



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, May 29, 2014, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Norfolk School Support Centre  
227 Main Street South, Waterford ON N0E 1Y0

### MINUTES

*Chair: Brent Howard*

*Recorder: Valerie Slawich*

1. **Welcome and Introductions** ..... **B.Howard**  
John Forbeck, Brent Howard, Shawn McKillop, Eva Dixon, Carol Ann Sloat, Rachelle Lambert, Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, Jean Montgomery, David Lloyd, Patti Alan, Rita Collver, Verna Millington, Holly Knill-Horvath, Ronda Nix, Sarah Nichol
2. **Minutes** ..... **B.Howard**
  - 2.1. Approval of Minutes  
Tom Waldschmidt moved to accept the minutes; Eva Dixon seconded.
  - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes - None
3. **Financial Report** ..... **B.Howard**
  - 3.1. Update  
There is \$6,966.81 remaining; \$3600 has been allocated for Grants, leaving a balance of \$3366.81
4. **Updates from the Board Table** ..... **E.Dixon/T.Waldschmidt**  
Tom shared how Cayuga Secondary School's welding department is now a CWB certified welding test-site. All classes have gone through CWB and received a welding certificate. Students will graduate high school with a welding certificate! Tom attended the Careers Day at North Ward in Paris, where parents held approximately 35 workshops representing their professions.
5. **Director's Update** ..... **J.Forbeck**  
The Blackboard contains information regarding Policies and Procedures out for comment to the public and the Director's Report. Student Voice through Student Senate had an Environmental Symposium at Camp Trillium last week. Although the Mental Health events held by GEPIC in March and April had low attendance, they proved to be fabulous events for parents. June is a high-activity month for schools and at the Board level with our Annual Retirement Dinner on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Municipal Elections will be taking place in the fall of 2014 before our first meeting in October.
6. **GEPIC Chair's Update** ..... **B.Howard**  
Brent recently completed a survey that was sent to all PIC Chairs from People for Education. Future surveys may be brought to a GEPIC meeting for group effort.
7. **Planning, Discussion and Sharing**
  - 7.1. GEPIC Grants & Applications ..... **B.Howard**  
Fifteen applications were received and were vetted by a sub-committee of GEPIC members. Ten schools met the criterion, five did not. The expected criteria was that the request had to be related to Parent Engagement and education, and could not be a fundraiser. Next year, the implementation of a rubric will aid in awarding the funds. Tom thanked the sub-committee for their hard work. Brent will send a letter or email to all schools that submitted an application and Shawn will post a list on the website.



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### 7.2. Parent Symposium Reflections ..... S.McKillop

Survey feedback was very positive even though the attendance was low. We will aim to be more intentional with making connections with our schools by providing more support and advanced planning. We need to determine if these events serve the needs of our parents or if we need to review our future planning. Our schools are running more events which is targeting parents at individual schools, so we need to schedule GEPIC events around school events. We will ask Chairs at the orientation meetings in the fall how they would like GEPIC to support them.

### 7.3. 2014-2015 Initiatives ..... S.McKillop

### 7.4. Annual Operating Plan 2014-2015 ..... S.McKillop

GEPIC is committed to supporting School Councils. Two initiatives for the 2014-15 year include: GEPIC will support School Councils who identify as needing support as a result of a particular area of challenge. Support may include GEPIC members attending a School Council Meeting, facilitating a discussion on School Council best practices, co-hosting a school event or building on the items presented in the School Council Orientation Guide. GEPIC will continue to build the leadership capacity of School Council Chairs by providing training opportunities or information sessions on topics relevant to their needs. School Council Chairs will tell us what they want to learn in the fall School Council Orientation Session.

## 8. Recruitment/Membership ..... B.Howard

Members came forward to express interest in continuing Year Two of their current two-year term.

## 9. School Council Updates – Activities/Learning Connections

### Ronda Nix – Delhi District Secondary School

Summit was very good, a lot of information! The Parent Involvement Committee from Peel DSB is very organized, there is information available on their website on how they have developed. Great networking – GEDSB is very advanced as well

### Rachelle Lambert – Teeterville

The new principal for 2014-2015 will be Richard Leadbetter<sup>1</sup>. A small dip in enrolment may lead to split classes in September. The year-end BBQ is next week and the Ottawa grade 7&8 trip is coming up.

### Nancy Waldschmidt – Paris Central

Construction is well underway for Full Day Kindergarten! Fun fair and Grade 8 graduation coming up. Vesey Bulbs fundraiser raised almost \$1000!

### Jean Montgomery – Waterford District High School

There were lots of musical and sports clubs running in the spring, and graduation will be in June.

### Dave Lloyd – Tollgate Technical Skills Centre

A TTSC student was the recent gold winner for masonry in the Skills Canada Convention!

### Patti Allan – Caledonia Centennial

English-speaking enrolment is down, French-speaking enrolment is up. The school play was wonderful; the students' council raised \$2000 towards building a school in Kenya. We have submitted both a Pro Grant and a GEPIC application for the Arts. Spring events were the Annual Grandparent event, the

<sup>1</sup> As the result of Administrator movement in June, Ms. Andrea Smith was appointed Principal at Teeterville



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Science Fair, and graduation.

### **Sarah Nichol – Walsh**

The recent open house was well attended with the book fair.

### **Holly Knill-Horvath – Banbury Heights**

Busy with Grade 8 graduation and construction at school. The Amazing Race had 300+ participants and was very successful. 'Healthy Brave Hearts' participants went from room to room to complete a health/fitness-related task. Our new Principal for 2014-2015 is Holly Knill-Horvath!

### **Verna Millington – Ecole Dufferin**

Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will have an old fashioned family picnic in June at Mohawk Park instead of the usual fun fair; getting another portable.

### **Verna Millington – Brantford Collegiate Institute**

"Joseph" was a huge success! Prom is May 30<sup>th</sup>; Grade 8 parent night is June 9<sup>th</sup> – a forum to ask questions of students and parent council.

### **Brent – Simcoe Composite School**

Graduation has been moved to the fall; a student in the floral design recently won a competition in Waterloo from over 2400 participants this year!

## **10. Other Business**

Balance of \$3366.81 – Nancy moved to give \$200 to each high/moderate needs school; seconded by Patti Allan

## **11. Dates 2014-2015**

11.1. October 16, 2014; November 27, 2014; February 5, 2015; May 21, 2015