

Parent Key Communicator Meeting
October 3, 2018
Minutes

Present: Kathleen Bergen, Sangeetha Voyalur Sakthi, Belinda Brown, Meenakshi Krishnamurthy, Jeremy McGirl, Priya Bhuvanendran, Bobbijo Pinnelli, Lynnette Grant, Jamie Sindell, Jamie Conrad, Cristina Hartley, Emily Stahl, Melissa Brilliant, Danielle Kennedy, Jennifer Blake (Facilitator), Dr. Regina Speaker Palubinsky (Superintendent), Dr. Stephen O'Toole (Assistant Superintendent), Ken Stewart (Director of Safety), and Samantha Jouin (School Board Representative).

Absent: Jodi Segarnick

Good News Sharing

Jennifer Blake opened the meeting by welcoming the new and returning Parent Key Communicators.

The new members are: Belinda Brown (GW), Meenakshi Krishnamurthy (GW), Jeremy McGirl (GW), Priya Bhuvanendran (KDM), Bobbijo Pinnelli (ST), Jamie Sindell (ST), and Emily Stahl (MS).

The [PKC roster](#), which includes contact information for each member, is available on the GVSD website.

General Wayne Elementary School

- The on-line sale of the PTO directory was very successful.
- Boy Scout Troop 78 decorated the main entrance of the building for Halloween.
- The 15th annual GW Soup Night will be held October 11. The proceeds will be donated to DIPG (pediatric cancer).

Charlestown Elementary School

- Charlestown will implement a new student recognition program in the 2018-19 school year.

Sugartown Elementary School

- The Sugartown PTO will host Trivia Night and a Silent Auction on Friday, October 5.
- Heritage Week will be celebrated the week of October 22.

Great Valley High School

- The HS fall drama will be presented October 26 and October 27.
- The Great Valley Alumni Association and The Foundation at Great Valley are partnered in a new project that will bring a veteran's memorial to the Great Valley High School campus. The memorial will honor those Great Valley alumni who lost their lives in service to the country.

Back to School Information Gathering

Jennifer Blake asked the members for feedback on the District's process for gathering back-to-school information. Specifically, she asked if the 2-prong approach was useful and if the directions were clear. A brief discussion about the back-to-school information gathering process ensued.

Jennifer Blake shared that parents will be asked to set their contact preferences in Skyward. Parents will receive instructions via email in early November.

State of the District Review

- **Comprehensive Plan (2019 – 2022)**

Dr. Regina Speaker Palubinsky and Dr. Stephen O'Toole spoke about the District's Comprehensive Plan. School districts in Pennsylvania are required to complete a Comprehensive Plan every three years. Topics addressed in the Comprehensive Plan are: Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development, and Community Engagement.

The Board of School Directors will vote to approve the Comprehensive Plan at the November 12 Board Meeting. [Click here](#) for more information on the Plan.

- **GVSD School-Sponsored Summer Activities/Camps**

The District is planning to host District-sponsored activities/camps for students during the summer recess. Information will be shared with parents at a later date.

- **GVSD Calendar Committee**

Dr. Speaker Palubinsky shared that an ad hoc calendar committee will be formed. The committee will provide input for the District's 2019-20 Board approved calendar. The committee will have approximately 20 members and will be comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators. Committee members will be charged to make calendar recommendations to the School Board. This is not a decision-making committee, and the group will be dissolved when the 2019-20 calendar is approved by the Board of School Directors.

GVEA Negotiations – Update from October 3 PKC Meeting

The Great Valley School Board and its teachers' union, the Great Valley Education Association, have approved a new three-year contract. After months of negotiations that began in January, 2018, both sides agreed to move to Fact Finding in which a neutral, state-appointed arbitrator analyzed the District's and Union's position and proposed a settlement. Both the Board and Union have voted to approve that proposal, which is now a binding contract. [Click here](#) for more information.

Dual Enrollment

Related to goals in the District's Comprehensive Plan, the Great Valley School District is offering dual enrollment classes at the high school. The District is partnered with the University of Pittsburgh. Students enrolled in the Dual Enrollment program are able to earn college credits at a reduced rate of \$245 per year. Dual enrollment courses currently offered to students are: Java (Introduction Course), Linear Algebra, Python, and Statistics. Additional dual enrollment courses are offered in World Languages.

Great Valley Safety Council (GVSC)

Mr. Kenneth Stewart, Director of Safety, joined the meeting to discuss the GVSC. He explained that the mission of the GVSC is to provide a forum for Great Valley stakeholders to identify, discuss, and offer considered points of view about school safety issues. The committee is comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, police officers, and EMS groups. The role of a GVSC member is to support a strategic view of school safety, through research and thoughtful deliberations directed at potentially harmful events and school safety components, presented through GVSC Advisories.

Upcoming Events

- The Homecoming Parade and Football game will be held on Friday, October 19.
- The District will again offer a Speaker Series to parents this year. [Click here](#) for information.

Issues from the Floor

A question was asked about the 8th Grade Field Trip. The 8th grade students will travel to Philadelphia for a day of activities. The trip will culminate with a cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia. This is a day trip and replaces the former Washington, D.C. trip.

A parent expressed concern about the selection process for the MS Robotics Team. Jennifer Blake asked that the concern be shared with the MS administration.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Parent Key Communicator meeting will be held Wednesday, November 14, beginning at 9:30 a.m.