
GREEN Schools Parent Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021

Call to Order

An introductory meeting of the GREEN Schools Parent Advisory Committee (GSPAC) was held at virtually via Zoom on Monday, February 8 at 6:30pm. In attendance were Oz Sipahioglu, Amita Devaraj, Leslie Ferrell, Kathryn Premraj, Christine Driessen, Eduardo Pereira, Krissy Tucker, Anthoula Tsabounieris, and John Moore. Members not in attendance were Julie Ramsay, Katrina Carrera Campbell, and Carmen Davis. Sipahioglu called the meeting to order.

GSPAC Introduction

Sipahioglu asked each of the attendees to introduce themselves and share which campus they represent. Once the introductions were complete, he went into detail about the intended purpose of the GSPAC, what the desired outcomes would be, and what would be expected from the members. GSPAC is a group of parents from across the GREEN Schools that provides input on new policies, projects, and materials that impact students and their families. Each member will act as a liaison between the families of the campus they represent and the School Board and administration. The question was raised as to how the GSPAC would differ from the Parent Volunteer Organization, and Sipahioglu stated that while the PVO is focused on volunteer coordination and fundraising, the GSPAC would serve a more advisory-focused role to help GREEN Schools develop actionable items and resolutions to issues encountered by the GREEN Schools community.

Sipahioglu stated that GSPAC members will serve for a two-year term. GSPAC meetings will be held at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of each month during the school year. Due to COVID-19 precautions the meetings will take place virtually via Zoom for the time being, but will move to in-person meetings in the future. Members may request to add agenda items to the meeting agenda up until 6:29pm on the day of the meeting; new agenda items will not be added while the meeting is in progress.

Introduction to School Families & School Board

As GSPAC members are to be advocates for everybody at the school they are serving, they will be introduced to the families of the campus they serve in the next school newsletter, which will include the email address for families to be able to contact the GSPAC members. Sipahioglu suggested created school email addresses for each GSPAC member as opposed to using personal email addresses, and those members in attendance agreed. Additionally, a section will be added to the GREEN Schools website to include the names and contact information of GSPAC members as well as meeting minutes and relevant information. Sipahioglu stated that members should be ready to start receiving communication from school families once the introduction occurs.

Sipahioglu stated that he would invite up to 3 members of the School Board to meet with GSPAC members that would be agreed upon by GSPAC members. He stated that a meeting involving more than 3 Board members at a time would be considered an official School Board meeting and therefore announced and open to the public. This introductory meeting was decided to take place on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Student Internet Usage

As this was an introductory meeting and no set agenda had been established prior, Sipahioglu opened the floor for members to bring forward any issues or items that should be discussed and practice on writing a sample advise. Pereira stated that he saw a need to discuss internet usage guidelines and enforcement for the Chromebooks issued to the students for school use. He mentioned that certain sites like YouTube could be accessed by students during instructional time. Discussion followed regarding different possible solutions and their advantages and disadvantages. Concern was expressed over implementing too many restrictions, which would potentially also block sites necessary for instruction and learning resources. Premraj stated that this could be an opportunity to organize a tech talk for parents to educate them on parental controls, search history, and internet safety. It was also suggested to look into programs or software that would allow teachers and/or administrators to set limits for the amount of time spent on particular sites and have more control over allowing specific sites when used for educational purposes.

Adjournment

With no other new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next GSPAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Driessen