

# Garrisonville Elementary PTO

## Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021



**Meeting Called to Order at 6:33pm by Todd McLean**

### **Welcome**

### **Membership**

- Thank you to everyone who has registered!
  - If you checked off that you were interested in learning more about certain events or committee volunteer positions, we will be emailing you descriptions of those in the near future!
  
- We have 64 members currently and will leave the registration form open through the rest of April
  - Please spread the word to parents and families who may not be connected to our social media pages. We'd love to get more parent participation!
  
- If you have not registered yet:
  - \$1 for Spring 2021
  - Register online - [gatorpto.com](http://gatorpto.com)

### **Treasurer's Report by Jessica Whiteley**

- Current balance – approximately \$15,400
  - Doing well with the budget considering we have not been able to fundraise aside from Boosterthon
  
- Expenses remaining
  - \$5,000 – standard yearly rollover for next school year's beginning expenses per bylaws
  - \$2,500 – new picnic tables
  - \$800 – copier lease cost through Sept.

- \$100 – water cooler cost through September
- \$1,000 – field day budget (may be less this year)
- \$3,500 – yearbook – ends up bringing in same amount so this is a wash
- Leaves us with approximately \$6,000 for:
  - Blacktop painting/resurfacing
    - Money was allocated for this from Boosterthon earnings
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade shirts
  - Staff Appreciation
  - Ideally, we'd like to be able to rollover a little extra again this year to cover ourselves, in case we still are not able to have events

### **Executive Board Elections**

- No positions were contested, so no election needed tonight
- Executive Board for 2021-22 School year:
  - President – Meghann Gillette
    - Current Secretary and will have a 5<sup>th</sup> gator and a 2<sup>nd</sup> gator next year
  - Co-Vice Presidents – Todd McLean and Jennifer Herbert
    - Todd has a rising 3rd and rising 1st gator
    - Jennifer is new to the Gator community this year and has a rising 1<sup>st</sup> gator
  - Secretary – Jaimie Brandt
    - Jaimie is also new to GES this year and has twin rising 1<sup>st</sup> gators
  - Treasurer – Jessica Whiteley
    - Jessica will remain our treasurer and has a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> gator

### **Recess Enhancements**

- We are currently working on creating a fun, painted recess space on the blacktop around the back of the school where the basketball hoops are
- We have ordered a large US map stencil to paint and will be adding basketball lines to one of the hoops
  - HUGE thank you to Miss Leonard!
  - She is creating a lot of stencils for us to paint games like hopscotch, mirror me, snakes and ladders and several others
- The blacktop area is pretty cracked and we were hoping to find someone with a contact for a resurfacing company or contractor
  - We can have the county do it, but they will simply fill in the lines and ideally, it needs more than that

- We'd like to have this completed so we can paint in time for the kids to be able to use this space at recess this school year
- The area of the blacktop surface is roughly 87.5 feet by 115 feet
- Does anyone have a contact or recommendations on where to look?
  - Jessica has quote requests out to a few contractors
  - Jaimie Brandt checking with her husband's company
  - Travis Keyes – former Gator grad – may be willing
    - Board will email him
  - Reach out to community on Stafford Talk for contacts

### **Staff Appreciation**

- May 3-7<sup>th</sup>
- Thank you to the staff members who filled out our questionnaire! We have some great ideas to work with thanks to you!

### **Spirit Night**

- We will be hosting a Spirit Night at Sweet Frog in May – date TBD

### **Principal's Report by Mrs. White**

- Schedule
  - Changes should be completely done now! We do not anticipate any new changes the rest of this school year
  - Info regarding next year's schedule should be coming in the near future
    - 99% sure that we'll be back to a normal schedule, 5 days a week beginning August 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Elementary will stay on the early end of start time in the Fall – may be earlier than we have experience with
    - Short summer again for our students – 7 weeks long
- Summer School
  - By invitation only, first, then will open to the rest of our gators
  - Information will be coming out in about 2 weeks or so
- Virtual Option
  - There will likely still be a virtual schooling option offered by the county next year
    - It will not be attached to Garrisonville and will look very different come August
  - We are happy to take any Gators back who want to switch to in-person!
- End of the Year
  - Gator Gram will be coming out next week, highlighting all of the end of the year pieces

- SOLS
  - Assessments for grades 3-5 SOLs were waived LAST year
  - Federal Government has NOT waived them this year
    - State has waived accountability, but Federal is still requiring them
  - Assessments:
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade takes Math and Reading
    - 4<sup>th</sup> grade takes Reading, Math and Virginia Studies
    - 5<sup>th</sup> grade takes Reading, Math and Science
    - Schedule for virtual and hybrid testing days are located on the school calendar on the school's website
- Field Day
  - Info to come next week!
    - Will look different this year and be COVID friendly
- Other items
  - Virtual talent show was posted last week
  - End of the year teachers vs 5<sup>th</sup> grade kickball tournament will happen
- Success of our Return
  - Approx. 85% of students are back in the building K-5, 4 days a week, 9am-2pm (time will stick through end of June because of transportation logistics)
  - Safety mitigations working
    - Decent sized classrooms and with current enrollment, we can maintain 6ft distance between our students
      - Officially the smallest school in Stafford County by 6 students
    - Everyone is wearing masks
    - A positive case at school but because of safety mitigations in place, we didn't have to quarantine anyone
      - School did notify anyone who may have had any contact at all with that person
      - Proud of the fact that in contact tracing, no one was exposed to the situation
      - Person is doing well
- Friendly Reminders!
  - Families, please continue to exercise safety mitigations outside of school even if parents have received their vaccinations
    - Staff has worked really hard to keep school safe
    - We want kids to be able to remain in school!
  - School Playground
    - We know with the weather getting nicer and there are people who want to use our school playground

- We are still being advised not to use the equipment at this time because we are not able to sanitize it between students
  - There is not caution tape in place but we recommend that you avoid the playground
- Masks
  - Anyone on school property (inside or outside) needs to be masked!
  - Please remain 6 feet apart from anyone not in your immediate family on school grounds

### **Open Comments/Input**

- Are there any plans in place for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation/moving on ceremony this year?
  - Ms. White is meeting with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team this week and there will be a plan
  - Trying to figure out what is best
    - Last year was completely virtual
    - This year, most gators are at school but we can't have mass gatherings for family members
    - Looking at the possibility of having a ceremony during school and live streaming for families
- Middle School
  - Working with middle schools to arrange a time to allow 5<sup>th</sup> graders to get into the building and see it
    - We have the advantage of AG Wright being right next door, however some students do go to other middle schools and we don't want to have some kids able to see their school and others not
- May PTO meeting
  - Will be the last meeting of the year
- The \$6,000 remaining in the budget after expenses – do PTO members need to vote on what that is being used for?
  - Bylaws state that anything over \$1,000 and not within the budget needs to be taken to membership for a vote
  - Money for the remaining items this year are all line items in our current budget, therefore, money was already allocated for those items and do not need to be voted on
    - Blacktop painting/resurfacing (part of Boosterthon earnings)
      - Typically, after the Boosterthon fundraiser in the Fall, PTO gives the school \$10,000 for a large purchase (past purchases have been the gaga pit, chromebooks, flexible seating, etc)

- This year the school did not have a need for a large ticket item, so because we were unsure of how the year would go, we did not give them that money in a lump sum.
- We have used those funds to help the school as needs have come up and are using the remaining funds to create the outdoor recess space for the kids and purchase new picnic tables.
- We would love ideas for the upcoming year on how to allocate Boosterthon money for the 2021-22 school year
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade shirts and Staff Appreciation are both line items in our current budget so do not need to be voted on at this time

### **Upcoming Dates**

- **5/3-5/7** – Staff Appreciation Week
- **5/10** – May PTO Meeting
- **May TBD** – Sweet Frog Spirit Night

### **Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm**

### **Attendance**

1. **Alexis White**
2. **Jodi Odum**
3. **Todd McLean**
4. **Jessica Whiteley**
5. **Meghann Gillette**
6. **Amanda Leonard**
7. **Bridgette Farrell-Kuzma**
8. **Jaimie Brandt**
9. **Jenna Cooper**
10. **Jennifer Herbert**
11. **Kate Shifflett**
12. **Kristina Miller**
13. **Michele Golles**
14. **Milissa Roseberry**
15. **Mirna Urbina**
16. **Sana Waheed**