GVMS PTO Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2020 – 1:30 PM, Student Dining Hall

PTO Executive Board

Co-Presidents: Pulin Shah & Jeannine Espenshade

Vice President: Tiana Threadgill

Co-Treasurers: Joanne Lang & Meenakshi Krishnamurthy

Corresponding Secretary: Brenda Thorpe

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Benson

Attendees: Jen Benson, Jeannine Espenshade, Pulin Shah, Tiana Threadgill, Joanne Lang, Brenda Thorpe, Meenakshi Krishnamurthy, Steph Gunderson (and Jack 😊), Amee Feager Davis, Alan Walter, Cristina Hartley, Ilse Vercruysse, Kim Six, Christina Savino and Shannon Maroney-Garrett

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Board Introductions
3. Thank You’s – Tiana Threadgill – full list included in the 2/6 meeting agenda
4. Approval of 11/7/19 PTO meeting Minutes, approved by Brenda Thorpe, seconded by Pulin Shah
5. Student Council Update- Present, please see attached full report
6. Principal Report –Dr. Souders started with a thank you to all those attending. He also welcomed Mrs. Morelli who was present to take notes. Yearbook superlatives were discussed and changes to the names of the Mother/Son Bingo & Father/Daughter Dance. Dr. Souders will speak to Yearbook advisor. Dr. Souders stated that he does not want anyone to feel like they do not belong, but wants to preserve traditions that make Great Valley Middle School a special place to be. Dr. Souders was appreciative of feedback that some families felt uncomfortable with current Student Council parent programs and Yearbook superlatives. Amazing Race 8th grade field trip, more information will be coming out in the near future. 7th Grade Henelopen trip will hold a parent meeting shortly. Dr. Souders responded to complaints of Wifi issues within the GVMS building. He believes the issues are surrounding documents that are not able to download. He believes that moving to a client based filter will increase WiFi speed within the building. Spring conferences – 2 half days taking place during the school day. All teacher requested at the middle school level, but teachers are available at any time should a parent request a conference. Teachers are available the entire school year, working into the use of other mediums like skype and zoom, to help have the conversations in a timely manner.  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.  Be aware that decisions are being made and there are so many possibilities, restructuring grades, new facilities, it will be felt. Dr Souders ended with a commitment of a continued partnership with the PTO to help disseminate information via School Messenger to help with transparency and clear communication.

1. Officers Reports

Treasurer –February 2020 Budget Report Shared – Please see full Report Attached. Joanne Lang shared PTO goals are shared on the first page of her report. Just Write a check campaign is running from February into March, please get the word out to parents. More advertising needs to be done for JWAC. We are $5,ooo behind last year projections at the same time. Meenakshi Krishnamurthy is revising JWAC flyers for dissemination.

AmazonSmile program - doing well. It is easy to do: log in, choose your charity – Great Valley Middle School PTO. Great passive fundraiser.

Co-President - Jeannine Espenshade shared GVMS PTO Facebook banner has changed to highlight JWAC campaign. Asked for help sharing on personal Facebook pages for greater visibility. Discussed Lost and Found area: ways to increase the effectiveness of the process, seek volunteer groups to run

1. New Business – PTO Fundraising – Pulin Shah and Tiana Threadgill – Going to do things differently this year with funding requests. Going to try Patriot Pride Grants that will be open to teachers, staff, administrators, parents and students for up to $500. More information will be shared at our next PTO meeting regarding the process. New chair is needed for the 6th Grade Social.

6.   Adjournment at 2:36p.m – Next meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2020, 1:30pm at GVMS student dining hall