

Gordon A Brown Middle School
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL and HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Meeting

Wednesday January 13, 2021
6:30 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Seaborn

PRESENT

Kim Tylka (**School Council Chair**), Laura Barlas (**Co-chair, Home & School**), Sacha Bozabalian (**Vice-Principal**), Anna Epitropou (**Principal**), Ray Lievens, Maria Michaelides, Vigitha Mylvaganam , George Petrovic, Theresa McGraw, and Deanna Waddell (**Co chair, Home & School**). Apologies if we missed anyone.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

Anna Epitropou (Principal), Sacha Bozabalian (Vice-Principal).

REGRETS

Andrea Seaborn (**Secretary**)

Heather Tanner (**Treasurer, Home & School**)

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Kim Tylka, welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves via Zoom Chat. She then performed the land acknowledgment and began the meeting.

2. AGENDA AND MINUTES

Agenda for January 13, 2021

- Motion put forward to approve meeting agenda by: Kim Tylka
- Motion approved by: Laura Barlas
- Motion seconded by: George Petrovic

Meeting minutes from November 11, 2020

- Motion put forward to approve meeting minutes by: Kim Tylka
- Motion approved by: Laura Barlas
- Motion seconded by: Deanna Waddell

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. VOTING PARENT MEMBERS

Kim explained that a person is qualified to become a parent member of the School Council (SC) if he or she is a parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in the School and is employed by the School or elsewhere by the Board, and take reasonable steps to inform people qualified to vote in the election of parent members of that employment (Reg 612/00s,4(2) . Parent members must form the majority of the SC. The minimum number of parent members to form a valid SC is six. Kim asked for volunteers in addition to the following individuals who had previously agreed to become Parent Members for the SC:

- Deanna Waddell

- Andrea Seaborn
- Theresa McGraw
- Laura Barlas
- George Petrovic

5. SAC BYLAWS 2020

Kim and Anna explained that as the bylaws have recently been updated and had been circulated via the Principals' Weekly update, posted on the GA Brown website and with the November 11 Council minutes. They welcomed questions from the council. George had questions about the by-laws and will connect with Kim around wording. The vote was tabled until the February meeting.

6. SCHOOL STATEMENT OF NEEDS

Kim asked the group if there were any questions or concerns with the Statement of Needs.

- Motion put forward to approve the Statement of Needs by: Kim Tylka
- Motion approved by: Theresa McGraw
- Motion seconded by: Heather Tanner

7. WARD 16 UPDATES

As the meeting was postponed to January 14, there were no updates to share.

8. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Principal, Anna Epitropou welcomed the group. She shared the following information:

- Our last meeting was November 11th, since then and before the Holidays – December – very busy month with many activities GAB's Got Talent – Virtual; Giants of Africa Presentation; Terra Luz prologue presentation – next presentation virtually is "Sitar Fusion" on January 25th
- Teachers working on keeping to our schedule/timetable as per Ministry guidelines for remote learning; good attendance remotely so far; students need to remember to log in on time – attendance taken daily and in between periods; students expected to log in on time each morning and afternoon; any concerns please reach out to the teacher or admin so that we may find ways to support our students; feel free to call the school or email if your child needs to be away – we are picking up phone messages
- Waiting for direction on Virtual School switching now that the In-school students are all working remotely – unclear about the January 29th request deadline for VS which is to take effect on Feb. 16th
- GAB Spirit Wear arrived just in time and distributed
- January is Tamil Heritage Month – links/resources shared with staff
- Optional Secondary Attendance forms due by Friday, January 29th and Optional Elementary Attendance forms due by Friday, February 12th – pdf fillable forms provided to parents/students that can be completed and emailed to Anna or Sacha for signature and then submitted; fill out form – save as with your child's name and email form to us

- Grade 8s working on creating their course selection plans in myBlueprint for the school they have applied to – Anna and Sacha working with the teachers to complete and review course selections – DO NOT submit now; to be done in February and students/parents will be notified
- All Grade 8 IPRC reviews were completed in December. This is completed for all students identified with an exceptionality. IPRCs for Grade 6s and 7s will be done in April – invitations to go home in March and will be done virtually
- All students currently have access to myBlueprint – admin team will visit grade 6s and 7s to get them to log on and use the various other functions of the program e.g., financial literacy; surveys)
- Friday, January 15, 2021 – PA Day; Term 1 Report Cards – plan for them to go home on Tuesday, February 9th; details to follow since in lockdown till February 10th
- School Improvement Plan (last year) – 3 goals in the areas of Achievement; Equity; Well-Being
 - Well-Being – looking at ways to reduce stress/anxiety;
 - Achievement – area of mathematics: responding to multi-step multiple choice questions; how we teach our boys
 - Equity – differentiating our teaching and learning with respect to gender; listening to ALL voices; examining our bias and privilege
 - This year, we are revisiting our goals. Focus on Anti-Black; Anti-Indigenous; Anti-Oppression learning for our School
 - Currently, dedicated professional learning at each staff meeting from our Anti-Black Racism Committee. So far, we have discussed and learned about definitions of terms; PD that was provided at the start of the year from TDSB; what are samples of microaggressions; what is systemic racism; created a GAB Student Pulse Check Survey; created a GAB Staff Pulse Check Survey; **GAB Parent/Community Student Pulse Check Survey – only 69 responses**; how could we have received more?
- Anna shared the Message on Racism and Equity from Admin Team that was also in last week’s update and a discussion ensued:
 - Recap of the two racist incidents; bathroom incident is an open investigation, yet difficult to address as we are not back at the school
 - Restorative Justice approach to be taken when considering any consequences to incidents
 - Discussion - parents shared that they are pleased that students are having these discussions; also sharing at home
 - Admin to share the 3 GAB Pulse surveys with School Council at our next meeting (student, staff, community)
 - Parents glad to be included in the learning – Kim shared it would be great to have ideas shared in each update on how to discuss/share with their children
 - Seems like the active discussions at home are affecting change at school
 - Share Definitions of terms in the next Sunday update
 - George suggested that as a School Council, a statement of support should be created by SC; agreed to write up such resolution to share at our next meeting and then share with parent community.

9. MEETING DATES

- a. Wednesday February 10, 2021
- b. Wednesday, April 14, 2021
- c. Wednesday, May 12, 2021
- d. Wednesday, June 9, 2021 (hold if needed)

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Deanna Waddell and Laura Barlas welcomed the group.

2. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Deanna and Laura reported that there was a great response to the Gingerbread house fundraiser. They gave a huge thanks to Marisa and Maria for doing the legwork and getting the 85 houses for free. The houses were sold for \$10 which generated \$850 for the school. They added that as \$1,000 was committed for the following items, they are hoping for another fundraiser in the Spring:

- Dodgeballs and other phys-ed equipment:
- French/English Dictionaries
- Mini white boards
- Table top easels for art classes

Deanna and Laura welcomed any fundraising ideas or suggestions. They also reported that currently there are 7 paid members who can vote on any decisions. They provided the link to membership on GAB website – under Home and School - <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/gordonabrown/Home.aspx>

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

As Heather was not in attendance, a report will be provided at the February meeting.

FOR FEBUARY MEETING:

1. SAC Bylaws 2020 – voted upon
2. Anna and Sacha to share the 3 GAB Pulse Surveys
3. George to share proposed School Council statement of support
4. Update on teacher's wish list – determine if more funds to be transferred
5. Update on fundraising ideas

ADJOURNMENT

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:30pm has been determined as the next meeting. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.