

GATE Parent Association

General Meeting

November 21, 2023 7:30 pm via Zoom

Executives in attendance: Stephanie L, Alicia M, Sunita C, Traci A

Members-at-large in attendance: 24 additional parents at large attended.

1. **Meeting opened at:** 7:42 pm by Stephanie. Stephanie acknowledged the land.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to accept agenda by Traci A.; seconded by Sunita C.

3. **Approval of Past Minutes:** Motion to approve by Alicia M.; seconded by Traci A.

4. **GPA: Who we are and what we do** Stephanie introduced the GPA executive and volunteers. Stephanie summarized the four main mandates of the GPA: Fundraising to support GATE students in all schools (primarily casino, but also other fundraisers), Education for GATE families, Communication with GATE schools, teachers and families, and Advocacy for GATE students within the CBE and beyond.

5. **Communication Update:** Stephanie provided an update on recent meetings with CBE groups. She and Alicia recently met with GATE principals and plan to meet with CBE trustees and the CBE Director of Inclusive Education. GATE parents are all members in the GPA and able to vote at GPA meetings. There is a plan to update website information as required after the meetings take place.

6. **Financial Update:**

Traci provided an update on GPA financial filings which are due near year end. The balance in the all GATE accounts as at October 31, 2023 totaled \$137,229.97. The administrative funds that had been held back from the 2021 casino have been redistributed to the schools now that the 2023 casino funds have been received. The balance in the Casino account was \$129,195.48 and the balance in the operating account was \$8,043.49.

7. **Fundraising Update:** The next GPA casino will be in Q1 of 2025. Traci noted that exact dates will be announced in 2024.

8. **School Updates:**

General updates: The CBE is now doing intake for GATE students twice per year, subject to available space. Schools are testing out "learning based assessments" in high schools, as required by the CBE, meaning that exact percentage grades will be replaced with the 4 numbers. The goal is to focus students on learning and growth rather than percentage grades.

Specific School Site Representatives provided updates on the GATE schools:

Henry Wise Wood – (Traci A) – Class sizes are a priority and the school is focusing their budget on managing class sizes. School council has passed on some of the school's funding requests to determine if some funding can be done through GPA funds.

Louis Riel – (Traci A) – GPA funds have been used for various small requests; the GPA is awaiting further requests from administration.

Hillhurst – (Kelly P) – The gaga ball pit is being constructed; the nest egg fundraiser has started; spring dance is being planned.

Queen Elizabeth – no update provided.

9. Volunteers

The GPA is looking for a Social Media Administrator to assist with making posts on and managing the GPA Social Media accounts. One member raised their hand as a potential candidate and Traci will follow up with them to discuss the role further.

The members were reminded that to continue to exist and support our kids and community, we need to have parents of GATE children participating in our meetings/association and stepping up to serve on the GPA's Board. Four of the five current executive members have students in grade 9 or 10, and our Vice President and Treasurer may only be able to serve one year of the current term. If members have an interest in discussing one of those two roles, or in shadowing the exec member, please reach out to us at gatecalgary@gmail.com.

10. Question and Answer Period: there were no questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.