



GRAND ERIE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Dogwood Room - Waterford District High School

Chair: Tom Waldschmidt

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** **J.Forbeck**

Present: John Forbeck, Shawn McKillop, Brent Howard, Nancy Waldschmidt, Patti Allan, Kim Rent, Ronda Nix, Holly Knill, Liz Laswick, Jean Montgomery, Kathy Jones, Tom Waldschmidt, Scott Wilson
- 2. Minutes** **J.Forbeck**
 - 2.1. Approval of Minutes
Jean Montgomery motioned to accept the October 11 minutes; seconded by Scott Wilson
CARRIED
 - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes
No new Business
- 3. Financial Report** **J.Forbeck**
 - 3.1. Extra PRO Grant received?
Mention of extra grant; members present do not know of any superfluous grants; Business Services will follow up. It was suggested that it may be a Regional Pro Grant.
 - 3.2. Financial update was reviewed, outlining costs up to date
- 4. Updates from the Board Table** **R.Collver/C.Lefebvre**
 - 4.1. Messages were combined with the Director's Update
- 5. Director's Update** **J.Forbeck**
 - Insurance Coverage through OSBIE: As a member you are covered under the School Board Policy therefore School Council Insurance is not required. There are 2 examples of when this extra Insurance is required: 1) If a School Council holds a dance on the weekend, after hours, and off-site as a fundraiser and you do not have the approval of the Principal as a school sanctioned event, then extra insurance is required, and; 2) School Council wants to run a team-building activity that is high-risk, then extra insurance is required.
 - PFLC – Parent Family Literacy Centre – announcement on our website regarding two new sites coming to Brantford!
 - Mental Health Lead has been hired
 - Accomplishments on our website
 - School In the News – each school has been assigned a date to upload stories etc. to share on the

- website. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn McKillop
- Labour Update on our website – Government (Funder), Employer (Trustees); Union (Employees). Most issues are between the government and the employees. The Employer has been left out of the equation, setting the stage for confusion. We are now in conciliation; letter out to OSSTF explaining the job sanctions: supervision and on-calls (APAs); Principals are providing the supervision required; all extra-curricular events are continuing at this time
- Government legislates what can and cannot be negotiated
- Elementary teachers will be in a legal strike position as of December 14. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario will give the school board 72 hours' notice on strike action. These will be rotating strikes with a Board-focus not a School-focus. If a deal is not in place by December 31, the government will impose a deal.
- Website will be current to keep parents updated

6. **GEPIC Chair's Update**

T.Waldschmidt

- 6.1. Letter from Minister
Package was emailed out to members from the Minister along with links and homework information. GEPIC's Membership list was reviewed and changes were noted.

7. **Planning, Discussion and Sharing**

S.McKillop

7.1. **Survey Results – School Council Orientation**

Sessions were very successful with 26 schools represented between both sessions. Focus was on the Chairs and Councils talking with each other. This structure was appreciated. Survey is very beneficial in providing the topics that parents want to discuss or learn more about. The survey provides direction in our planning for next year.

7.2. **Brantford Mental Health Updates**

7.2.1. Child and Youth Mental Health Summit Update

Tom and Brent attended the recent Summit. Comment was made that life is so busy that it is difficult for parents to see what their own children are being faced with. This could be a new initiative for GEPIC to explore. [Link not available.](#)

7.2.2. Mental Health Steering Committee Update

Ronda attended the two-day event which was excellent. There was excellent representation from both educational and wellness groups with a focus on youth wellness. Clara Hughes was a memorable speaker. Students would benefit from listening to Clara speaking about her own mental health issues. The Steering committee met last week and is still very much in the building block stage. Heather Carter has been hired as our new Mental Health Lead. Heather will be creating a survey to identify what services are in place and where any gaps are. GEDSB is very advanced of other schools boards with the program.

7.2.3. PSSP Conference Update

7.3. **Annie Kidder (Brant) and Saidat (Norfolk) Updates**

Brant – Tom and Nancy attended the Annie Kidder event, who spoke to real-life stories. Saidat was last night, and was attended by Brent. Both events well attended with about 40 guests at each. The majority felt the events were extremely useful with key topics. Annie Kidder spoke to succeeding in school. Saidat addressed anti-bullying and was very entertaining. Mental Health and cyber bullying were mentioned in the survey as well. Norfolk has two more events to take place (Sarah Cannon)

7.4. **Rainham Event (Haldimand) – Alison Cooke**

The topic will be "Achievement and Math Outside of the Classroom". This will be an April event kickoff with a speaker and short-venue of key messages. Classrooms will be set up where teachers will team-teach junior, primary, and intermediate levels of math. Understand math terminology will be covered with a take-away for parents. Alison hopes to use new technology. There are plans for a Homework helpline for intermediate to high school parents. Holly will send the Glossary of Math to Alison to cross-reference with the Board Glossary

7.5. **Mental Health Event (Brantford)**

Looking into options for Mental Health Week, which is the first week of May; Sarah Westbrook is an option, as well as Michael Landsberg from TSN

- 7.6. Tom asked if there will be any more GEPIC funding available to support some of these events. Schools could apply to the group with their rationale and how much. We can add a section to our agenda for our next meeting. Applications would be reviewed at a meeting followed by a vote. GEPIC could set a pre-set amount ie. \$1000/event; there are 4 events and have a proposal deadline. GEPIC will need to determine the criteria for future. An application/template for groups that had events this year could be drafted for them to request extra financial support.

8. **Resources**

S.McKillop

8.1. **Transition Guide**

This is a new guide revitalizing an old publication that we had. Haldimand just completed their transition nights and these were made available. Brant/Brantford and Norfolk transition nights are in January and they will also get this booklet.

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

Greenbrier/Russell Reid – Liz Laswick

- Russell Reid-amalgamation is complete and doing well
- Greenbrier-Spec Ed programs are geared towards children's needs at various stages; progress is seen with ADHD/ADD/Autism; technology in the classrooms is a big advantage for some students; biggest challenge is parental engagement

Caledonia Centennial – Kim and Patti Allan

- Joined in Parade and was very successful
- light-up night last weekend as a fundraiser
- Rita and David attended School Council meeting
- Science Fair in January
- Set annual goals – parent engagement, community events, fundraising; CPIP on track

WDHS – Jean Montgomery

- Social Justice Committee that some students initiated themselves and collected for food bank; drew a new member at School Council
- Fundraising
- added support through Healthy Communities/H-N Health Unit

Port Rowan – Stefanie Carroll

- Work on bringing people and events to the school
- Science In Schools for every class
- Reptile Guy coming

Paris Central – Nancy Waldschmidt

- New fundraising committee with initiatives that don't ask for parental finances! Clothing Drive is \$200/ton; bingo
- Canadian Tire money tree (decorate Christmas Tree) whatever the value of the tree is you do a raffle for – may get assistance from the local store

PDHS – Nancy Waldschmidt

- Met with feeder schools prior to the Annie Kidder event. Principals put together ideas of things to share with the grade 8 students
- Student Council went to OLIC secondary Leadership Conference
- Graduation was in November
- Chair at LPM Dec. 11 wrapping gifts

Teeterville - Brent Howard

- How can we share fundraising ideas between schools?
- Poinsettia drive was up 75% over last year
- H&S put on a pancake breakfast for students, donations that came back went to the Breakfast

- program at the school
- Craft Sale December 4
- Christmas Turkey Dinner December 11 with great sponsors from community;

DDSS - Ronda Nix

- Turkey Dinner Dec.5 Wednesday at German Hall
- Winter Fair last week was successful with \$700 raised through donation of toys, penny table, popcorn
- Calendar fundraiser net \$8000 and want to build on for a CPIP application
- Teachers happily spending Indigo Grant money

VHSS - Scott Wilson

- Raising money for football/soccer field scoreboard
- mascot costume fundraiser; grade 8 breakfast – all feeder schools come to the high school
- PRO Grant \$5000 apprenticeship night to share information with parents February 12 – Gloria Thomas organizing

10. Other Business

Conflict with next meeting and SCS event “Todd Cunningham”; please change next meeting date – val will book a room

11. Tom Waldschmidt called the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

12. Next Meeting: February 28, 2013 @ 6:30 pm in the Carolinian Room (Dogwood Room not available)