

ELMER S. GISH SCHOOL COUNCIL
AGM MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2019

In attendance

- Tammy Harlton
- Jennifer Abrantes
- Abimbola Arigo
- Treena Khare
- Mehroon Cassaday
- Jessica Ollie
- Chandra Mahabir
- Gillian Cherniwchan
- Jennifer Low
- Patrick Kyba
- Krysta Wilson
- John Strembitsky
- Fareen Valji
- Phebe Eglauer
- Krista Bennett
- Sherif Refoot
- Marwa Elmorshedy
- Dareen Chernuka
- Sakina Dharsee
- Svitlana Vyazmina
- Ayaan Wasuge
- Yuliya Polishchuk
- Ksemina Harris

1.0 Call to Order: 6:00 pm

1.1 Introductions

1.2 Land Acknowledgement – Jennifer Abrantes

1.3 Motion to approve agenda by Jennifer A., seconded by Krysta W., carried

1.4 Motion to adopt April 30, 2019 meeting minutes by Gillian C. , seconded by Treena, carried

2. 0 Executive

2.1 Dissolution of 2018/2019 executive committee

2.2 The following members were elected into the following executive committees; all nominations ran un-opposed. Membership term will end upon the election of the 2020/2021 executive committee determined at the 2020 GSC AGM

Chair – Jennifer Abrantes

Vice Chair -Jessica Ollie

Secretary – Treena Khare

COSC (Council of School Council) Rep – Marwa Elmorshedy

Compassion Committee Chair – Jennifer Abrantes

2.3 Bylaws – It was found that the Gish School Council does not currently have bylaws or operational procedures in place which are necessary for the effective operation and transition of the committee. Documentation to be drafted for review and approval by the end of the calendar year.

2.4 Sub committees

Compassion Committee

The mission of the Gish Compassion Committee is to foster the theology that it takes a village to raise a child. To help those in need, and promote the belief that asking for help is a sign of strength. Our goal is that all families in our school know that assistance is available and that they do not need to struggle alone. We are one community, when one family is struggling, we are beholden as neighbors to help in whatever capacity we are able.

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With all of the joy life bring it also brings hardships that we have all had to endure; a death in the family, loss of employment, raising children alone, can all present challenges that create hardships that are not typical. The Gish Compassion committee will work with the school administration to help support our families in any capacity that we are able to. Such as organizing gift card drives, Christmas hampers or even helping with meals and daily errands that can be forgotten when dealing with a crisis.

We have all dealt with situations where we have not had the time or resources to handle everyday life; going to the grocery store, or having to tell our children “we just can’t right now” for field trip expenses or hot lunch. Our goal is to offer short term reprise so our families can focus on what is important

- All requests will be brought the administrations attention and the committee will coordinate volunteers in order to maintain confidentiality
- Anyone who would like to volunteer is asked to email Jennifer Abrantes

3.0 Principals Report – John S. and Krysta W.

- Current enrolment – 870 students
- Provincial Achievement Test – Gish again scored well
- Early drop off and late pick up – the school does not offer before or after school care, students are not allowed to be dropped off prior to 8:30 am and must be picked up by 3:30. This is for their safety as there is no supervision before/after these times
- School enhancements – Many beautification projects were undertaken over this summer including refinishing the gym floor, sensory room, art room, offices spaces re-done, the front walking path and the front hall mural
- Lost and found is no longer in the main hallway, it is now located in the grade 4 hallway and the Jr.High hallway
- All visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear a lanyard while in the school
- Rake and run is this Friday

4.0 GPA Update – Jennifer A.

- AdMazing coupon book orders are due, this fundraiser will not be run next year
- Purdys Chocolate sales will begin in November
- Our next casino date is not until next year
- Funds raised last year went towards the purchase of chrome books, 2
- \$20,000 towards the front path as well as funding the lunch program and classroom recess equipment

5.0 Open Forum

Q: Is the school still over capacity, are the smaller class sizes intentional?

A: The Superintendent has stated that the school is still over capacity and is being monitored - John S.

Q: There are many uneven places in the back playground is there a plan to have this repaired?

A: The plan is to have the back area fixed next year, including the installation of proper drainage - John S.

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Q: Is the elementary global program being phased out?

A: No Gish will remain a community school offering regular programming from elementary - John S.

Q: As students are not allowed to enter through the front door where are they to go if arriving late?

A: Students arriving late are to enter through the front door, all other doors are locked after second bell and they need to sign in – John S.

Q: Parents are continuing to stop in the middle of the road and dropping off students, this is extremely dangerous

A: An email was sent out at the beginning of the year as well as being included in monthly newsletter, Bylaw is issuing tickets for traffic violations

Q: Why are textbooks not allowed to be brought home, and if they are not are they available online

A: Textbooks are not allowed to go home with students do to the strain placed on backs from the weight as well as the wear and tear on the books and the price to replace. Many teachers have copies of their textbooks on their websites, as well the school has purchased digital copies of some of the text books – John S.

A: Textbooks are also available for purchase through Amazon if parents are inclined and would like a copy at home – Mehroon

Q: Are the same fees still being charged as last year though Power School?

A: Service fees are still in place; families are able to bring cash or a cheque into the school to avoid the bank fees (not set by the district by the bank) – John S.

Q: What is the phone policy in the school?

A: Junior High students are permitted to bring their phones to school which must remain in their lockers and are only to be used on breaks, elementary students are not allowed to bring phones to school – John S.

* Motion to include Cogito update into GSC meeting, meaning it will no longer be a stand-alone committee by Jennifer A, seconded by Treena K., carried

* Motion to adjourn at 7:49 by Phebe E, Seconded by Mehroon, carried

* Next meeting November 26, 2019

* Minutes prepared by: Jennifer Abrantes

Approved by: John Strembitsky