

Tesnatee Gap Elementary School
Governance Council Agenda
Jan 23, 2024



Call To Order- Welcome

Made by Jason Hogan

Introduction of Guests

Erica Owens, Counselor of Jack P. Nix

Wait Until 8th Initiative

The average child is given a smart phone at 10. The average time spent on smartphones:

Tweens- 6 hours a day

Teens- 9 hours a day

This is a movement to encourage parents to not allow their children to have smartphones until 8th grade.

Flip phones for students are allowed while still signing the pledge.

Smartphones are changing childhood- they are spending less and less time outside or playing with friends. Smartphones are ADDICTIVE. They have similar responses as drugs and alcohol. Smartphones are an academic distraction, impair kids sleep, screen time impacts behavior, they interfere with relationships, increase the risk for anxiety and depression, and it puts your child at risk for cyberbullying.

Worth watching: Social Dilemma (on Netflix)

Most 4th and 5th graders have phones.

What can we do? Putting the Wait until 8th info online for parents

Approval of November Minutes

Approval-Valerie Mateen

Second- Nancy Burford

Approval of Agenda

Approval-Valerie Mateen

Second- Nancy Burford

Principal's Report

- Family Engagement Events
 - 4th grade family night was a success! Parent input- she really appreciated the teachers talking about GA Milestones and giving them resources. The play was Lewis and Clark and tied well to the standards. Overall amazing event.
 - 3rd-5th parent information and tips on Milestones
- Field Trips
 - Completed Field Trips

- 2nd and 3rd Grade: Hockey Game- parents showed up that were not supposed to. Next year we will have computers for parents to complete the modules for field trips.
- 4th Grade Field Trip to UNG Planetarium and Historical Walk \$5 per student

Field Trips have been successful.

- Upcoming Field Trips
 - 2nd Grade SmithGall Woods

Approval-Valerie Mateen

Second- Nancy Burford

- 1st grade Unicoi State Park

Approval-Valerie Mateen

Second- Lori Pressley

- 4th grade will go to farm day at the Ag center on May 3rd

- Playground Equipment
 - \$15,000 Delivered and waiting for installation
Kelley Crane is coming out to look at the location. We did get a wheelchair accessible playground.
- BoosterThon Money
 - \$8,350 BoosterThon Profits.
 - Sidewalk Completed
Next is revamping the garden
- Title I Funds: \$2606
 - We purchased take home materials for parents to check out.
When parents ask how they can help at home, offer the parents to check out material to use at home.
If they do not return them, we will replenish next year.
Mrs. Mateen- offered advice to have a student initiative
- Hallway Signage
 - \$400
These are ready- we are waiting for hooks!

Dates To Remember

- 3rd Grade Night February 1st - Disney songs
- Next Meeting
 - Mar 12, 2024

Question by Amber Gilstrap:

- Parents are concerned that the buses are getting blocked by morning car riders. They are supposed to go down and around, but around 7:30, parents start not looping around, and they are blocking the buses.
- Suggestion: maybe putting up cones, or something where parents cannot block (Mrs. Cochran has sent this out to parents)
- Maybe Officer Josh could direct for a few weeks to show parents how to do it

- **Adjournment**