GVMS PTO Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2019 – 1:30 PM, GVMS Dining Room

PTO Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Pulin Shah & Jeannine Espenshade Treasurer: Joanne Lang

Vice President: Tiana Threadgill Secretary: Jennifer Benson

Attendees: Jen Benson, Jeannine Espenshade, Pulin Shah, Sherry Shah, Tiana Threadgill, Joanne Lang, Brenda Thorpe, Meenakshi Krishnamurthy, Shannon Maroney-Garrett, Christina Savino, Steph Gunderson, Angela Scott, Lori Bartlett, Kerry Cavalcanto, Kim Six, Amee Feager Davis and Justine Schembri

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Board Introductions – Jeannine Espenshade initiated the introductions
3. Thank You’s – Tiana Threadgill – full list included in the meeting agenda
4. Student Council Update- Not present
5. Principal Report – Dr. Souders started with a welcome to the parents present at the PTO meeting. A construction update was provided around the delayed completion of the front walkway. The concrete still needs to be cleaned and sealed prior to completion. Construction trailer will be moved before the end of next week. Tables will be returned to the quad area as soon as possible after the project is done. All three grades in the middle are using iPads for the first time. Watching kids navigate this world is amazing. This is a powerful tool for collaborative sharing for all grades and all subjects. Eight grade teachers are catching up with the learning management system. The parent portal allows access to canvas to review student progress and assignments. Teachers will post calendar links and modules for the students. My homework app is also available for the students to help organize their day. There was a discussion of the importance of eight period and how students can use this to complete homework or visit with teachers in subjects where they may have unanswered questions. The homework policy was touched on with an explanation of using them as guidelines not a rigid set of rules. Thank you to all the 1500 people who visited the school on back to school night. A positive parent post on the Malvern community forum was shared with the teachers. Detailed discussion on how the teacher conferences differ at the middle school from the elementary level. Conversation are encouraging outside of back to school night and parents do not need to rely on just one night. Feasibility study is underway in the district for possible expansion of the facilities. Parent involvement is encouraged thinking of now and how the district will be positioned twenty years from now. Middle school is experiencing record numbers with 380 seventh graders. The sixth graders are running out of locker space and student council leaders are moving to help with the influx of new students.
6. Officers Reports

Treasurer –2019- 2020 budget review - posted monthly on the GVMS PTO website

Joanne Lang shared that the Middle School is a cash magnet. Corporate matching is great way to increase donations with no extra work. Meenakshi Krishnamurthy is going to assist with corporate matching. Just Write a check campaign is on going please get the word out to parents.

President – Pulin Shah discussed the new by-laws. Copies were provided for review at the meeting. Highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the board members. The addition of two new board positions, Co-Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, were also mentioned. Pulin discussed our 501c status as a non-profit organization. The by-laws will now include insurance and conflict of interest statements. A special election was then held to fill the open positions on the board. Candidates for the co-treasurer were DJ Jackson, Steph Gunderson and Meenakshi Krishnamurthy. Steph Gunderson recused herself from consideration and Meenakshi Krishnamurthy was elected to the position. Corresponding secretary the candidates were Brenda Thorpe and Steph Gunderson. Steph Gunderson recused herself and Brenda was elected to the position. Jennifer Benson tallied the results of the special election.

President - Jeannine Espenshade shared the role of the PTO, activities we support and sought additional parent involvement. She also discussed volunteers, committees and committee chairs. Open positions for the 6th grade social, teacher appreciation breakfast and lunch, entrance beautification and staff appreciation dinner is seeking assistance. A committee is being formed for entrance beautification to work in conjunction with Dr Souders. Brenda Thorpe mentioned a monarch butterfly station. Jeannine has created a volunteer spreadsheet to track parents who are willing to assist. Directory update – only 180 have sold to date, please help spread the word.

1. New Business - None shared
2. Announcements/Upcoming Events
   1. 6th Grade Patriot Day- Sept. 13th
   2. Flu Vaccine Clinic, MS 2:30-6pm – Sept. 26th

7.   Adjournment at 2:30p.m – Next meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2019, 7pm at PJ Whelihan’s