



GRAND ERIE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Dogwood Room - Waterford District High School

Chair: Tom Waldschmidt

Recorder: Wendy Hibbard

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present: Tom Waldschmidt, John Forbeck, Shawn McKillop, Rita Collver, Patti Allan, Scott Wilson, Kevin Wilson, Karen Suchinski, Eva Dixon, Jean Montgomery, Diane Burdiak, Katherine Hagan, Brent Howard, Verna Millington, Ronda Nix and guest, Gabrielle Glueheisen

Regrets: Theresa Robbins

2. Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes

Moved by Scott Wilson; seconded by Jean Montgomery that the minutes be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2.2 Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

3. Financial Report

J. Forbeck

The following chart indicates funding and expenses from the Regional Parent Reaching Out Grant for the Parent Symposium of March 31, 2012.

PRO Grant:	\$10,000
Total Symposium:	\$8,559.68
Difference/Remaining:	\$1,440.32

Expense	Budget	Actual
Transportation	\$4,200	\$3,697.37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Bus routes in total (\$1,030.57) Bus Bags (\$1,000.05) Bus Guides (\$1,666.75) 		
Childcare	\$1,000	\$961.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edukid's Day Care Centre of Norfolk 		
Age-appropriate programming for children	\$1,500	\$782.25

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloe the Clown • Tara Jenkins & Marty • Mad Science of Niagara 		
Promotion	\$500	\$226.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters 		
Advertising	Board contribution	n/a
Food and refreshments (PPM 150)*	\$1,500	\$1,500
Honourarium	\$500	\$350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donation to the Cancer Society (\$125 donation by the Director of Education) • Giftcards for presenters (17/\$350) 		
Custodial Services		\$0
Accessibility/Customer Service (Interpreters – sign and language)		\$0
Misc.	\$500	\$1,043.06
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photocopies (\$569.95) • Signage and misc. (\$145.26) • Supplies (\$102.85) • Flowers (\$225.00) 		
Remaining	\$300	n/a
TOTAL	\$10,000	\$8,559.68

There was discussion about how to spend the funding allocated to GEPIC that was put on hold at the December 8, 2011 meeting.

The committee dialogued about producing generic brochures to share the GEPIC message with all parents to explain the function of school councils, to promote and guide people to the website and to encourage general involvement in schools, i.e. volunteering. A draft of the brochure will be sent to the committee for approval. R. Collver, K. Hagan, P. Allan, N. Waldschmidt and R. Nix will be on the subcommittee to design the brochures.

4. Updates from the Board Table

- Budget meetings are scheduled for setting next year's budget.
- The Communication Audit Report is coming to the Board and will soon be posted on the Board website.
- Norfolk Secondary ARC goes to Board Monday, May 14, 2012.
- Board Chair, Rita Collver and Board Vice Chair, David Dean have visited ten School Councils. The experience has been extremely interesting and enjoyable and will start up again in the fall.
- Wendy Hibbard is retiring from the Board.

5. Director's Update

- The Director thanked the committee for their efforts in organizing the Parent Symposium.
- Education Week is taking place this week with a gala at the Sanderson Centre.
- EQAO begins May 23rd in elementary schools.

- J. Forbeck will be bringing Compensatory Education Report to the committee in deeper detail and create a steering committee for next year. Compensatory education is a way of leveling the playing field for schools and provide resources in an equitable way.
 - Building Parent Engagement Tool Kit was handed out and will be delivered to schools this week.
6. GEPIC Chair's Update
- T. Waldschmidt spoke about three new memos from the Ministry of Education:
- April 19 – new 34 Plus Credit Cap. J. Forbeck provided background. Funding for 34 plus credits will be at the continuing education rate. Summer school credits are exempt. Begins September 2014. Only successful credits count towards the total credits.
 - April 10th – Parent Reaching Out Grant applications are due June 8th. School councils may go online to access the application process.
 - May 4th – new Fundraising Guidelines to advise how school councils spend their funding with samples of unacceptable use.
 - T. Waldschmidt thanked each person on the committee for their help and support this year. Thanks to John, Rita and Shawn for all their hard work.
7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing
- 7.1 Feedback from the March 31st Parent Symposium.
- S. McKillop distributed a synopsis of the feedback received from the Parent Involvement Symposium. Of 157 people who registered, 99 people attended. Mary Jean Gallagher was a popular key note speaker. Mental health was a dominant theme, along with technology, and empowering parents to help their children with homework.
- Discussion about how to increase the advertising for next year included suggestions like synervoice and social media. The onus is on school council members to get the message out to parents. Organizations such as REACH or the CAS could also help to spread the word.
- Thank you to Jean Montgomery for doing an outstanding job.
- 7.2 School Council Annual Reports
- S. McKillop distributed a template to strengthen the school council annual report which needs to be submitted by June 22nd. This is a requirement as per the School Council Policy. Next year the template will be sent out earlier.
- 7.3 Review of Terms of Reference and Annual Operating Plan
- J. Forbeck reviewed the Terms of Reference and Operating Plan and highlighted things to pay attention to:
- The Chair of GEPIC will provide a report to summarize the year
 - Using a consensus
 - Minutes to be distributed and posted on the website
 - For a new school year, the chair is elected each year but can continue for another year. The term of a parent shall not exceed two years, however an extension may be approved by the committee.
 - For the Brant and Brantford areas, available positions on the committee may be posted.

- J. Forbeck will advise individuals in September to create the membership slate. There needs to be some consistency to see things through.

Annual Operating Plan

J. Forbeck reviewed the Operating Plan. There have been a number of accomplishments in terms of parent engagement. GEPIC needs to give more input into the development. There is a need to tap into social media communication. Parents want e-mail reminders and e-newsletters.

Please send any thoughts and ideas to J. Forbeck or S. McKillop.

Planning ahead for another parent conference will guide the work for the next year. However, individual Family of Schools meetings or other options could be discussed. GEPIC could work with the Equity and Inclusive Committee to plan speaker's series on various topics that would interest parents.

8. GEPIC Funding Options

8.1 Kindergarten Kits for Comp Ed Schools

Moved by Kevin Wilson; seconded by Ronda Nix to purchase Kindergarten bags for compensatory education schools at a cost of \$6,750.

CARRIED.

8.2 Welcome to School Council Kits

The purchase of bags for the school council training sessions in the fall and the cost of photocopying for these sessions could be done by August 31, 2012. Three sessions will be planned – one each for Simcoe area, Caledonia area and Brantford area. Parents from this committee to lead the sessions would be very effective.

Moved by Jean Montgomery and seconded by Brent Howard to put aside \$1,500.00 for promotion materials and the remainder to be used for School Council Kits.

CARRIED.

Please e-mail comments and ideas on Welcome to School Council Kits to S. McKillop, J. Forbeck or R. Collver.

9. School Council Updates

Valley Heights – Scott Wilson

- The French class are planning a trip to France and the Swiss Alps March Break 2013.
- Track and Field was held May 10th.

Walpole North – Karen Suchinski

- The school raised \$4,000 for Heart & Stroke
- Grandparents' Tea served by grade 8 students
- Fun Fair and Track and Field

Tollgate Tech – David Lloyd

- The Annual Spring sale at Tollgate Tech will be held on Saturday, May 12th.

Waterford District High School – Jean Montgomery

- Performed a successful production of Music Man – students from all grades participated.

Dufferin – Verna Millington

- Jump Rope for Heart raised \$11,000
- Write to Give – assembly at Sanderson Centre May 9th. Dufferin was awarded for the most funds raised for the Write to Give project which assists World Teacher Aid in Africa. This is an initiative started by Amy McLaren that involves students in literacy. They write books which are published by Scholastic.
- Brant Classic Run – the school has 55 runners participating this year in the 5 k run or 3 k walk.
- Swim to Survive program at Gretzky Centre

Caledonia Centennial – Patti Allan

- The second Mothers' Day Breakfast is on Saturday, May 12th.
- The annual Grandparents' Tea on Sunday, May 13th.
- Renovations have been made to the staff room.
- Chocolate bar sales made \$6,500.
- CPIP Grant was successful.
- Track and Field was held on May 10th.
- Jump Rope for Heart Campaign is on May 11th.

Burford District Elementary School – Darryl Casey

- During Education Week a large number of families have come into the school
- Open house with the choir
- Mother's Day Tea with Grandparents
- It has been a great week for parent engagement

Delhi Public School – Ronda Nix

- Indigo has approved a \$125,000 grant over the next 3 years for library and learning resources. This is a very significant accomplishment.
- Central in Brantford won an award as well.

Teeterville – Brent Howard

- Raffle will be held for Mother's Day and Father's Day
- Teeterville are holding their Fun Fair

Can school councils and Home and School Associations be combined? There are different rules that govern Home & School and school councils. The protocol with the Ministry of Education indicates different rules and regulations for provincial body. Fundraising money was separate and could be administered by members of Home and School. They are accountable to the board but are a third party organization. Schools could have meetings on the same night.

Paris Central – Tom Waldschmidt

- Open house for Education Week
- Hosting Broadway Night this evening – May 10th
- Purchased two iPads and are purchasing two more. Plans are to buy an iPad a month next year to complement netbooks.

10. Other Business – none

11. Dates of meetings for 2012-13. All meetings will be held in the Dogwood Room of Waterford District High School beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- October 11, 2012
- November 29, 2012
- February 21, 2013
- May 2, 2013

Chair T. Waldschmidt called the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.