GES PAC meeting via Zoom video

(link provided to all parents to participate)

*Oct. 6, 2020 7 p.m.*

Present: Deb Small, Deborah Luporini, Sandra Squires, Jane Seyd, Martial Guillaud, Lorena Ruth, Pammila Ruth, Marguerite Murphy, Carly Westmoreland, Cody Chancellor, Christina Crosby, Kayla Riches

1. Open mic: N/A.

2. Adoption of agenda. Sandra Squires first, Carly Westmoreland second.

3. Approval of minutes from Sept. 2020 PAC meeting with amendments. Sandra Squires first, Marguerite Murphy second, none opposed.

4. Reports:

1. Principal’s Report: Deborah Luporini. See principal’s report for Oct 2020.

* Enrolment is 344 students counting those in class and those doing transition program. 16 students are being homeschooled. 27 are doing option2
* New librarian is Danielle Arsenault
* Regular band program isn’t running. They are switching to ukulele
* There are 12 EAs this year and an increase in the number of special needs designated students. Some support staff absences haven’t been able to be replaced. EAs are doing bus supervision.
* Verona has left the front office. Rachel Bowering is taking her place. Ms. Thomas broke her ankle and is due back this month
* There are two lunches and two recesses and four zones on the playground outside. Every month classes rotate to a new playground space. Every class has a bag of equipment they can take out. There is no food allowed outside during breaks – it’s too tempting for kids to share.
* Casual custodian and one full-time are cleaning high touch points during the day. Plexiglas has been added in front office and library
* Bussing has been a challenge. Lower Gibsons route was cancelled then reinstated
* There is a plan to buy extra rain jackets and boots for when kids have to go outside during bad weather. There is also talk of creating some kind of covered spaces for kids.
* FSAs have been postponed until January.
* Number of absences is up. Parents are erring on side of caution. It’s a challenge for teachers to keep classes moving forward with so many people away. A lot of teaching happens in the classroom. “It’s hard to replace that.”
* Keeping school spirit up is a challenge, particularly for Grade 7s. Keeping a sense of community is important.
* It’s unclear if/how any kind of parent/teacher interviews will happen. Might be over Zoom or Google classroom. Parents are always welcome to email the teacher. Emails are on the website.
* Grade 7s are using Google classroom on chromebooks so they get used to the system used at the high school

b) Treasurers Report: Deb Small -see Gibsons Elementary PAC Account Banking

* Gaming grant: we are waiting on about $7,000 applied for to province

c.) School Store: Kayla Riches & Carly Westmoreland

* School store is not going to reopen until at least January. That is what a lot of other schools are doing
* Kayla is keeping track of what other Lower Mainland school lunch programs are doing
* Kayla and Carly both plan to take FoodSafe course

d.) Trustee report: Pam Ruth

* The school district will receive approximately $1.5M from senior govts to help with COVID protocols. The school district is putting some of this money towards extra cleaners. Rain gear is also being looked at.
* Counselling time in schools has also been increased

e.) Trustee report: Lorena Ruth

* Next meeting is Oct. 22 on Zoom

5. New business: Transportation grant and issues: Sandra Squires

* There has been no progress on the North Road/School road intersection issue.
* On the safe routes to schools program, Sandra is planning to possibly create a map. Parents might be able to share routes their kids take to school or could take, identifying potential issues
* Wildsafe BC can do education on outdoor/wildlife issues
* More parents are parking offsite and walking in to school.
* Issues with walking to school include: parents are driving on to other destinations, convenience and safety concerns.

6. New business: Temporary weather shelters: Deborah Luporini

* We’d like to have a shelter where kids can get out of the rain.
* Cody Chancellor was involved in putting up shelters at RC School and has volunteered to help out. He could come up with some plans.
* There are also pre-fab structures from CostCo or other vendors available that can be put up very fast for minimal cost.
* There may also be tents available to use. Remas/BC Ferries tent or others
* Deborah and Cody will investigate and report back, by email if necessary.

6. New business: Halloween baskets

* Although we aren’t doing the Halloween Fair there is still an interest in doing some kind of basket raffle for the kids. Christina will be in charge of this.

*Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.*