



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

October 22, 2020, 6:30 pm

MS Teams

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### MINUTES

**Present:** JoAnna Roberto, Kimberly Newhouse, Lisa Munro, Yvan Brochu, Barkev Poladian, Nancy Norton, Eva Dixon, Susan Gibson, Carol Ann Sloat, Rita Collver, Sarah Nichol, Jenn Smith, Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, Jean Montgomery, Diane Morris, Patricia Hammond, Jamie Maillet, Jess Tupein, Kara Haist, Marcia Lewis, L. Lanigan, Christopher McGrath, Shannon Bradfield, Adele Churchill, Amber Gillen, Paula Cavan, Megan Allen, Melissa Mummery, Michelle Starratt

**Regrets:** Tiffany Knight-Leegstra

**Recorder:** Valerie Slawich

#### A - 1 Opening

(a) Welcome

- J. Roberto welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

#### B - 1 GEPIC Slate of Members

(a) Election of Chair

- J. Smith nominated S. Nichol for Chair.
- In the absence of other nominations, S. Nichol was acclaimed as Chair of GEPIC for 2020-21. The group congratulated Sarah with a round of applause.

#### C - 1 Minutes

(a) Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2020

- J. Smith moved, and A. Churchill seconded approval of the minutes.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- Fundraising

#### D - 1 Financial Report

(a) GEPIC Budget

- The GEPIC budget this year is \$9,299, which includes the \$5000 base grant. Each school also receives \$500 for parent engagement.

(b) Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for 2020-21

- J. Roberto reviewed changes to the process for this year again. It is no longer an application process by schools but instead Grand Erie received \$15,958.38 for PRO Grants this year.

#### E - 1 Updates from the Board Table

(a) E. Dixon shared that she's glad to be back in the boardroom and Grand Erie will have an application process for a new trustee.

S. Gibson recognized the hard work of our Administration and staff to get our schools ready for our students. Administrators have worked closely with families to keep their children safe.



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R. Collver commented that graduation ceremonies are virtual, schools are doing an excellent job. R. Collver shared that St. George-German recently celebrated their acceptance into the [Incubator Path program](#) through the Microsoft Showcase School Program and the Mohawk College on a [Climate Change Initiative](#) where students will learn how to measure the impact of energy consumption. It leverages the work with ECO Schools and help create co-operative opportunities for our students.

### F - 1 Director's Update

- J. Roberto, Director of Education, welcomed L. Munro, Superintendent of Education to provide an update on our Virtual Learning Academy.
- The Virtual Learning Academy has 3200 elementary students or 129 classes; and 1150 secondary students.
- The new Grand Erie Mobile App. was introduced.
- COVID-19 pandemic updates are reported to board regularly.
- The New Math Curriculum is a 4-year strategy and includes coding, social emotional learning and financial literacy.
- The Roadmap document was shared from SEAC and provides information on various processes. It will be made available on the Grand Erie website.

### G - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update

#### (a) GEPIC Grant Summary 2019-20

- S. Nichol shared that we held 3 successful events last year before COVID-19 interrupted the plans made by number of schools.

#### (b) GEPIC Grant Application and Deadline

- K. Newhouse suggested the grant applications are delayed until January. S. Gibson reminded the group that we should consider using virtual technology to allow guest speakers and to reach more families in our communities. =

### H - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

#### (a) School Council Orientation

- A Microsoft TEAMS meeting date was set for November 24 for the Orientation and will focus on creating a list of guest speakers. M. Mummery questioned if MS TEAMS offers the ability to have individual rooms with timed agendas to hold virtual brainstorming sessions.
- [https://granderie.ca/application/files/2516/0078/5343/MS\\_Teams\\_Quick\\_Start\\_Guide\\_-\\_Students\\_and\\_Parents.pdf](https://granderie.ca/application/files/2516/0078/5343/MS_Teams_Quick_Start_Guide_-_Students_and_Parents.pdf)

#### (b) Ideas for PRO Grant funds in 2020-21

- Last year we had decided to use some funding to develop a video to replace a spring event that would help with school council recruiting as a resource to parents and schools.

#### (c) Opportunities for Virtual Speaker Series

- Mental Health support, especially during this pandemic; Indigenous Education; Online safety and security; bullying; social media; financial literacy; VIP program (Values, Influences and Peers); anti-racism; LGBTQ. We will begin to formulate prospective speakers from this list and can continue brainstorming at our January meeting.



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(d) Fundraising

- L. Munro explained that due to Health & Safety protocols fundraising was on pause. And schools are looking at different ways to determine types of fundraising. J. Roberto explained that schools can leverage school cash online to alleviate collecting money, if accessible to everyone in school communities.

**I - 1 Other Business**

- (a) R. Collver shared today's preliminary announcement that Grand Erie District School Board has been given approval to build a [new elementary school](#) to include a library and community centre in Southwest Brantford and recognized MPP Will Bouma and the City of Brantford.

**J - 1 Future Meeting Dates**

- (a) January 14, 2021; March 4, 2021; May 13, 2021

**K - 1 Adjournment**

Moved by: N. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Montgomery

THAT the GEPIC meeting be adjourned at 8:39 pm.

**Carried**