



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 21, 2016, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School

*Chair: Brent Howard*

*Recorder: Valerie Slawich*

### MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions T.Waldschmidt
  - 1.1. Present: Nancy Waldschmidt, Tom Waldschmidt, Brent Howard, Sheila Slood, Sarah Nichol, Jean Montgomery, Shawn McKillop, Susan Noort, Rita Collver  
Regrets: Brenda Blancher
2. Minutes B.Howard
  - 2.1. Approval of Minutes
    - 2.1.1. Nancy Waldschmidt moved to approve the minutes; Sheila Slood seconded  
~ carried
  - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes
    - 2.2.1. None
3. Financial Report T.Waldschmidt
  - 3.1. Financial Update
    - 3.1.1. Budget for 2015-16 is \$4100; there are no current expenses.
4. Presentation: Mental Health H.Carter/J.Montgomery
  - 4.1. Heather Carter and her team provide guest speaking opportunities and support for schools wishing to engage with an external resource. Pooling schools together for events is an option to save money. Jean Montgomery spoke to the safeTALK program that offers a certificate of completion. safeTALK training will teach participants to recognize signs of potentially suicidal behaviour and equip them with skills through actions and words to be a connection to support.
5. Updates from the Board Table J.Harris/T.Waldschmidt
  - 5.1. Tom Waldschmidt enjoyed a Christmas dinner at Lakewood Elementary including a tour of the school. Rita Collver spoke to the completion of the Brant North ARC and the beginning of the South Norfolk ARC. The first ARC meeting will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Lynndale Heights. The first planning session for our Multi-Year Plan is set for this Saturday, January 23, 2016.
6. Director's Update T.Waldschmidt
  - 6.1. Tom read an update from Director Brenda Blancher:
    - Kindergarten registration for September 2016 is now in full swing at all elementary schools
    - Grade 8 Parent and Student nights have taken place throughout January at all Brant/Brantford and Norfolk secondary schools; the Haldimand events took place in November
    - we are finishing up Semester 1 in our secondary schools and preparing for Semester 2
    - secondary school students will begin to choose their courses for 2016-17 in the next month
    - the development of our new Multi-Year Plan to take us through the next five years is underway
    - we have our first MYP team meeting this Saturday at the Joseph Brant Learning Centre – the team involves all Trustees (including Student Trustees), all Senior Admin along with representatives from our Principal groups, Managers, Parent and Community.**Some highlights since our last meeting:**
    - seasonal celebrations took place throughout December at our schools; I participated in the school-wide luncheon at Central Public in Brantford – this is a very special event that is put on through the outreach of Fairview United Church – the church volunteers provide a beautiful turkey lunch with all the trimmings and a special treat bag for each student
    - we have completed the work of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 21, 2016, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School

---

Committee (ARC) and recommendations are now at the Board deliberation stage  
-we also completed the work of the Brant North ARC involving the three elementary schools in Paris along with Burford District Elementary and a report will be coming to the Board in February  
-we will be embarking on an ARC in South East Norfolk pending final Board approval next week  
- the ARC will begin its work on March 22

7. GEPIC Chair's Update B.Howard
  - 7.1. Subcommittee for GEPIC Grant Applications  
Members met last week to review the 38 applications and have made some preliminary decisions. Review will continue this week with awards being announced soon.
8. Planning, Discussion and Sharing S.McKillop
  - 8.1. Orientation Session March 2, 2016, Branlyn 6:15 pm
    - 8.1.1. Beyond The Bake Sale books will be distributed to school councils next fall
    - 8.1.2. Round table discussions resulted in the format for the evening session on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
9. Other Business
  - 9.1. Nancy Waldschmidt surfaced the need to consider transportation needs to large school council events such as the Orientation Session in October. One solution would be to consider a PRO grant for next year: instead of a symposium with parents from all 4 areas coming to Waterford, we could organize one workshop to be held in each of the 4 geographical areas (or we could combine Brant/Brantford to make 3 geographical areas). Video Conferencing could provide live participation to the other regions.
10. Dates 2015-2016
  - 10.1. March 10, May 19