



## GRAND ERIE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Carolinian Room - Waterford District High School**

Chair: Tom Waldschmidt

Recorder: Wendy Hibbard

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

**J. Forbeck**

Present: John Forbeck, Shawn McKillop, Eva Dixon, Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, David Lloyd, Ronda Nix, Patti Allan, Brent Howard, Jean Montgomery, Rita Collver, Holly Knill, Verna Millington

#### 2. Minutes

**T. Waldschmidt**

##### 2.1. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Patti Allan, seconded by Jean Montgomery that the minutes of November 29, 2012 be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

##### 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes

John Forbeck investigated the issue of Inflatable Bouncy Houses used at schools. The message from OSBIE is that bouncy houses not be allowed. The Board needs to follow OSBIE's recommendations.

#### 3. Financial Report

**S. McKillop**

##### 3.1. Updated Report

Spreadsheet outlining the financial report was distributed. There is a healthy balance which is not uncommon for GEPIC at this time of year.

##### 3.2. School Funding Requests

The principals of PRO Grants have been surveyed to determine if any have requests to top up their PRO grants in the range of \$500. The following schools replied:

- Paris District High School - \$379
- Simcoe Composite – \$550 for their anti-bullying program (SAIDAT). R. Nix and S. McKillop will clarify with principal on amount needed.
- Mental Health symposium – \$500 Central Public School
- Healthy Parents Support Learning at Home - \$500 Jarvis Public School

Total amount allocated at this time is \$1,929.

Moved by Ronda Nix; seconded by Brent Howard that the requests from schools be approved.

CARRIED

#### 4. Updates from the Board Table

**E. Dixon/B. Johnston**

Rita Collver advised that the Board is getting ready to deliberate budget. The Board would like to see program initiatives going ahead, i.e. Parent and Family Literacy.

J. Forbeck made some announcements from the Ministry:

- Additional funding for safe schools in the amount of \$3100 for each school for cameras at the front door and locks for entry doors for those schools who don't have them. There will be changes to entry doors in the spring.
- Some funding from the government for items of interest, i.e. Technology for Care, Treatment and Corrections, Safety in Schools – including training for staff, and Suicide Prevention.

## **5. Director's Update J.Forbeck**

- Board policies are out for consultation to GEPIC and School Councils
- Job Action – the Board is working on what imposed contracts by the Ministry will mean for staff. Significant withdrawal of student activities has taken place. OSSTF announced that extra activities would commence - this is where the teachers want to be.
- ETFO are withholding activities. A statement from the Board will be in the media tomorrow. Discussion took place about the differences between OSSTF and ETFO.
- Discussion about elementary teacher strike that was cancelled in January.

## **6. GEPIC Chair's Update T.Waldschmidt**

- 6.1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PIC Symposium is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. More information is coming and will be forwarded to committee members.
- 6.2. Discussion around snow days.

## **7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing**

**S.McKillop**

- 7.1. Rainham Event (Haldimand)  
Avis Glaze - Student Achievement Division, has been confirmed as guest speaker on how parents can help their child/ren at home. The event, which will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup>, will be promoted to Haldimand schools by school council members. The focus for the event is Student Achievement. More information will be coming. Avis Glaze will be speaking to school administrators in the afternoon of May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Joseph Brant Learning Centre.
- 7.2. Mental Health Event (Brantford)  
There is interest in a Mental Health symposium to support parents in terms of wellness – to promote the wellness side of mental health and to develop strategies for parents. Ten schools across the Board have been chosen as Mental Health champion schools. Central school is a compensatory education school and a champion school for the Board's Mental Health strategy. Jeff Senior, Principal of Central School and Ronda Nix, Chair and GEPIC representative, are involved in the planning. Additional funds will be made available to offer child care programming, bussing and dinner. Central school has a partnership with a church, and they will be providing the food. The date being considered is May 1<sup>st</sup> with Education Week being celebrated the following week. The focus of Education Week will also be Mental Health. This is a Brantford event, but anyone is welcome to attend. The focus is on compensatory education schools. GEPIC is supporting this event with a \$500 contribution. J. Montgomery stated that Mental Health Week is in May and Mental Illness Week is in October. These are two different things.
- 7.3. Feedback on Parent Volunteering Barriers  
J. Forbeck asked the committee to share experiences and information around volunteers – what are the barriers faced?
  - 7.3.1. Police checks – school secretaries and administrators need to know the proper procedures to follow as each police department handle the checks differently.
  - 7.3.2. Day Care – older students taking care of children while parents were involved in meetings, etc. isn't condoned by insurance. John will look into getting a deeper

understanding on how to meet some of the insurance challenges to overcome barriers.

- 7.3.3. Cliques – new people don't feel welcome. Orientation for new members would include a session on code of conduct.
- 7.3.4. Ecole Dufferin has forms that are coloured for new volunteers to complete with areas of interest and returned to the school.
- 7.3.5. Meet the Teacher Night provides an opportunity for parents to complete forms indicating skills and interests. These would then be collated and the parents would be contacted by the principal.
- 7.3.6. Orientation may be the key to breaking down barriers.
- 7.3.7. Schools participate in celebrating and honouring volunteers at the end of the year.
- 7.3.8. Some schools have official rules about parents volunteering in their own child's classroom.
- 7.3.9. Awareness in community of particular activities in secondary schools to match interests including time slots.
- 7.3.10. Volunteering seniors is important in a small community. Students show respect to hall walkers.
- 7.3.11. The Volunteer Policy is going to Board for review next month.

## 8. Resources

S. McKillop

- 8.1. Kindergarten Guide  
S. McKillop provided handouts – Preparing for Kindergarten kit which matches the Transition Guide for High School. These are two key transitions in parents' and child's life.
- 8.2. Director's Annual Report – this annual report goes out to the community. These documents are updated every year and can be found on the Board website under 'Schools' and 'School Registration'.

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

- 9.1 **Paris Central** - has finished the first block of Strong Start. The chocolate bar drive is on target. Bingo night fundraiser. Clothing drive for Earth Day - \$200/ton.
- 9.2 **Paris District High School** is looking forward to resuming normal activities.
- 9.3 **Elgin and Langton (and possibly Courtland)** - schools have signed up with the Bingo Hall in Simcoe – once a month each school will receive 1/30<sup>th</sup> of the take.
- 9.4 **Tollgate Tech** - had a good turnout for their Grade 8 Parent Information Night which had a station-type format. There were video and display boards. All Magnet Programs were profiled on the Board website, including students from other schools participating in Magnet Programs.
- 9.5 **Waterford District High School** - is getting back to normal. Students are looking forward to their semi-formal, prom and musical production. Students donated money to the community through fundraising. SITS trainer from Valley Heights and Delhi. An elementary teacher came to be trained for the first time. This was a positive experience. Green initiative – school collected old electronics from the community.
- 9.6 **Caledonia Centennial PS** - has a new principal who is doing a good job. Appreciation lunch for teachers was held; chocolate bar campaign is wrapping up; Guinness Book of World Records for science fair; series of Literacy Nights for early years to grade 6 is going well.
- 9.7 **Teeterville** – School Council and Home and School have combined. Pancake breakfast raised \$480 for the breakfast program at school. Chocolate for Easter fundraiser. Rain barrels [www.rainbarrel.ca](http://www.rainbarrel.ca) preorder on line – distribution day is April 20<sup>th</sup>. This is advertised in Lakeshore Shopper and other media.
- 9.8 **Delhi District SS** – Chocolate bar campaign is wrapping up. Ontario Skills Competition in the forestry category takes place in May. Ronda Nix has retired as chair of Delhi's School Council.
- 9.9 **Ecole Dufferin** – SAIDAT for kids was enjoyed. Mike Ford gave a presentation in French on

Canadian history. Yuk Yuk's fundraiser will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Dufferin School. JK/SK will begin all day every day schedule in September 2013.

- 9.10 **Banbury Heights** - Reading Rocks presented a video on the importance of reading. A variety of people were in attendance to do a reading. Volunteers cooked pancakes. Each child left with a new book bought by school council. During Education Week there will be an Amazing Race Math event.

## **10. Other Business**

- 10.1. No other business

## **11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

## **12. Next Meeting: May 2, 2013, 6:30 pm**