**Agenda for GCJH SAC Meeting**

**January 22, 2025** **Start Time:** 6:32 PM

**Present**: Larissa Lee (Parent & Chair), Shaun Doyle (Teacher), Leigh Redstone Chambers (Parent), Gale Downey (Community Member), Matt Conner (Vice Principal), Amanda Hayre (Teacher), Shea McKnight (Teacher), Lauren Scherer (Teacher), Marcella Arbuckle (Teacher)

**Regrets**: Jay Jarvis (Principal), Charmaine Willis (Parent), April Provo (Parent)

**1. Call to Order**

**-**Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair, Larissa Lee

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

-Motion to approve by Leigh Redstone Chambers

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

(Amendments to November minutes: Under “Other Items” the cost of bleachers is $120,000 and tickets will be sold for the signed jerseys and not auctioned off.)

-Motion to approve (with corrections) meeting minutes from November 20th, 2024 first by Larissa Lee and seconded by Leigh Redstone Chambers

4. **Principal’s Report**

* + **School Dance:** Potential danceFebruary 13th, a minimum of 100 tickets need to be purchased for it to move forward by February 6th, if not the dance will be cancelled.
	+ **Yearbook Sales**: Sold 47 yearbooks so far. Still need to sell 76 to meet the minimum order. A grade 9 female identifying student designed the cover and won a free yearbook.
	+ **French Immersion Conference**: Update on French language and culture initiatives. Teachers continue to use the reward system and this is going well, there is an increase in student engagement.
	+ **Kwanzaa Talent Show**: The show was a huge success and this was completed by Cindy Cane and Jay Warren co-hosted the event that shared information and history of Kwanzaa. GCJH students were participants as well as special guests from the community. The entire school enjoyed this event and it highlighted many of our student talents.
	+ **Learning Centre**: Sale of holiday cookie decorating kits. Sold 18 kits and the funds raised will be used for purchases needed for individualized programming and life skill goals.
	+ **Finding Kind Assembly:** All female identifying students participated in an assembly that was organized and presented by Mrs Stewart on January 10, 2025. The initiative discusses female pressures and interactions between one another. This was an informative session, Mrs Stweart shared personal stories of her own experiences in junior high, everyone watched a documentary, made pledges for kindness, there is now a “Kindness Wall” on the second floor hallway. Students shared apologies and compliments with one another.
	+ All male identifying students met with male identifying teachers to create a brainstorming session with important things to them and develop something that would be impactful for male identifying students. This is still in development and an update will be reported at the next meeting.
	+ **GAGA Ball Pit**: No update yet, still waiting on quotes from vendors.
	+ **School Jerseys:** The school received two quotes from companies and the school decided on the one that offered the best price and a quality product. Jesse Brothers from “Top Tier Sportswear” will be filling the order. Mr Johnson of “Captain Concrete” donanted $1400.00 and this will cover the costs for the basketball uniforms. The full order will be
1. 40 basketball jerseys (reversible)
2. 40 basketball shorts (reversible)
3. 40 t-shirts with numbers on the front and back (non-reversible)
4. 40 shorts (non-reversible)
5. 40 t-shirts numbers only on back (non-reversible)

The total cost was $6000.00 minus the donation of $1400.00= $4600.00

The school’s athletic director will manage the jerseys. They will be handed out before and collected after each game. It can be washed and dryer at the school.

* + **Mural** There is a quote for a mural for the back wall of the gymnasium. The quote is $2000.00 +HST from Jake Seibert who completed one at Clayton Park Junior High. The school can use $1000.00 from the Health Promoting Schools Grant. The walls will be prepped soon in hopes that this can be completed soon.
	+ **Oval Trip:** Upcoming grade level trips that will be organized for February by Mr Warren. The school is requesting $5.00 from participants to help cover the high cost of buses.
	+ **African Heritage Month:** Mr Jarvis has assembled a focus group of six grade 9 and four grade 8 students to help organize what Black History Month will look like this year at GCJH. There have been four meetings and these are some of their ideas: Daily announcements (trivia and highlighting important people), contest between classes for the next induction to the school’s ANS “Hall of Fame”, spirit week contest between classes based on the ANS flag, potentially a school wide assembly and the group is looking for ideas on guest speakers. On January 22, 2025 about 15 students went to the BCC with Ms Hellesoe to participate in an event. Community members gave feedback on the wonderful display of respect and pride for those students who presented who were very well spoken and prepared.
	+ Looking for ideas for the grade 9 closing assembly and closing. Looking for suggestions from the SAC.

**5. SAC Funding**

* + Review of available funding and new requests. The current balance is $9240. 20
	+ **Lauren Scherer**: Gizmo subscription for an online platform to support her science classrooms. It’s a website that provides virtual labs for instruction, that provides pre built assignments, interactive activities, accessible materials and assessment pieces are generated. The site provides materials in French and English. The paid subscription is $920.00. The SAC has agreed to fund this proposal.
	+ **Marcella Arbuckle**: ELA teacher who is working to improve the reading abilities of our struggling readers. She wants to work on building student fluency and comprehension. Each classroom has a bin with individual duotangs. Each student has a passage that they read for 5 minutes. $69.09 (bins, timers, labels, duotangs) “Megawords Work” materials will be reviewed with the resource team. We may need to only purchase student work books or the current school copies can be photocopied. Marcella will get a quote on the workbooks and send an email to the SAC with the update.
	+ Matt Conoor is presenting on behalf of **Sara MacLean** (Resource Teacher). She is looking for Orton-Gillingham materials to facilitate her small group instruction; the approximate Canadian value is $549.00. The SAC is granting this proposal.
	+ **Shea McKnight**: Proposal for the Art classroom. In October, Ms McKnight attended a Visual Arts Conference and she is hoping to create class sets of embroidery kits. This would be an important extension of her visual arts program. Looking to make 30 kits $690.69 (Amazon order). It was suggested that she shop around at local shops for deals at Atlantic Fabric, Fabricville, and Micheals (with coupons). Once there is a total, Ms McKnight will email the SAC and give an update. All are in agreement that this will be granted.
	+ Discussion of a portable projector for the Principal’s office. The office has a solution of a specific cord that works with an administrator's laptop. These cords will be ordered by the administrator assistant.

**Grade 8 Assessment Results:** Low academic performance with ANS students was noted by Larissa. How do we as an SAC bridge the gap of importance to the family members? Community engagement could be improved to support home in understanding the urgency with academic abilities. We need to find ways to help others become more involved in students' reading and writing development.

**6) Community Engagement**

-Community breakfast, invite families into the school, provide a meal, display artwork and other projects, use the gymnasium for an activity

-Ice cream social

-Invite the elementary feeder school’s parent engagement groups (SAC, PTO, or open invite, etc.) to an end of the year orientation, close to the grade 7 orientation times might increase engagement.

-Members will continue to brainstorm ideas and bring them up at the next meeting

**7) New Business** Nothing at this time

8) **Next Meeting** March 26th, 2025: 5:30 pm

Adjournment at 6:40 pm