

Parent Key Communicator Meeting

October 24, 2019 Minutes

Present: Sangeetha Voyalur Sakthi, Brenna Wimmer, Belinda Brown, Meenakshi Krishnamurthy, Priya Bhuvanendran, Dee Nimmagadda, Bobbijo Pinnelli, Jamie Sindell, Lynette Grant, Cristina Hartley, Emily Stahl, Melissa Brilliant, Danielle Kennedy, Jennifer Blake (facilitator), Dave Barratt (school board representative), and Jessica Leitch (administrative assistant).

Good News Sharing

Charlestown Elementary School

- East Goshen Park family get together in late summer was a success.
- The students seem to really enjoy preview night.
- Ice cream social – 95% of families attended!
- Chick fil a bingo had good turnout.
- State troopers came in to have lunch with some kids. They also participated in recess.

General Wayne Elementary School

- There was a BBQ Social that took place at beginning of school year.
- Soup Night – teachers donate and make soups, proceeds go toward pediatric cancer – this year 75% of proceeds went to a family in the district that has a child with cancer, 25% to Ewing's Sarcoma research. It was the most successful soup night historically.
- \$11,000 raised at the Color Run.
- Ishi Rocks – very successful, Instagram account associated with it – students get certificate and rock.
- Motown group assembly was fun.

KD Markley Elementary School

- Book Fair and Ice Cream Social took place.
- Spirit Week was fun.
- Fundraising – Tonino's dine and donate took place. On 11/10 there will be a fundraiser at Skyzone.
- Parents are hosting a Diwali festival lunch for teachers – 400 families pulling resources to provide lunch to promote cultural inclusivity.
- A parent shared that as a first-year family and parent she is very happy with the school system and very happy with the PTO.

Sugartown Elementary School

- "Sneak Peek" took place.
- 5th grade working on a new student run publication.
- Workshops for parents will take place throughout the year. A literacy workshop was held at back to school night. Mr. Hammond hoping to continue that.
- The Book Fair was successful.

- A backpack food program is in place that discreetly provides food to family in need through a grant from the Chester County Food Bank.
- Family Fun Auction and Dance Party to take place on 10/25.
- The ST musical this year will be The Emperor's New Clothes – auditions will take place. PTO purchased field trip t-shirts for all students.

Great Valley Middle School

- Red Ribbon Week had an emphasis on being drug-free.
- Students are getting ready for winter athletics.
- There was a successful 7/8 grade dance.
- Teacher appreciation dinner will be hosted over conferences.
- 6th grade team building (scavenger hunt) instead of fall field trip (low ropes course) was favored by students.
- Focus this year is belonging and building connections with classmates and community members.
- Dr. Souders stressed the importance of the feasibility study with parents.

Great Valley High School

- 16 National Merit Scholar Finalists this year. In addition, there are 11 Commended students.
- The Denmark Exchange timing was switched to the fall this year to better include visiting students in school activities (i.e. football games, etc.).
- Dashka Slater, author of The 57 Bus, will visit GVHS. She will be doing workshops with students on Nov. 13.
- GV Newspaper, The Surveyor, will include an article to remember Chip Harvey, a GVHS guidance counselor who recently died.
- Spirit Week was fun and Homecoming was considered successful.
- The Lemon Bowl raised money for childhood cancer. This is hosted through Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Information Sharing

Members and Contact Information

Members were introduced and the contacts roster was reviewed for accuracy.

Meeting Calendar and Superintendent Coffees

Jenn Blake reviewed the meeting calendar and structure for the year and briefly discussed the 2 parent coffees to be hosted by PKC. If the coffees are well received, the objective will be to add more next year. The purpose of these coffees is to help create more visibility for PKC members, and to increase opportunities for parents to interact with the superintendent.

Feasibility Study

- Dave Barratt expressed the importance of community involvement.
- Jenn Blake explained that the district is working with SCHRADERGROUP for the study. The architectural firm is providing an evaluation of current building use and will provide

options for moving forward. The first presentation was in October. Additional meetings will be held in November and December. The architects will present a report to the School Board in January.

- One PKC member observed that a majority of those who attended the October feasibility presentation were mostly seniors. Dave Barratt shared that 80% of taxpayers do not have children statistically. PKC members were encouraged to promote attendance to their buildings parents.
- Shrader will make their recommendations to the school board in January. Parents who would like to offer input to the development of options should participate in meetings before that time. The Board will consider the recommendations after the presentation in January and throughout the spring. Public comment will be welcome at Board meetings and via email, as always.
- A PKC member asked if babysitting could be made available during these meetings so that more parents can attend.

2020-2021 Calendar

There will not be a formal survey this year about the calendar, however PKC members look at some considerations related to the 2020-2021 school year and were asked for their opinions/reactions. Topics discussed included: start time, spring break, conferences, professional development time for staff, and last day of school.

The superintendent hopes to take a calendar to the Board in December.

Other News and Comments

- A question was asked about why there were no floats this year in the homecoming parade. Jenn Blake shared that students voted not to include floats because of the time constraints to prepare on a Friday night.
- Three alumni were named to the Wall of Fame at Homecoming: Kathryn Barrett, Eric Shrader, and Scott Hennessy. More information: www.gvsd.org/walloffame
- A parent reported that a house on 7 acres right next to KDM will be going up for sale if GVSD needs more land or space.
- Jenn Blake talked about a Skylert/SchoolMessenger test email that is scheduled for 10/30.
- Jenn Blake shared an update about The Council for Diversity and Inclusion. There were 70 applicants for the Council and 21 members were selected. The Council is scheduled to meet four times this year. It's anticipated that over the year some subcommittees will be created.
- Resources from the Speaker Series are posted online. Next event is called "Isolation: The New Drug of Choice," and will be held on February 26.

Issues from the floor

A parent asked about the process for forming clubs at the elementary level. Specifically, she is interested in knowing if parents can be club advisors at that level. Additionally, if a club or activity is offered at one building, can it be offered to students at all buildings? A PKC member shared that PTO sponsored events are an option. Jenn Blake said she would get more information and report back to the parent.

The meeting was adjourned.