



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

May 2, 2019, 6:30 pm
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School, Waterford

MINUTES

Present: Chair Sarah Nichol, Brenda Blancher, Susan Gibson, Eva Dixon, Yvan Brochu, Nancy Waldschmidt, Jean Montgomery, Tiffany Knight-Leegstra, Jen Smith, Rita Collver,

Regrets: Tom Waldschmidt, Kimberly Newhouse, Barkev Poladian

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

A - 1 Opening **B. Blancher**

(a) Welcome

- Brenda welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

B - 1 Minutes **S. Nichol**

(a) Approval of Minutes

- Nancy Waldschmidt moved, and Tiffany Knight-Leegstra seconded to approve the March 7, 2019 minutes.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

C - 1 Financial Report **B. Blancher**

(a) GEPIC Budget

- The GEPIC budget remains unchanged.

D - 1 Updates from the Board Table **E. Dixon/S. Gibson**

(a) Eva Dixon attended the Eco Conference which showcased speaker Hannah Alper, a blogger on environmental issues; the breakfast program hosted by the Children's Nutrition Network (Haldimand-Norfolk) last week; and today attended the amazing Education Week Gala at the Sanderson Centre. Susan shared the recognition at the board meeting Monday, of J. Potts, a student from Tollgate Technical Skills Centre who recently returned home to Brantford from competing in the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi. Trustee Gibson also thoroughly enjoyed the Paul Davis presentation at North Park Collegiate on April 16th and listening to Dr. Jean Clinton on April 30th.

E - 1 Director's Update **B. Blancher**

Some highlights since the last meeting:

April 11th Elementary Eco Conference at Camp Trillium

The Grand Erie District School Board strives to create environmentally responsible teaching and learning environments for all. As part of this effort, Facility Services hosts an annual Environmental Youth Symposiums alternating years for both elementary and secondary students.

April 10th - International Day of Pink

The *Day of Pink* is the *International Day* against Bullying, Discrimination, Homophobia, Transphobia, and Transmisogyny across the world.

April 16th - GEPIC Spring Event – Wednesday April 16, 2019



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Topic: Social Networking and Online Safety; 139 people in attendance, lots of positive feedback

April 25th - our Student Trustees hosted the last Student Senate Meeting of this school year and we had an election for the 2019-20 Student Trustees representing the South of Grand Erie as both the representative for the North and the Indigenous Student Trustee were acclaimed – a report is going to the Board on May 13th

Tonight – the fifth annual Rainbow Ball is being held. Building on the positive momentum of previous years, Delhi District Secondary School will be host to this event, welcoming LGBTQ students and allies from across Grand Erie to the semi-formal dance for an evening to reinforce to all students that they are celebrated, supported and appreciated.

Today - Education Week Gala – our Education Week Kick Off took place today at the Sanderson Centre showcasing the talents of our Grand Erie students, MC'd by our Student Trustees Alex, Jayden and Ashley.

Grants for Student Needs – Memorandum received on April 26th – high level, no detail by board – sifting through this. Waiting for the GSN Technical Paper which will provide board-specific funding so we can compare revenue to expenses as we work towards a balanced budget.

Coming Up

Education Week – May 6 – 10 – the theme is *Feeling Well, Mind, Body and Spirit* to coincide with Mental Health Week – great connection to our Multi-Year Plan Well-Being indicator.

May 6th - The Grand Opening of the Central Public School in Brantford – Learning Commons

May 10th – the official Grand Opening of Mapleview Elementary School in Dunnville

Public Budget Meetings with Trustees – first was on April 25th, next are May 22nd and June 4th at the Education Centre in the Board Room – depending on when our detailed information is received, these dates may change.

F - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

(a) See below

G - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

B. Blancher

(a) PRO Grants Update

- Val will send out reminders tomorrow to submit receipts for reimbursement

(b) GEPIC Grants Update

- GEPIC members continue to follow up with schools about spending grant money
- Val will send out reminders as well for GEPIC Grant recipients to submit their receipts

(c) Spring Session Reflection "Paul Davis" April 16, 2019

- Exit Survey results attached; feedback received was very positive
- It was suggested that we add the question "how did you hear about this event" to the exit survey to provide insight on which forms of advertising are working best

(d) October School Council Orientation – proposed date next year is Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Waterford District High School

- We will share the Parent Portal – it will allow parents to go online through PowerSchool to check their children's attendance, marks, and to access BrightSpace to see what the teacher is posting in the classroom if the teacher is using this platform. More information will be available in the coming months.



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- The format for the evening could begin with a general presentation (Parent Portal), then breakout groups to discuss similar topics from last year. At the session last fall, secondary schools requested to be grouped together.
- (e) Ideas for events in 2019-20
- Parent Bill of Rights
 - Anxiety and Behaviour – how to support parents at home to align with what is happening in schools to enable continuity. Grand Erie staff could serve as guest speakers
 - Anxiety/depression (allowing your child to fail), self-regulation, conflict resolution (child to child)
 - Individual schools could choose from a list of speakers or we could offer all speakers at one central location and offer live webinar or Facebook Live or Stream
 - Schools could host a live viewing for parents that night or have a viewing at a later date
 - Will need to consult ITS to work out logistics
 - Ted X Event?

H - 1 Other Business

- (a) None

I - 1 Dates 2018-19

- (a) October 24, 2019; January 16, 2020; March 5, 2020; May 14, 2020