



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

November 27, 2014, 6:30 pm
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School

Chair: Brent Howard

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions J.Forbeck

- 1.1. John Forbeck, Brent Howard, Shawn McKillop, Brenda Blancher, Jackie Smith, Eva Dixon, Rita Collver, Tom Waldschmidt, Ronda Nix, Verna Millington, Sarah Nichol, Helen Maltby, David Lloyd, Patti Allan, Rachelle Lambert, Nancy Waldschmidt

2. Minutes B.Howard

- 2.1. Approval of Minutes
2.1.1. Nancy Waldschmidt moved to approve the minutes; David Lloyd seconded
~ carried
- 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes
None

3. Financial Report J.Forbeck

- 3.1. Financial Update
3.1.1. Printing costs for the School Council Kits have been included.
- 3.2. PROGrants for 2014-15
3.2.1. PRO Grant

4. Presentation/Learn B.Blancher and J.Smith

- 4.1. French as a Second Language (FSL) Presentation
The Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools' 10-year plan is a commitment to increase student confidence and proficiency in FSL and to increase the percentage of students studying FSL until graduation. The Framework's vision is "Students in English-language school boards have the confidence and ability to use French effectively in their daily lives." The document can be found [here](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/frameworkFLS.pdf).
(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/frameworkFLS.pdf>)

FSL programs include Core French (grade 4-8 and grade 9); Extended French, which starts in grade 4 and requires 25% of school day taught in French (currently GEDSB does not offer this program); and French Immersion, which is an alternative option for Boards and parents where the students receive their instruction in French. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students receive no formal instruction in English and there is a gradual increase in English instruction between Grades 2 and 8. By Grade 7, 50% of the students' instruction is in English, taught in French. A French Open course in Grade 9 is for students who have not met the minimum requirements of 600 hours of French coming out of elementary school. There are 3 Ministry goals as part of the FSL Framework:

1. Increase student confidence, proficiency, achievement in FSL;
2. Increase percentage of students studying FSL until graduation and;
3. Increase student, educator parent and community engagement in FSL – the reason for this presentation tonight.

Grand Erie DSB has set the following goals:

1. Increase percentage of students in Grade 9 Applied French who achieve the provincial standard from 52% to 60% by June 2017;
2. Increase student confidence in communicated in French through increased focus on oral interaction and increase percentage of Grade 7-9;



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3. Improve communication to parents regarding Core French and French Immersion and continue the work of aligning program delivery in single-track and dual-track French Immersion schools.

We are in the process of creating a parent survey for February 2015 for parents of students in grades 4-9 Core French and French Immersion.

5. Updates from the Board Table

T.Waldschmidt

Tom Waldschmidt recently attended Graduation Ceremonies at Delhi District Secondary School and Paris District High School, commenting that both were wonderful events. Eva Dixon shared highlights from her visit to Valley Heights Secondary School.

6. Director's Update

J.Forbeck

- 6.1. The Trustees that will be leaving our Board represent over 100 years of experience. Six new Trustees elected to the Board include John Harris and Diane Sowers for Norfolk County; Greg Anderson; Alex Felsky in Brantford; James Richardson for Haldimand; and Karen Sandy, Native Trustee. Best wishes to Eva Dixon as she embarks on new opportunities. Board Chair and Committee Chairs will be elected at the December 1st board meeting.

Debbie Fletcher, Assistant to the Board of Trustees, regularly sends Policies & Procedures out to School Chairs. Recently, Bylaw 9 has changed to a four-year cycle from three-year cycle. Policies and Procedures will be integrated over the next four years, making it easier for principals, parents, trustees! We look forward to your input when you receive emails from Debbie.

We are looking forward to the Student Senate online meeting next week, and the Director's Christmas Card Contest is in process.

A session was held November 19th on Social Media; it was very exciting to see so many school councils attend! We are in the midst of creating guidelines to help users navigate various social media applications.

Ministers' Advisory Committee is coming up – information has been sent to schools.

We purchased the book "Beyond the Bake Sale" for every school Principal, which is a great resource for parent engagement.

7. GEPIC Chair's Update

B.Howard

- 7.1. People for Education – Brent will forward the link via email

- 7.2. Ministers' Advisory Council information was sent out

- 7.3. Parents' Survey - Health and Physical Education Curriculum
The Ministry of Education will be updating the Health & Physical Education curriculum and have circulated a parent survey. Rachelle Lambert volunteered to complete the survey on behalf of GEPIC. After this consultation, the plan is to release the new curriculum for September 2015.

- 7.4. Grants from GEPIC

- 7.4.1. Subcommittee for Grant Requests

We will initiate the process we followed last year; Brent will head up creating a sub-committee; Verna, Patti, Nancy and Brent have agreed to sit on a sub-committee and create a rubric for scoring, or set criteria for the schools so they know ahead of time – could rank the criteria. Members will meet before the next meeting to create the framework for the grants. In February Shawn will send out information to schools.



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8. Planning, Discussion and Sharing

S.McKillop

8.1. Supporting School Councils

We engaged school councils in a survey regarding areas they want help from GEPIC. Walsh Public School has come forward and asked for assistance, Brent will reach out to Walsh. The committee has asked Shawn to resend the survey to the Chairs, and 'cc' the Principals in January. Respondents will have their name put in a draw for the chance to win a copy of the book "Beyond the Bake Sale".

8.2. School Council Leadership/Training Opportunities

One topic of interest to the committee is "setting up surveys regarding communication needs". John will inquire with Superintendent Wayne Baker regarding the parent survey option in 'Tell Them From Me', our new School Climate Survey program. John will bring the information back to the February meeting.

9. School Council Updates – Activities/Learning Connections

9.1. Verna Millington – Ecole Dufferin

Fundraising with McMillan's and planning the Lottery Calendar in January. Very large school council with 25-30 in attendance at meetings.

Verna Millington - BCI

Good parent group – looking at holding an Information Night on Concussions in March 2015.

Sarah Nichol – Walsh

Parent survey going out next week; planning turkey lunch and a Christmas open house with book fair.

Helen Maltby – Cobblestone

Activities for primary classes at night; pro-grant Chris D-Souza speaking to Inclusion was moved to May 2015

David Lloyd – TTSC

We held a significant event on November 7th for Remembrance Day. We dedicated a tree and memorial stone to a former student killed in action. Our new school council chair is passionate about concussions and is willing to speak to any groups, contact Dave if you are interested.

Patti Allan – Caledonia Centennial

The first of 3 'Engaging in the Arts Nights' was held November 4th. This PRO Grant event was led by Troy Sexton, a former member of STOMP. Students, staff and families enjoyed music, movement and fun.

Patti Allan – MPSS

We have a really active student council that looks after a lot of fundraising; parents and principal very engaged; drama night with over 200 parents attending; looking forward to a Christmas show; discussed EQAO at the last meeting; looking at "calculator-free Fridays"; discussed Twitter.

Rachelle – Teeterville

Poinsettia and Ginseng cheese fundraising underway; Christmas craft sale soon; turkey day December 11th.

Nancy Waldschmidt – Paris Central



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Paris Central School has had some successful fundraising initiatives. In conjunction with Christmas in Paris they held a vendor sale. The location is perfect as there are two Christmas in Paris venues within the same block, sharing our parking lot. We have also had a successful "Knit Wits" campaign, selling unique winter hats. Poinsettia sales have just begun, it's the first time we have tried this fundraiser.

Nancy Waldschmidt – PDHS

PDHS had a successful awards day and graduation ceremony. There is a lot of interest among school council parents to have an education component at our next meeting regarding the choices available to high school students, for example, SHSM's (Specialist High School Major).

Brent – SCS

Kate Jones spoke last week about Colours and how to understand your child's colour in relation to raising your children; turkey dinner is on December 19th ; looking forward to the "Little Shop of Horrors" musical in the new year; PRO Grant event in April - Ron Boris, Discipline Expert.

10. Other Business

- 10.1. A request has been made to have The Blackboard shared on the website. In the interim, Shawn will send The Blackboard to the GEPIC membership.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by Brent Howard.

12. Dates 2014-2015

- 12.1. February 5, 2015, May 21, 2015
- 12.2. Next meeting at Hagersville Secondary. Val will look into dates/rooms.