



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

November 5, 2015, 6:30 pm
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School

Chair: Brent Howard

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions B.Blancher
 - 1.1. Present: Brenda Blancher, Susan Noort, Carol Ann Sloat, Brent Howard, Holly Knill-Horvath, Nancy Waldshmidt, Pam Barrowcliffe, Verna Millington
 - 1.2. Carol Ann welcomed our new Director, Brenda Blancher
2. GEPIC Slate of Members B.Blancher
 - 2.1. Recruitment is necessary to fill spots on the committee
 - 2.2. Election of Chair
 - 2.2.1. Brent Howard was nominated as Chair; Brent accepted the nomination and will serve as Chair of GEPIC for 2015-2016.
3. Minutes Brent Howard
 - 3.1. Approval of Minutes
 - 3.1.1. Susan Noort moved to approve the minutes; Verna Millington seconded ~ carried
 - 3.1.2. Brenda Blancher suggested that going forward, the committee minutes be reviewed by the Committee as Draft and taken to the Board as Draft. The committee was in agreement to accept this common practice.
 - 3.2. Business Arising from Minutes
 - 3.2.1. None.
4. Financial Report B.Blancher
 - 4.1. PRO Grants for 2015-16
 - 4.1.1. Awarded grants total \$18,375. Funds are to be spent by June 30, 2016 and all schools will need to complete an online report back to the Ministry of Education by July 15, 2016.
 - 4.1.2. Communications will promote all events and will post dates of events on this website page: [Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee \(GEPIC\)](#)
 - 4.2. The budget that comprises the 'Parent Engagement - Miscellaneous' that GEPIC uses for expenses and its own internal Grant program was reduced to \$4100.
5. Updates from the Board Table C.Sloat
 - 5.1. Carol Ann attended the meeting on behalf of the John Harris and Tom Waldschmidt. The Accommodation Review is finishing up in Dunnville, and the Accommodation Review for Norfolk Elementary schools will begin in January. The Ministry of Education has provided some funding for program updates in terms of capital improvements. Right now there is some thought about upgrading Kindergarten rooms that did not benefit from the Full Day Kindergarten retrofit funding and a focus on secondary school Hospitality Rooms but no decisions have been made yet. Many of our High School graduations have taken place, with the rest wrapping up in the next week.
6. Director's Update B.Blancher
 - 6.1. Final commencements are this week! Awards assemblies have also been taking place and many fall sports were enjoyed across the Board. Colonel Chris Hadfield presented at James Hillier in September, which was very exciting. Delhi Public School celebrated 125 years of a school being on that site (it is not the original school). Lifelong Learning Week took place in September;



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'World Teacher Day' was October 5th and 'Take Your Kid to Work Day' was November 4th.
Check out the director's blog, Grand Connections – you can find the link here - [Grand Connections | Director's Blog](#)

6.2. Bylaw 8 Terms of Reference

6.2.1. Bylaw 8 is up for review. Reg'n 330 of the Education Act directs how school councils and parent involvement committees shall work. The committee discussed our Terms of Reference and Brenda will rewrite 9.0 Role of the Board and bring back to our January meeting for review.

7. GEPIC Chair's Update

Brent Howard

7.1. No updates

8. Planning, Discussion and Sharing

S.McKillop

8.1. Spring Session March 2, 2016, Branlyn 6:15 pm

8.1.1. Gather ideas for the session and brainstorm at January meeting.

8.1.2. Brent will reach out to School Chairs via email.

8.2. GEPIC Grant Application and deadline

8.2.1. Business Services confirmed that any unspent grant monies from last year must be spent by December 31, 2015. Going forward, the funds must be spent by June 30th of each school year.

8.2.2. The deadline for this current year to submit an application will be January 11, 2016.

8.2.3. Shawn will send out the application November 6, 2015, it will all be done online.

8.2.4. The subcommittee will meet January 13, 2016 to review award applications and bring a summary to the meeting on January 21, 2016.

9. Other Business

9.1. None.

10. Dates 2015-2016

10.1. January 21, March 10, May 19, 2016