

**GULL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSO**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 3, 2020, via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Sharon Heikka, Jenny Martin, Janet Romyak, Tami Coats, Kai C Worm, Justin Hesling, and Dr. Maring

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Sharon Heikka called the meeting to order at 9:17 am.
- II. Secretary Report - Janet Romyak
  - A. Motion to approve the November Minutes made by Jenny Martin and seconded by Kai C Worm, and all approved. Motion carried.
- III. Student Senate Report
  - A. Justin Hesling, President of the Student Senate, reported the T-shirts for Student Senate came in! The students will receive them once they go back to school.
  - B. Our Student Senate is looking to put a positive atmosphere in the school when the students return to the building. The kids will put “positive” sticky notes on the lockers for kids to see while walking through the hallways.
  - C. Student Senate meetings have been irregular due to school not being in person and not everyone able to attend virtually.
  - D. The tutoring sessions for the 6th graders were very successful. Sessions will start back up during the second trimester and the kids are considering opening it up to 7th graders.
  - E. Our Student Senate was able to send cards out to our seniors in our community.
- IV. Principal's Report - Dr. Maring
  - A. Dr. Maring started off saying that we finished the first trimester. The school is transitioning to CAP (Core Application Program), GLVP (set up for semesters), both alternative programs to in person face to face instruction, which are taking up a lot of time. We are expecting to be back in hybrid up to two weeks until winter break and then start back full face to face 5 days a week after the first of the year. Dr. Maring is forecasting that the winter months (Dec, Jan, Feb) will be a fluid, back and forth, face to face to remote learning based on the numbers.
  - B. The School district will be sending out less communications due to feedback from families that were getting overwhelmed by district communication and building information.

- C. Teachers are again focusing on engaging students during the second trimester.
  - D. Dr. Maring and staff are finalizing the spirit wear order on a better quality jacket. Please read under Staff Appreciation for further information. Dr. Maring wanted to say thank you again for the willingness to partner with them to purchase a gift for the teachers.
  - E. Sharon Heikka had a question regarding how the district is recording the number of Covid Positive Cases and why it is not publishing the number of individuals exposed and in quarantine? Dr. Maring said the district is doing what is required by the state on the dashboard. Some districts are giving more information, but Gull Lake has decided not to make it public. Building principals are getting all the information regarding positive cases, close contacts and those who are in quarantine.
  - F. Jenny Martin asked when the school returns to face to face learning 5 days a week, will middle school students be able to live stream classes? No live streaming will happen at the middle school as students will be able to view videos from the teachers while not in class, asynchronous learning. If we are in remote learning, then students are required to be on google meets and attending class
- V. President's Report - Sharon Heikka
- A. Sharon Heikka attended the Community Relations Meeting on December 2nd, where they discussed how different gull lake school community organizations can continue to help our students and the district during these unprecedented times. There was dialogue between community organizations (GLCS Fine Arts Foundation, GLBPA, PTOs and PTSO, building principals, Richland Area Community Center, and the Board of Education Community Relations Committee) with the aim of providing short and long-term support for our school district.
  - B. Sharon Heikka and Dr. Maring discussed how the middle school is in need of new multicultural books. A few of the larger needs is to have an outdoor classroom on the east side of the building, benches around the middle school, new trees in the front of the building and lastly working on the Positivity Project with banners and signs.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Jenny Martin

- A. Jenny Martin reported the income for the month of November was the following: \$77.06 Hardings, and \$6.66 combined interest. No expenses for the month of November. The PTSO account balances are \$11,939.97 checking, \$25,010.28 for the money market, and \$34.19 for savings as of December 3, 2020.
- B. Motion to approve the November Financial Report made by Janet Romyak, seconded by Tami Coates, and all approved. Motion carried.

## VII. Committee Updates

### A. Staff Appreciation

- 1. Spirit wear - Dr. Maring said the purchase of jackets will be approximately \$1,680. In the previous years, the PTSO has given \$750-\$800 toward this larger purchase for staff appreciation. The activity funds have been reduced at the middle school which covers the majority of the cost. So, those who attended the meeting asked if it would be better to give more money to help offset the middle school expenses and to assist in uplifting the morale for the teachers.

- a) Tami Coates agreed that we should support the additional money for the purchase of spirit wear especially with all that the teachers are going through this year.

- b) Janet Romyak also agreed to support covering the additional expense.

- 2. Motion to approve \$1,100 to purchase spirit wear for the middle school staff by Sharon Heikka, seconded by Kai C Worm, and all approved. Motion carried.

- B. Virtual Book Fair - Meredith Alspach was not able to attend, but sent an email saying, "The book fair did almost zero. We didn't have high hopes given everything parents are dealing with right now. Scholastic has asked everyone to just hold tight for now to see what happens with kids in school." So we are unsure if we will have a book fair in February during parent teacher conferences. We do want to thank Meredith Alspach for her time and effort in organizing the book fair which helps to support the Gull Lake Middle School Library with getting new books, replacing books and getting more copies of popular books.

## VIII. New Business

- A. Appropriation Request for Mr. Wester to get a subscription to Sworkit which will allow staff members to access the workouts and be able to track student engagement, activity levels through graphs/activity logs, and to individualize workouts to meet the needs of all of our students at GLMS. This program will also be functional whether in face to face or in a remote learning setting.
    - 1. We also wanted to extend our congratulations to Mr. Wester who received this year's award for SHAPE Michigan Middle School Teacher of the Year!
  - B. Motion to approve \$300 made by Sharon Heikka, seconded by Janet Romyak, and all approved. Motion carried.
  - C. LifeTouch has cancelled all Picture Retakes, no retakes on Dec 15th or Dec 17th.
  - D. Just a note, Dr. Maring was not sure if the School Board Meeting would occur with Dec 21st being during our winter break.
- IX. Adjournment
- A. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

UPCOMING DATES:

Anticipated return to Hybrid Mode - Dec 7  
School Board Meeting - Dec 21  
Winter Recess - Dec 21- Jan 1  
Anticipated return to 5 day, in person instruction - Jan 4  
PTSO Meeting - Jan 7