

Minutes  
Gainsborough Parent Advisory Council  
**October 23, 2018**

**Attendees:** Cam McLaren, Tom Adams, Yvonne Horton, Julie Adams, Jennifer Moffatt, Angie Greenwood, Pauline Dawson, Linda Vandervliet, Erica McLaren, Alison Moore

**Regrets:** Alison Dawson

**Principal's report:**

- Staffing Changes: Gainsborough welcomes Ms. Szenasi as a D.E.C.E. in Mrs. Hall's ELP class. This has allowed the two ELP classes to be re-organized from 15 (Hall) and 30 (Davis/Foster) to 22 and 23. Mr. Anderson called the families of the students personally to speak to them about the changes.
- New students: 5 new students have joined the Gainsborough community.
- Calendar: Gainsborough's interactive online calendar is up and running. It can be found on the website – <http://gainsborough.dsbnschools.org/calendar.html> Once the date is selected, all events on that day are listed in the right-hand column. Another click on the particular item will open up an information window with additional details.
- The playground gate has been installed on the west end of the school playground adjacent to the ELP playground. This was installed as a barrier between the primary/ELP areas of the playground and the blind corner of the school that leads around to the parking lot.
- PAC insurance is still being investigated.
- A pilot study through the DSBN is providing Chromebooks to the grade 7/8 classes across the board. There was discussion regarding purchasing Chromebooks for the remaining grade 7's in the grade 6/7 class. More discussion next week once numbers and pricing is collected. Assumption is these extras would stay with Gainsborough after the pilot was complete.
- Please see the instructions below on how you can connect to S. Anderson's Gainsborough Families on Remind. **You can join Remind by the following three methods (choose one):**
  - Text **@gainsb** to the following phone number **(289) 813-4731**
  - Email **gainsb@mail.remind.com**
  - Follow this link **<https://www.remind.com/join/gainsb>**
- Grade 7/8 went to the DSBN Adventure Campus

**Treasurers report:**

- money has been set aside for Graduation and Scientist in Classroom
- first Scientist in Classroom has taken place (Gr.2/3) and was a success.

**Parent Information Night**

Yvonne Horton, Gainsborough's Youth counsellor, visited the PAC meeting this evening to help us discuss ideas for our parent information night.

- Mental health had been mentioned as a topic last meeting. Yvonne mentioned many ideas and resources available to us, including, but not limited to mental health.
- Examples of topics:
  - Anxiety vs Stress – when should I be concerned? (Resource: Social Worker)
  - Vaping, Cannabis, Drinking, Smoking (Resource: Community Addiction Services of Niagara)
  - Internet Safety (Resource: DSBN School Resources Officer)
- Scott has a list of topics covered by the School Social Worker that we can look at. Available at the office.
  - *(could we send home a survey – survey monkey? — to see what parents are interested in??)*
- Ideas were floated and combining this information night with a Pasta Night was most agreeable. A minimum fee commitment from families would help us determine attendance numbers.
- Resource booths can be set up as well a number of invited speakers presenting in library post-dinner. Babysitting would be provided.
- A small sub-committee will form to discuss further and report back to PAC (Erica, Alison, Scott, Yvonne, Pauline, *more welcome*).

- Dates were discussed and narrowed down a potential date of Jan.17 (night before P.A. Day); although Scott is checking on math assessment dates. However, grade 9 Math Assessment is Jan 14 – 25, 2019 which could make attendance for some families challenging.

Secondary discussions with Yvonne included:

- the difference between Youth Counsellor and Social Worker. Youth Counsellor more classroom/group based. Providing assistance on building skills-for-life. Whereas the Social Worker is more likely to work with students on a 1-on-1 basis.
- the mentorship program for grade 8 students (Link-Crew). High school students helping grade 8's transition into high school starting in August of their grade 9 year.

#### **Fundraising:**

- MacMillans - profit is approximately \$2000 so far. Orders come in November 8<sup>th</sup>. Erica looking for helpers to come help sort orders starting around 11:30am.
- Hot Lunches - it was noted that Giant Tiger was fantastic with helping organize the hot dog supplies orders. This is the first time we have ordered this way. The manager has agreed to offer us 10% off anything full-price, and had everything in a cart ready for pick up.

#### **PIC**

- Conference: coming up November 7<sup>th</sup>. Highly recommended by anyone who has been in the past. Sign-up at <https://www.dsbm.org/pic/picconference.html>
- Our PIC representative, provided us with an update on their last meeting. The conference and EQAO results were discussed. There is a new Superintendent in charge of pic (Wes Hahn). Agenda and minutes of PIC meetings can be found on their website: <https://www.dsbm.org/about/board-committee-meetings/parent-involvement-committee>

#### **New Business:**

- PAC is looking for new Treasurer for next year
- Question was asked regarding whether the Bag2School company is for- or non- profit.
- Teachers would like to be kept abreast of PAC discussions with a brief summary letter. The following is to be sent to them:
  - Christmas event – When? What style/format?
    - if a concert format is chosen, should we consider a larger facility (Smithville gymnasium is high-school-sized)?
    - if the format remains in the new open-house style with classroom visits, parent council members are very happy to be involved in the pre- and post-preparations; however, volunteering during the event takes parent (helpers) away from enjoying the evening with their children. The hot chocolate and cookie decorating stations are *very* popular, and need constant monitoring. The hot chocolate station needs a monitor for safety purposes (spills/drips are constant, burns are a possibility with many unattended children). Similarly, the cookie-making stations need monitoring to keep stations clean and ready for next round of visitors; otherwise, the tables do not look very inviting. Again, there are a lot of unaccompanied children participating.
  - Teachers please consider reminding parents to come give parent council a try, or sign up for email notifications. If they are unable to volunteer during the day, this is a nice way of staying involved with the school community.
- Approval of minutes: decided chair and administrator approval is good enough so that minutes can get on website sooner than if they had to be approved by everyone at the next PAC meeting.

**On next agenda** – Chromebook discussion, Christmas

**Next meeting** – Nov. 29 @6:45pm, December - no meeting

Meeting adjourned (Cam, Julie)

*A big thanks to Hanna Moffatt for the butter tarts!*