

Tesnatee Gap Elementary School  
Governance Council Agenda  
November 7th, 2023



**Call To Order– Welcome**

**Introduction of Guests**

Mark Griffin and Nanette Baughman: Family Connection

Mark is the director of the family connection, Nanette is coming in as the new director. They are a private and nonprofit organization. 37 out of 50 states have a family connection. The general purpose is to achieve a core set of results identified by the community for children and families, to develop a comprehensive plan for public and private agencies to respond to problems, coordinate the plan, and inform the community of the needs of kids and families. They coordinate a network of children and family. They meet on a monthly basis to inform and network, along with a monthly newsletter. Family connection operates a family advocacy program that works with at risk families to help them get the resources they need. The family advocate for TGAP is Julie Courson. The mentoring program recruits volunteers to mentor students in needs that are identified by school counselors. Family connection also manages the White Christmas Program for families that need assistance with Christmas gifts. There are around 480 students who are in need of help with Christmas. Pick up and drop off for gifts is at the Bridge Church. Shop with a Cop is offered for middle and high school students who are referred by schools. They have lunch with cops at North GA BBQ, and they are given a Walmart gift card and go Christmas shopping for themselves and families. There are about 40 students that participate in this. Family connection is working to build Warrior Connection alongside with Warrior Wellness to expand family connections, they are hoping to open this soon. Volunteers will be needed to staff this connection center. Families can shower, do laundry and get supplies/ resources they need.

Cindy Free: Esser Funds

Esser is part of the Federal relief fund that schools received after COVID. March 2020– September 2022 gave us about 1.8 million dollars (Esser Act 1). September 2022– September 2023 was Esser Act 2, now we are in Esser Act 3 (the last one). In total, we received about 7 million dollars. The first act, we spend a lot of money on getting kids back in the schools. Maintenance and cleaning was paid for by this fund. The things that we have spent this money on: virtual programs, extended year, extended day, pre-k, math kids and resources, comprehensive literacy programs, science equipment, online programs, lots of professional development (assessment, reading programs, coaching institute, behavioral support, aspiring leaders program, literacy team, and technology teams). We also added additional staff and substitutes. We added 2 more SROs, a 2nd mental health specialist, attendance support, school

psychologists, and behavioral supports. We also purchased buses, copiers and more technology. We also purchased family engagement tools and websites. COGNIA- please complete the surveys to give the school system the feedback needed for the state.

## **Approval of September Minutes**

**Approval-Lori Pressley**

**Second-Valerie Mateen**

**All in motion- motion carries**

## **Approval of Agenda**

### **Principal's Report**

- **Family Engagement Events**

This has been amazing!

Kinder- 49 students came

1st- 56 students came

2nd grade is coming up this week. The music teacher is helping with the music.

The art teacher and stem lab are providing art to go along with the theme. In p.e they are working on speaking parts and dances to go with the event.

- **Field Trips**

- Completed Field Trips

- Kindergarten: Skitts Mountain- This was a success.

- 1st Grade: Jaemor Farm- Nancy reports that it was so fun and very educational. Jaemor taught the students the life cycle of the pumpkin and seeds. They picked their own pumpkin, then they planted a seed. They learned how to make their plant grow.

- 5th Grade: SmithGall Woods and Science Day- They really enjoyed this.

- Upcoming Field Trips

- 2nd and 3rd Grade: Hockey Game

- 4th Grade Field Trip to UNG Planetarium and Historical Walk \$5 per student Approved

**Approval-Lori Pressley**

**Second-Jason Hogan**

**All in motion- motion carries**

**Field trips-** an issue with parents not completing mandated courses. Families need to complete the course and get their ID scanned. However, we are having an issue with parents not completing this. When we go into public, parents just show up, without

completing these things. This is for the safety of our students. The ID check runs a background check.

It is unclear on the website that parents only need to complete the mandated part- the website leads them to go through all of the modules. The report also did not show that parents that had completed it actually have.

**Suggestion-** have chromebooks at Open House to encourage parents to complete the mandated modules right then and there. We could also have this as an option at family nights or parent- teacher conferences.

- Current Budget Report

- General Budget: \$22, 806

- Total Funds: \$45,743

White County BOE meeting goes over all the schools budgets.

- Playground Equipment

- \$15,000

This is money from the school district budget.

We will purchase:

Wheelchair swing

Wheelchair monkey bars

playground system for 3-5

playground system for k-2

**Approval-Valerie Mateen**

**Second-Kelsey Kelley**

All in motion- motion carries

The concrete needed for the playground for wheelchairs is an ADA concern and is in the works to get fixed.

- BoosterThon Money

- \$13,850 for the Nature Trail and Butterfly Garden

- \$5,500 contribution from BOE

- \$8, 350 remaining for TGAP to pay with BoosterThon Profits.

To date we have \$2,841 raised already.

Kelly Crane can start on these tasks when we get the money for it, hopefully finished by January. This can be for outdoor class or walking.

Kindergarten and 2nd grade releases butterflies and this would be great in the garden.

- Title I Funds: \$2606

- Input from Council: 1% PARENT INVOLVEMENT SET-ASIDE: Parent Involvement set aside monies to provide supplies for parent involvement activities: pens, pencils, markers, crayons, paints, highlighters dry-erase markers, notebook paper, computer paper, print cartridges, staples, binder clips sticky notes file folders labels sheet protectors erasers and books.

How should we be spending this money? The council wanted to take some time to think about this and will let Noel know.

Suggestions: buying gift baskets for families that come to Title 1 night (incentive)- Is this possible??

- Hallway Signage
  - \$400

Labeling the hallways so that visitors know where to go in the building. This came up during the safety walk. If there was a safety concern, it is hard to describe where to go. Having this purchased and put in Christmas Break.  
Council approves.

Mrs. Cochran went over school improvement goals again concerning student growth, and attendance goals.

Dates To Remember

- Next Meeting
  - January 23rd, 2024
- Adjournment