



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 17, 2013, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Norfolk School Support Centre  
227 Main Street South, Waterford ON N0E 1Y0

### MINUTES

Chair: Tom Waldschmidt

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

J.Forbeck

Eva Dixon, Rachelle Lambert, Patti Allen, Katherine Hagan, Nancy Waldschmidt, Kevin Wilson, Dave Lloyd, Holly Knill-Horvath, Brent Howard, Ronda Nix, Shawn McKillop, John Forbeck, Tom Waldschmidt, April Bird, Rita Collver (Ex-Officio), Jean Montgomery

#### 2. GEPIC Slate of Members

J.Forbeck

##### 2.1. Election of Chair

- Ronda Nix was nominated for position as Chair. Ronda respectfully declined.
- Tom Waldschmidt was nominated as Chair; Tom accepted the nomination and will continue as Chair of GEPIC for a two-year term (2013-2015)

#### 3. Minutes

T.Waldschmidt

##### 3.1. Approval of Minutes

- Eva Dixon moved to approve the minutes; Patti Allen seconded with a unanimous vote

##### 3.2. Business Arising from Minutes

- None

#### 4. Financial Report

J.Forbeck

##### 4.1. Final Report for 2012-13

- Parent Reaching Out Grant final report was reviewed; a request for a final report for the GEPIC Central account for 2012-13 was requested; we can include this final report in the future

##### 4.2. Budget for 2013-2014

- Opening budget \$9000 for GEPIC to support parent involvement in schools; also supports school council kits and orientation nights

##### 4.3. Parent Reaching Out Grants for 2013-14

- Total Parent Reaching Out Grants received for current year is \$25,532.00

#### 5. Updates from the Board Table

E.Dixon

Eva Dixon attended the Day of Dignity at the Joseph Brant Learning Centre. Students celebrated diversity, creativity, and shared ideas on keeping schools safe and inclusive. The schools had different programs designed for their own school. Students will come back in April for a follow-up day of dignity. THINK Campaign (true, helpful, information, necessary, kind) will begin at schools in the next few weeks.

#### 6. Director's Update J.Forbeck

##### 6.1. School Council Orientations

- The orientations were well attended by both experienced and new school councils. We can learn from listening to their opinions as expressed in the School Council Information Survey.
- We will be sending the Blackboard to all School Councils via email.
- Haldimand County Secondary School ARC will begin in November. A list of options and starting point recommendations will be presented for the ARC Committee to consider.



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### 7. GEPIC Chair's Update

T.Waldschmidt

- 7.1. Please start thinking about workshops, support and resources for this year. We will discuss ideas at the November meeting.
- 7.2. Follow up information from meeting last April: there is an extra Safe Schools Kit available "We All Belong" from COPA, funded by the Ministry of Education. Please contact Nancy if you are interested.
- 7.3. Opening of Lakewood Elementary was wonderful, the school looks beautiful.
- 7.4. School Orientation Nights were well attended and enjoyed. In many cases, schools were represented by 2 guests but in the future we will remind everyone that the Chair can bring a guest.

### 8. Planning, Discussion and Sharing

S.McKillop

- 8.1. Multi-Year Plan Video viewing
- 8.2. Parent Engagement Annual Operating Plan
  - Review the AOP to identify action items – we want to encourage parent engagement
  - Ideas for workshops can be taken from the survey – mental health; math or curriculum night; building a volunteer team
- 8.3. GEPIC Funded Grant for parent engagement – bring thoughts back to the next meeting

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

#### Teeterville – Rachelle

FD ELK started this year; new kitchen; Smart Boards almost complete; breakfast program is every day.

#### Caledonia Centennial - Patti Allan

School cash online just set up for parents to make choices to transfer funds to the school; new members on Council; sports uniforms; stage kit is in; November 25 at 6:30 at MPSS Marion Small is guest speaker, Patti will send flyer out to GEPIC.

#### Paris Central – Nancy Waldschmidt

Secretary retired, new secretary in place; many changes in school council, chair retired and new parents joining; school-wide taking part in JUMP math

#### PDHS – Nancy

New principal, school off to a great start!

#### Kevin

Dreamwalker for Aboriginal students was well attended at the Tim Horton's Camp in St. George; students enjoyed the games, events, and food.

#### TTSC – David Lloyd

Rita Collver and Dave Dean attended the grade 9 parent event, it was a dinner format and well attended; focused on parent engagement; discussed one-way text messaging Remind101 to get up to date school information to parents.

#### Banbury Heights – Holly Knill-Horvath

Meet the teacher BBQ served by Strodes was well attended; council chair discussing Amazing Race event from last year; will keep same format but change name to "Healthy Brave Hearts" to tie into health and nutrition.



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### Seneca Central – April Bird

For six weeks on Wednesdays, yoga classes are being offered for all students – they are loving it!; art club after school for a fee – a professional artist comes in and runs it; trying to increase positive behaviour; sending grade 7 students to Leadership Camp; fundraisers are cookie/muffins but would like to change it up to more healthy choices; will attend the breakfast program at JL Mitchener to learn more about it; grade 8 planning a garage sale for trip to Quebec City; council is looking for ways to show cash flow.

### CSS – April Bird

Mr. Carruthers new principal; first open forum for ARC November 21<sup>st</sup>; discussing PRO Grants and possibility of trip to Westfield.

### Simcoe Composite – Brent Howard

PRO Grant meeting; Kate Jones and her husband came and did the presentation “Colours” and helped identify their children’s colour; related colour to how to help with homework; next meeting is October 26<sup>th</sup> and looking at the theme “Stress”.

### Delhi Public – Ronda Nix

Walkathon fundraiser raised \$7000; working towards additional pieces of playground equipment; meet the teacher BBQ was successful.

## 10. Other Business

### 10.1. Childcare at Council meetings

- Insurance is required but very costly
- Could we engage before and after school programs? Extend another hour to cover the meeting?  
Council could pay the 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider directly
- John will take it away to discuss with Superintendent Brenda Blancher

## 11. Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 8:20 pm

## 12. Dates 2013-2014

- ### 12.1.
- November 14; February 27; May 22