G.A.P.S.

Grimshaw Association of Parents and Staff

Minutes September 10, 2012

First meeting of the 2012 – 2013 School year.

WELCOME:

Called to order at 6:30 PM

Introduction of this years’ officers:

President – Erin Virnoche

VP – Christina Shute

Treasurer – Christine Foti-Cromley

Secretary – Erin Oristian

Introduction of all present members.

Potluck: September 7. Very successful. Several new faces in attendance.

Apple Festival:

Donna Knapp requests (on behalf of Apple Fest) volunteers to staff Apple and Cider booth on October 6 & 7 (Columbus weekend.)

All volunteers will get; parking pass

 free admittance

and “Apple Bucks” that can be redeemed for food at the event

UPDATE ON NOT FOR PROFIT STATUS:

We are in the process of becoming a corporation then we will file for tax exempt status.

We will not have to re-file at every officer change, but we will have to file yearly and pay $75 fee.

A special and specific fundraiser will be ongoing to fund this effort. We are working with “Cat’s Meow Village” to have “replica” Grimshaw buildings made. They will be available through the office. The charge is $15.00 (payable in cash or check at the time of order.) Our cost is $7.50 each.

ROOM PARENT UPDATE:

Lisa Lamson

We currently have room parents for all classes except:

 PM Pre-K Nicholson

 Kindergarten Chapman

 Kindergarten McClary

 1st Terrell

1st Davidson

 2nd Wiley

 4th Geloff

 4th Saba

 6th Drexler

Babysitting:

Primary - Emily Long

Back-up – Celia Bertlesman

We would like an additional back-up.

Pay is $10 per meeting.

Administration Report:

Greg Bump

Cafeteria (New building survey conducted.)

Excessive noise reported. Build was designed to reverberate sound for the benefit of the stage. Jim Kessler has already put up sound boards (look like bulletin boards but won’t work as such.)

As glass worsens the sound problem, curtains and other options are being considered/investigated.

New counter installed. It is comprised of 2 science lab tables salvaged from the HS basement. It has a new refinished top.

Another solution is to allow 6th graders the option of heading over to the gym after they complete their meals. This should reduce noise in the cafeteria while allowing the 6th graders to blow off steam and enjoy a “senior privilege.) Teachers on a rotating schedule will meet them in the gym for supervised exercise.

We currently have 4 students with serious nut/peanut allergies. The cafeteria staff have been working diligently to make sure that these students are safe from coming into contact with their allergens.

BOCES: Greg expanded on his article in the Green Sheet, giving information about our new BOCES classroom.

This is a special education class. Each student has their own IEP (or **Individualized Education Program**)

They are providing Grimshaw with revenue as they pay rent for their space.

There are currently 7 students in grades 4-6 with 3 BOCES staff members.

These students share a homeroom, lunch and specials with Grimshaw students.

As students show improvement, they may participate in other classrooms (under BOCES supervision) but the ultimate goal of the program is to reintegrate them back into their own school districts.

Odyssey of the Mind:

Will be brought up at curriculum night.

Will need 1 – 2 (volunteer) advisors per group.

Challenges are typically released in November and practice begins in January.

Once set in motion, Greg will be coming to GAPS for financial support to help with fees and budget.

**Long term initiate:**

Erin V and Greg Bump:

The goal is to provide an electronic marquee for the front of the school.

If paid in full today, the total cost would be $22k, but costs are expected to fluctuate depending on how many years it takes us to fundraise.

Once we determine if we are going to move forward (by vote) we will get the approval of the board.

Next we will begin a fundraiser whose sole purchase will be this project.

**Treasurer’s report:**

Christine Foti-Cromley

Imagination Library:

This month we have 134 students enrolled. We have small fluctuations month to month, but the average cost remains $300 per month.

Our budget for this year is $4,000.00

Current bank balance:

$13,700

Several items were approved at the (end of year) June meeting that have now been paid.

Spend vs. raise:

Last year we spent $16,000

 We raised $11,600

 We spent $4,400 more than we took in.

**Voting:**

Apple Fest yes

Pocono Candle No

Find alternate Fall Fundraiser yes

Marquee yes

Book Fair yes

Gertrude Hawk yes

Roller-skating yes

Family Fun night yes

Water bottles no

$50 to all teachers $2,100) yes

**Upcoming events:**

Clause added; in order to be a full/voting member of GAPS, we are proposing that every member be required to volunteer, chair or co/chair.

There was much discussion, enough that we will be tabling this and possible other requirements for a future meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:**

8:15 PM