

GLENBROOK NORTH PARENTS' ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 2nd, 2009

President Mary Bleeker called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the Little Theater. Mary introduced herself, welcoming all, and followed with the introductions of Mr. Pryma our principal, and Dr. Riggle our District Superintendent. Key PA programs were briefly mentioned as well as benefits of parent participation. The Executive Board was introduced:

**Chairperson:** Mary Bleeker

**1st Vice-Chairs/Membership:** Carolyn Cram and Janet McDonald

**2nd Vice-Chair/Communications:** Daran Mayer

**Secretary:** Dawn Spiewak

**Treasurer:** Anne Tulig

and an offer was extended to any who might like to become involved in any of our standing committees. Please contact Mary Bleeker with any questions or suggestions at: [mbleeker@ksgmac.com](mailto:mbleeker@ksgmac.com). Afterward, the evening program began with Dr. Riggle.

## **PROGRAM**

**- Dr Riggle, District 225 Superintendent**

**- Mr. Paul Pryma, GBN Principal**

Dr. Riggle provided a brief history of his educational and professional careers. He completed his formal education at Hanover College in Indiana and began his teaching career as a high school Chemistry and Physics teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Chemistry, a Masters degree in Education and a UBD in Curriculum Instruction. Prior to his new role as our District 225 Superintendent, Dr. Riggle was Principal of Bloomington South High School in Bloomington, Indiana for eight years, and Principal of our Glenbrook North High School for ten years. Having settled in his newest role, Dr. Riggle conveyed that he does miss students and staff and the everyday interaction with these individuals which he considers precious resources of the district. At the time of his transition to Superintendent, the district was in the final stages of construction as part of the recently approved referendum.

District 225 accepted retirements in three positions last year, which resulted in the hiring of the following highly qualified individuals:

- Hillary Siena - Asst. Superintendent, Business Affairs
- Dr. Steve Calliendo - Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources
- Dr. Roseann Williamson - Asst. Superintendent, Educational Services

The district pursued "Innovation Without Restriction", goals and policies established in our district which were implemented to improve resources and equipment in the use of technology

for advancement in education. Each teacher was provided a laptop computer with dual Windows/Mac platforms at the beginning of the 2008 school year. After some adjustments in coordinating this available technology to work smoothly, this move has afforded our teachers great opportunities in expanding their use of available technology and efficiencies in planning and executing classroom lessons. This arrangement is unique for the high school environment.

Moodle, a multidimensional online learning resource is being utilized as a teaching tool as a generally accessible platform for all students. The hope is to maximize combined face-to-face and online learning potential. As well, as part of the networking and infrastructure development, our district now provides wireless services in each building. The Student Information System (SIS) is currently undergoing customization for our use. When completed, this service will provide parents and families a beneficial interface with the district data base (tracking grades, updates in health information, transcripts, scheduling, etc). The hope is to have access to this service in June. Also, a new "Alert Now" system is being utilized for mass emailing to families, due to unsatisfactory results with the previous "Parent Link" system.

When it comes to use of personal electronic devices in the classroom, limits are determined at the discretion of the teachers.

Dr. Riggle identified our financial situation as stable and under budget, 1.5% above predicted reserves for general operations. The health of the economy will determine the future state of our finances and reserves. GBN participates in a consortium of districts that shares expenses for a central NSED facility. A new building will be built to accommodate current needs as the existing facility has been determined to be outdated and inadequate to supply services as necessary. Stimulus funds are being utilized, and our share of the cost after this funding is \$913,000.00.

Regarding curriculum development, the state mandated RTI program states that every child is to receive help as necessary to stay at an expected rate of academic developmental progress. The three stages of intervention begin with identifying a deficiency and a method for improvement. When/if deficiencies persist, longer lasting interventions are implemented; and in the case of further difficulties, diagnostic testing and special services may be implemented as those needs are identified. A new staff psychologist has helped us to prepare for the launch of RTI as a formal program as required by the state. These methods have been shared with GBS as well. As a result, availability of tutoring is above and beyond our previous capacity with more devoted personnel and centers created for use by our students. Use as needed can be walk-in or prescribed, at the Academic Resource Center (ARC). Hours: 7:40am - 2:55pm, Rm 138. The Math Department also provides assistance in their departmental resource center.

Swine Flu updates were shared. Questions were fielded from the general attendance.

Dr. Riggle introduced Mr. Pryma, GBN Principal for the remaining program.

Mr. Pryma welcomed all to the PA meeting, thanking Dr. Riggle as well for his presentation.

Briefly Mr. Pryma provided some background information on his professional career of over 28 years in education, which began with three years at St. Patrick High School in Chicago. This was followed by eight years at St. Ignatius College Prep, and five years in an administrative role at Highland Park High School. Missing the student interaction, Mr. Pryma returned to teaching and coaching at Evanston Township High School for six years. He joined the GBN staff as Associate Principal five years ago, and transitioned to the role of Principal in the fall of 2008. Mr. Pryma appreciates the passion of our teachers and the great relationships with the staff and our students.

The school year has begun with great energy. The freshman orientation day was a great success. Thanks to the organizers and peer group volunteers for their hard work. Glenbrook Days ran smoothly and included the addition of nine new teachers, twelve new instructional assistants, twelve interns and new staff members in building operations. Results from our 2009 Prairie States exams (ACT testing) show that for the third year in a row, our juniors have exceeded levels of previous years' scoring; at an average of 25.6, this senior class now holds the highest ACT competency in school history. Mr. Pryma acknowledges that this test, while a great indicator, is limited in its ability to identify our students' full potential and how they learn.

Dr. Williamson has moved to our district office, and new staff member, Ms. Kris Franzen now fills the curriculum role in this administrative position. Ms. Franzen comes from Lake Park High School with seventeen years of high school administrative experience. One of our endeared staff members, Jim Ossey, has returned from his duties in Iraq, safe and sound. Welcome back, Major!

Facilities improvements that were completed since last school year include improved lighting in the fieldhouse, repair and replacement of the natural turf football field, alterations in the new music rooms, a much needed fitness hallway facelift, ARC improvements, and new welding stations in our shop area. Note: although our curriculum is primarily college preparatory, our shop and technical classes are popular.

The District 225 web site is still evolving. Many have commented on the improvement of the site and its organization, which will continue to undergo improvements. Apologies were extended regarding deficiencies that may have been experienced at the book sale. Thanks to all who have offered suggestions for improvement next year.

Parent Night in the Classroom will be Thursday, September 10th. The freshman program starts in the CPA at 6:00pm. Loyalty day is planned for Friday, September 11th, where Major Jim Ossey will be honored for his role in Iraq on behalf of our country. Homecoming is scheduled for the week of October 12th. At our next meeting on October 7th, David Boyle, our great "best fit facilitator" will present college-bound trends of our recent graduates.

Mr. Pryma finished with thanks again to all for taking time to participate in the evening event.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Mary Bleeker began a very brief business meeting with a welcome to all in attendance.

### **REPORTS**

**Minutes:** Attendance sheet was passed around. Minutes from the June meeting were amended to identify the Distinguished Teacher Award effort as finished *within budget* for the previous fiscal year. Motion to approve as amended came from and was seconded by Janet McDonald and Carolyn Cram, respectively.

**Membership:** Carolyn Cram reported a membership count of 687 thus far this year, down 23% from our previous year, citing the economic situation as the likely cause. Memberships are still being accepted.

**Treasurer:** Anne Tulig made copies of the 2009 Budget available. An updated copy will be included in the minutes and the budget will be voted on at our October meeting.

**New Business:** Mary offered to send a membership email regarding the timing of the directory availability.

At 9:33pm a motion was made to adjourn by Anne Tulig, seconded by Alex Van de Loo and so moved.

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by David Boyle, our GBN College Counselor, on Wednesday, October 7th in the Little Theater.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Spiewak  
Secretary