



## GRAND ERIE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

*Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.*

*Dogwood Room - Waterford District High School*

*Chair: Tom Waldschmidt*

*Recorder: Valerie Slawich*

### MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Introductions** **J.Forbeck**  
Tom Waldschmidt, Eva Dixon, Shawn McKillop, Rita Collver, Verna Millington, Brent Howard, Diane Burdiak, Nancy Waldschmidt, Patti Allen, David Lloyd, April Bird, John Forbeck, Holly Knill, Ronda Nix, Scott Wilson
2. **Minutes** **T.Waldschmidt**
  - 2.1. Approval of Minutes  
Verna Millington motioned to accept the minutes; Eva Dixon seconded  
CARRIED
  - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes  
Verna brought volunteer forms from Ecole Dufferin to share with the group
3. **Financial Report** **J.Forbeck**
  - 3.1. Updated Report – extra money (\$6665) in central budget available  
Discussion within the group centered on how GEPIC should best utilize the rest of the money in the central budget. It was suggested that it could be divided amongst high needs schools (16 schools) to be used as part of school environment. An application form will explain the three points in the Multi Year Plan: Achievement/Engagement/Environment; how will you use these funds, which area, and tell us exactly how the funds will be spent. Nancy moved that GEPIC divide the funds amongst high needs schools through an application process; Brent seconded; CARRIED.
4. **Updates from the Board Table** **E.Dixon/B.Johnston**
  - 4.1. Springview for Haldimand-Norfolk; over 7500 children get breakfast every morning through their programs. Spaghetti supper at Central School was well attended – a wonderful event. Deb Ellis, author spoke at one of our schools about bullying. Her novel, The Breadwinner Trilogy, is about a little girl from Afghanistan. Fred Fox spoke at Cobblestone today, which was an incredible presentation. Cobblestone had raised over \$3000 for the Terry Fox Run!
5. **Director's Update** **J.Forbeck**
  - 5.1. The number of activities happening in our schools is incredible right now. Last week we had numerous Environmental events. Next week is Education Week, coupled with Mental Health and

- Wellness Week. There are a variety of events taking place. The level of re-engagement is very high.
- 5.2. Quality Accommodations Report will be reviewed by Trustees on May 13. It is a very interesting report to various stakeholders.
  - 5.3. Body and Sole Salon in Brantford are promoting dying your hair for Mental Health Week – details will be emailed out.

**6. GEPIC Chair's Update**

**T.Waldschmidt**

- 6.1. Tom and Nancy Waldschmidt attended the PIC Symposium "Parents Matter" in Toronto in April. Mary Jean Gallagher was a keynote speaker on EQAO results. Dr. Jean Clinton spoke about brain development; David Booth addressed "Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"; Leslie Amber, a singer/actress who overcame so many challenges attributed her success to 2 teachers; there was a parent toolkit workshop; learning nights for parents at schools; Pro Grants next year will be open longer than this year with better clarify about approved expenses; individual school boards had posted what they were doing with their Pro Grants; kits for every school coming in the fall.

**7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing**

**S.McKillop**

- 7.1. Jarvis Event (Haldimand)  
Avis Glaze May 14 at Jarvis (partnered with Walpole and Hagersville Elementary)
- 7.2. Mental Health Event (Brantford)  
Michael Eisen at Central Public School was an informing evening; including powerful messages
- 7.3. School Council Annual Report  
To be filled out by Parent Council with the Principal and returned by June 14, 2013. The group reviewed the questions and Shawn recorded the changes.
- 7.4. 2013 Parent Engagement Annual Operating Plan  
Looking for input for next year's strategies: Local Rural or Family of Schools Mental Health component; IT update on Ed Tech being used in the classroom; school in-service with FOS school councils to share ideas, challenges, and solutions; arrange for a Superintendent to join in those meetings; report back to GEPIC

**8. School Council Updates – Activities/Learning Connections**

**8.1. Banbury Heights - Holly Knill**

Amazing Race next week! See the Staff Portal.

**Seneca Central - April Bird**

Looking at next Pro Grant initiative – Sumdog program; student's council just hosted talent show; next week is "Celebrate Seneca" where children show off their arts and activities from the year; Wally Parr fundraiser done.

**TTSC – Dave Lloyd**

Annual Spring Sale next weekend please stop by; approved for Annual Camp Fawcett Learning Camp where students prepare the camp to be used over the summer.

**Caledonia Centennial – Patti Allen**

Science Fair went very well with around 80 projects; parent showing on the Friday evening was well attended; chocolate bar fundraiser done; grandparent tea next week; Chair has stepped down and Patti will step in.

**Paris Central - Nancy Waldschmidt**

Bingo Night made just over \$500, with plans for 2 next year; clothing drive brought in a ton of

clothes worth \$200. "Bag to School" program - they clean and repair the clothes and send to third world countries; fun fair at end of the year; secretary is retiring at the end of the year.

**PDHS - Nancy Waldshmidt**

Hockey team went to OFSA and won the consolation round; prom set to go; rugby has started; Breakfast of Champions on May 7, challenged schools to build gift baskets.

**Teeterville - Brent Howard**

Rain barrel event sold 102 barrels with a profit of about \$1500 through rainbarrel.ca; Vesey's bulbs sends everything to the school with 50% profit recently made \$970; fun fair June 13; raffle on a Kindle reader for the fun fair.

**Delhi Public - Ronda Nix**

Rebecca Bender "Giraffe" and "Bird" spoke at the school; chocolate bar fundraiser \$15,000; French café next week where students serve treats and speak French with parent guests; Ontario Skilled Technological competition next week.

**Ecole Dufferin - Verna Millington**

Track and field for grades 4-8 on Monday and duffle bag presentation for JK-3; active playground put on through BCHU for grades 5-7; students have been trained as leaders and set up activities for other children; fun fair in June; badminton just wrapped up; coffee house end of May.

**VHSS - Scott Wilson**

New mascot, a "voyageur bear" to arrive in June. He will be at the Norfolk Fair; Relay for Life May 31 at Holy Trinity; June 1<sup>st</sup> prom; Norfolk Schools starting girls rugby next year with plans for 2014-15; start photography course grade 11 next year.

**9. Other Business**

- 9.1. Parent concern about DARE program content and would like more information to facilitate conversations at home; parent can be directed to Principal or website
- 9.2. PDCS track – will it be used again? It will be part of the community complex on the same property as the Elementary school.
- 9.3. Mental Health Strategy Team will be contacting GEPIC regarding a focus group

**10. Dates 2013-2014**

- 10.1. October 17; November 14; February 27; May 22