



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 16, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School, Waterford

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### MINUTES

**Present:** Nancy Waldschmidt, Sarah Nichol, Jen Smith, Eva Dixon, Susan Gibson, Brenda Blancher, Jean Montgomery, Yvan Brochu

**Regrets:** Barkev Poladian, Tiffany Knight-Leegstra

**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

- N. Waldschmidt moved, and J. Smith seconded approval of the October minutes.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

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

(a) GEPIC Budget 2019-20

- Current balance is \$9,308.00

(b) PRO Grant Budget 2019-20

- \$17,000 was allocated towards GEPIC Grants

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

(a) E. Dixon shared that this past Monday night, Trustees accepted the resignation of Brenda Blancher for the purposes of retirement. Her last day on the job is July 31, 2020. E. Dixon also shared that Bloomsburg Public School collected clothing to send to Haiti, and; Lynndale Heights Public School held a candy sale called "Koala-ty Treats" with all proceeds going to Australia.

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

(a) The Director's Annual Report for 2018-19 was posted on the Grand Erie website in December – this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and highlights stories from the 2018-19 school year from across the system connected to our MYP.

(b) Kindergarten registration for September 2020 is now in full swing at all elementary schools.

(c) January 20<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day for our elementary students; Term 1 is finishing up and teachers will be working on assessment and evaluation.

(d) Future Grade 9 Student and Parent nights began to take place at the end of November at our secondary schools and continue this month with the final sessions taking place this evening; we are finishing up Semester 1 in our secondary schools and preparing for Semester 2.

(e) Final exams for our secondary school students start on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with Semester 2 beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

(f) Secondary school students will begin to choose their courses for 202021 in the next month



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(g) **Some highlights since our last meeting:**

- **Opening of the Learning Commons at Houghton Elementary** – December 19th
- **English: Contemporary Aboriginal Voices, Grade 11, (NBE3U) (NBE3C) and (NBE3E)**  
Starting next fall, the English course that Grand Erie students take in Grade 11 will feature Indigenous content and Indigenous authors. Understanding contemporary First Nations, Metis and Inuit voices will be the focus of the course, which includes updated curriculum from the Ministry of Education.
- The decision to focus on Indigenous content and Indigenous authors aligns with Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, Success for Every Student, through the Equity Indicator and its work to promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included.

(h) **Job Action – Impacts on Schools  
Elementary**

- Teachers not doing field trips or extra-curricular activities including tournaments scheduled during the day.
- Teachers not completing report cards – only providing a list of marks by subject area to the Principal.
- Rotating strikes – Grand Erie Elementary Teachers and dECE's are participating in a full withdrawal of services on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Secondary**

- Semester 1 Final Reports – will be marks only, no comments, Learning Skills will be provided.
- Rotating strikes have taken place – Grand Erie has been impacted on 2 days – December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Grand Erie Secondary Teachers and Professional Support Staff – all OSSTF members are participating in a full withdrawal of services on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**F - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update**

**S. Nichol**

(a) **GEPIC Grant Application and Deadline**

- S. Nichol has sent emails to successful schools; supporting documents and reporting information will be sent out from V. Slawich within the next few weeks.

**G - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing**

**K. Newhouse**

(a) **Ideas for Spring Events 2020**

- During discussions about event topics, members recognized that with the current job action environment we may want to consider alternatives to holding the three separate events. The members agreed to investigate producing a video focussed on family engagement. Engagement can include many things from reading to your children, to volunteering on School Council and GEPIC. With any remaining funds, we will create a print campaign in multiple languages to encourage parent involvement in schools and update the GEPIC recruitment campaign.



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### H - 1 Other Business

- None.

### Adjournment

Moved by N. Waldschmidt and S. Gibson that the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 pm. Motion approved.

### I - 1 Dates 2019-20

- (a) March 5, 2020; May 14, 2020