

GFSS PAC Meeting Minutes

Sept 28, 2022

Presentation from the Warhammer Club. Mr. de Wynter-Wilkie showcased the work of the club and explained what they do and how they operate. PAC has supported this club by purchasing materials for the members. The benefits of the Warhammer club include reading, artistic growth and expression, hand dexterity, fun, critical thinking and basic math and probability. This club is a place for kids to gather and build connection in a safe and fun way.

Treasurer report

See attached financial report. We have received our gaming grant for the year- thank goodness as we were down to \$2.00! A description of how funds are normally spent ensued and we encourage all parents to bring forward any ideas or areas where PAC could assist students in being successful.

School Board Report

The school board and trustees had their initial meeting of the year to confirm budget and to begin to work on the strategic plan that was developed a few years ago. The plan has four main goals such as student well being and truth and reconciliation. There are many minor projects happening throughout the school district and we are hopeful in receiving a large grant that would focus on reducing greenhouse gases in our district, ie new windows, doors, exhaust systems, this would be a considerable achievement and benefit all schools in the district.

Principal's report

GFSS has had a strong start to the school year, there seems to be a lot of energy and positive feedback from students who are happy to be able to connect with peers and teachers as the restrictions from the last few years have been lessened. There has been a considerable change over in teachers and this always brings new energy and ideas to the table that only enhances the school experience for our students. Brian presented a list of clubs that are offered at the school- see attachment. Group spoke of ways to engage with our students/children, encourage connection on many levels, how important mental health and wellness is. Some brainstorming on ways to build connectivity such as having younger students and the high school students collaborate or spend time on a project.

There has been good engagement from the grade 8 girls in volleyball but less from the boys. Discussed reasons this may be happening. There was also some discussion on the need to be vigilant with our students and have open discussions on vaping and energy drink use. A disconnect remains on how harmful these substances are with our students- there has been education done in the past but any ideas on how to engage our students in discussion and in cessation are welcome.

Overall, we have an amazing group of students with so much potential and we encourage all parents to get involved on some level now that the school is open and we are able. There was the first assembly this week for Truth and Reconciliation and this is exciting to be able to gather as a whole. Brian gave a tour of the school for the new to GFSS parents.