 - A. Recent Professional Development has included topics on student wellness, engaged learning, and meaningful work. The staff recently watched the movie *Beyond Measure*, which focuses on innovation and sparked questions about what GBN can be doing to keep up with innovation. The staff then broke off into small groups to discuss the ideas that rose from the movie. The next steps involve unifying efforts to address student wellness and engagement. Future PD will be on digital citizenship.
 - B. Course Selection Process:
 1. The Instructional Supervisors meet with Dr. Solis and they discuss the courses students have requested for next year. They look at areas where interest is going up and areas where it is declining. For example, a tech theater class did not generate the interest they thought it would. There was an increase in elective classes in Fine and Applied Arts.
 - C. Learning Spaces:
 1. Four prototype classrooms have been refinished as part of a study of innovative learning spaces.
 - a) The furniture is mobile and easily rearranged.
 - b) The rooms have two projectors so that teachers are not tied to the front of the room.
 2. We had the opportunity to visit one of the redecorated classrooms.
 - D. Parent questions
 1. How is the school getting their research on student wellness?
 - a) There's lots of research out there about student wellness.
 - b) Staff Development showed some trends from the Student Services department about number of students they are seeing related to anxiety, depression, etc.
 - c) There is high awareness among the staff in regards to these issues as well as how things such as the electronic gradebook affect students.

- d) Now they are having conversations about how to address this to improve student wellness.
- e) Dr. Solis floated the idea of partnering with the PA to do a joint book read with the faculty. Let Dr. Solis know if you have any ideas regarding a partnership.
 - (1) He recommends *Beyond Measure* Vicki Abels by and also *The Gift of Failure* by Jessica Lahey.
 - (2) Dr. Solis is going to share the link for a resource page the librarian has been working on.

III. School Report: Dr. John Finan

A. Safety and Security

- 1. Dr. Finan shared information about the safety incidents that occurred the week of February 18, 2018.
 - a) A few changes have been put into place since:
 - (1) A planned School Security Assessment is being conducted of all the buildings in the district. There will be a Facilities Committee meeting soon where the company hired to do the assessment will make recommendations as to what can be done to increase safety and security at all district buildings.
 - (2) Dr. Finan showed us a map of the building so we could see the changes that are made to how students and visitors are allowed to access the building.
 - b) The crisis plan:
 - (1) In the fall, the school did do a series of crisis drills: fire, tornado, lockdown
 - (2) Every faculty member has a copy of the crisis plan.
 - (3) The district and the police and fire in both villages have been working on revising the crisis plans to ensure there is continuity. The revision is being guided by FEMA and NIMS.

B. A question was raised about 17 minutes in the courtyard on March 14.

- 1. The school is communicating with students (via Dr. Tarjan) about what the students are planning. The way the students are communicating the purpose of the demonstration is remembrance and honoring the victims of the Parkland, Florida shootings.
- 2. The teachers are to continue teaching their classes. The school will not get political.
 - a) A question was asked about how things will continue on normally if most of the students leave and then come back 20 minutes later. The teacher will continue teaching, and the students who leave will be responsible for making up what they missed.
- 3. The plan is that at 10:00 A.M. on March 14 students will walk to the courtyard for 17 silent minutes then return to class.
- 4. Attendance will be taken, but the school will be reasonable and flexible.
- 5. A communication will be coming from Dr. Riggle.

IV. New Business: No New Business

V. Business Meeting

A. Executive Board Reports:

- 1. Chairperson: Greta Satek
 - a) Nominating Committee update: They met and there are prospects they will share next month.
- 2. Membership: Audra Casey, Katie Trout

- a) one new member
 - 3. Communications: Carol Currie
 - a) Laconian ad is finished. Torch ad is in the works.
 - 4. Secretary: Mindi Rench
 - a) The February minutes are on the website. Carol Currie moved we approve the minutes. Debbie Jutzi seconded. The minutes are approved.
 - 5. Treasurer: Susie D'Orazi
 - a) The PA came into money that had been sitting in a district account that no one knew about. It was \$42,000!
 - b) Greta and Susie talked to Dr. Finan about what to do with this money. The suggestion is to replace the chairs in the Spartan Conference Room.
- B. PA Committees
- 1. Distinguished Teacher: Alison Whitlock and Susan Schueler
 - a) The committee is collecting essays. Please encourage students to write and submit.
 - 2. Spartan Spirit Award: Traci Parks and Chris Lay
 - a) Tuesday, May 8 is the date they will meet to determine the winner at 6:30 P.M. in the Green and Gold conference room. This is the same night as the Distinguished Teacher committee, so you can't do both. Parents of 9-11 grade students can volunteer to help select the winner. Email traci@parks65.com if you want to volunteer.
 - 3. Dr. Paul Pryma Award: Greta Satek
 - a) Nothing to discuss yet.
 - 4. Grad Night: Debbie Jutzi
 - a) June 1-3 for set up. June 3 is graduation and the lock-in.
 - b) 92% of the kids have come in the past.
 - c) Help is welcome!
 - d) Letters are going out next week to solicit more donations to fund Grad Night.
 - e) March 20: Fundraiser at Chipotle on Willow from 4-8pm.
 - (1) Last year they gave us 50%!
 - 5. Staff Appreciation: Margaret Grouzard and Amy Olson
 - a) The ice cream social date has been set for Wednesday May 2. Will need bakers and servers. Use the same Sign up Genius as before.
 - b) Last year the PA attempted to write notes to all of the staff members. We failed. Carol still has the cards, and will get an updated list so that at the next meeting people who want to can stay and write notes.
- C. GBN Standing Committees
- 1. All School Workshops: Decima Panitch
 - a) No report.
 - 2. Curriculum: Carol Currie
 - a) No report.
 - 3. Dean's Advisory: Deborah Phadnis
 - a) No report.
 - 4. Glenbrook Foundation: Kristine Schwandner
 - a) Tickets went on sale for the fundraiser. Thanks to all who already bought tickets. We're nearing sold out.
 - 5. Members at Large

- a) District 27: Lorna Cohen
- b) District 28: Susan Schueler and Carol Currie
 - (1) D28 did the safety training that D27 sponsored.
 - (2) Flexible learning spaces are also being looked at.
- c) District 30: Sarah Sanford
 - (1) Maple School construction is starting soon.
- d) District 31: Leslie Resis

VI. Adjournment at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mindi Rench
Recording Secretary