



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 11, 2018, 6:30 pm

Dogwood Room

Waterford District High School, 227 Main Street South, Waterford

Chair: Sarah Nichol

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

B. Blancher

Present: Brenda Blancher, Kimberly Newhouse, Tom Waldschmidt, Sarah Nichol, Leanne Smith, Nancy Waldschmidt, Brent Howard, Jen Smith, Jean Montgomery, Andrea Riddoch

2. Minutes

S. Nichol

2.1. Approval of October 26, 2017 Minutes

- Nancy Waldschmidt moved and Brent Howard seconded to approve the minutes.

2.2. Business Arising from the October Minutes

- None.

3. Financial Report

B. Blancher

3.1. GEPIC Budget Update

- Expenditures to date were outlined.

4. Updates from the Board Table

T. Waldschmidt/B. Doyle

4.1. Trustee Brian Doyle sent his regrets. Trustee Tom Waldschmidt commented on just having the first Board Meeting of the new year, and thanked the staff at Lakewood for inviting him to their Christmas celebration.

5. Director's Update

B. Blancher

5.1. Things continue to be busy in Grand Erie as we moved through the fall into early winter.

- The Director's Annual Report for 2016-17 was posted on the Grand Erie website in December – this is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and highlights stories from the 16-17 school year from across the system connected to our Multi-Year Plan.
- Kindergarten registration for September 2018 is now in full swing at all elementary schools.
- January 22nd is a PA Day for our elementary students; Term 1 is finishing up and teachers will be working on final evaluation and Term 1 report cards.
- Grade 8 Parent and Student nights began to take place in December at 6 of our secondary schools and continue throughout January at another 7 of our secondary schools; another-we are finishing up Semester 1 in our secondary schools and preparing for Semester 2.
- Final exams for our secondary school students start on January 25th with Semester 2 beginning February 5th.
- Secondary school students will begin to choose their courses for 2018-19 in the next month.

5.2. Highlights since our last meeting:

- In late November Trustee and Senior Admin representatives spent some time in Dunnville for 2 events – the ground breaking for the new Dunnville Elementary School and later in the day a celebration at Thompson Creek for the new 4 room

SUCCESS for Every Student



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 11, 2018, 6:30 pm

Dogwood Room

Waterford District High School, 227 Main Street South, Waterford

addition that was necessary for the consolidation of Anna Melick Memorial School students upon the closure of AMMS at the end of last June.

- We continue to plan for the Elgin Avenue rebuild and things will start gearing up in this area. In October Trustees approved a motion to relocate the Elgin Avenue students in portables at Lynndale Heights for the 2018-19 school year during the rebuild. A Transition Committee will begin to meet at the end of January to plan to the relocation.

5.3. Ministry Announcements

- In November the Ministry shared information about a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #62 and #63 regarding revisions to provincial curriculum in Social Studies, Grades 4 to 6 and History Grades 7, 8 and 10:

62.i	<i>Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students</i>
63.i	<i>Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.</i>
63.ii	<i>Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.</i>
63.iii	<i>Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.</i>
63.iv	<i>Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.</i>

- Revisions will focus on strengthening the learning connected to Indigenous perspectives, cultures, histories and ways of knowing. This includes treaty education, the impacts of the residential school system, and the Indian Act.
- It is anticipated that final documents will be released in winter 2018 with full implementation by September 2018.
- Late in November we learned that Ontario will be enhancing the Grade 10 career studies course to bring in mandatory learning on **financial and digital literacy** as well as expanding hands-on learning opportunities that will better prepare students to succeed in a rapidly changing economy.

5.4. Funding for a Child-Care Centre at Central Public School in Brantford

- In late December the Ministry announced that our joint proposal with the City of Brantford for a child-care centre at Central Public School in Brantford was approved. We received just over \$2 million to provide accessible child-care. The plan is for the centre to open by December 2019.

6. GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

6.1. GEPIC Grants – 27 proposals (reflecting 32 schools) were submitted; 5 not approved

- Awards were announced December 20, 2017



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 11, 2018, 6:30 pm

Dogwood Room

Waterford District High School, 227 Main Street South, Waterford

- Subcommittee met to determine awards and schools were notified; one school very disappointed but understood the rationale.
 - Grandview Central – closing activity, subcommittee felt it was a great idea; Kim will address this through the Transition Committee.
- 6.2. Clarifications required for the Application next year:
- Some proposal budgets were more than our maximum, we weren't clear whether schools understood that our maximum was \$500, discussion item around whether we need to modify this section of the application.
 - Where multiple proposals for the same event are received, they should go together; the application needs to be clearer that if schools are partnering on an event, there should be a "lead" school that does the application.
 - The question was raised that if a school is partnered up, does that use up that school's application or could they put another one forward in case the other proposal is not accepted? The group consensus was that schools are able to submit other proposals – it will all come down to the subcommittee's discretion on how to disperse the funding to make things fair.
 - Budget information should be broken down how the money will be spent (i.e., speaker costs, refreshments, supplies, promotions, etc.)
 - The application will be revised to read, '*The maximum amount that each School Council can apply for is \$500 per school included in this application*'.
 - Do we want to take out the section on Family of Schools Networking on page 2? A goal of GEPIC has been to encourage networking but this is already addressed at the beginning of the document so we could take this section out – one less thing for school councils to complete; we do want to ensure that we still encourage networking and we will continue to do this on the poster.
 - It's okay if a submission proposes a budget over \$500 but need to state where the other funding is coming from.
 - There were a number of schools that were granted funding but did not use it – was this part of an accountability check used to determine who got funding this year (e.g., if a school didn't use it last year, did we grant funding this year without ensuring they could spend it this year?) – subcommittee did say this is a detail that could be considered – one caveat is that school councils change and it might not be fair to penalize people who weren't involved in not spending the funding the previous year.
 - Val can provide information in the fall regarding which schools did not spend their PRO funding the year previous – subcommittee will determine what to do with this information.
 - Kim will work on further revisions as discussed to provide clarity for School Councils and a proposed draft will come to our March meeting
 - T. Waldschmidt thanked the subcommittee for their hard work and diligence in making this process work
 - J. Montgomery asked if the events will be posted so GEPIC members could attend as appropriate - K. Newhouse will facilitate this.
- 6.3. Facebook Group Update



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 11, 2018, 6:30 pm

Dogwood Room

Waterford District High School, 227 Main Street South, Waterford

- Facebook is up and running with 26 members to date; when the page was set up – it was named ‘gepic:’ so it can’t be searched by ‘gepic’. K. Newhouse will send out a message to School Council Chairs to let them know how to search out the group; the goal is to have people share tips and strategies.

7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing

K. Newhouse

7.1. Spring Session – April 2018

- last years was cancelled; K. Newhouse reviewed what was planned for April 1, 2017 and the format
- discussion around what the committee would like to see happen
- remaining budget is \$3,646
- discussion around when? Format?
- conversation about the very successful event held on March 29, 2014 – keynote was Mary Jean Gallagher from the Ministry of Ed., transportation was provided, child care was provided, a PRO grant was also used – this kind of event requires a lot of volunteers and some concern that we don’t have the resources for something like this
- some topics suggested – impact of legalization of marijuana on families; Smart Parenting Social Media and social media
- could poll School Council Chairs about their interests – K. Newhouse will solicit interest via email
- issue around geography and perhaps hosting similar events on two different days; consensus that 2 Saturdays are challenging for committee members to give up; evenings might work better, with a light supper offered
- 2 topics of 45 minutes each – could do a 6:00 – 8:30 pm idea with dinner available at 6:00 and the program to start at 6:30 pm
- possible locations – Waterford DHS and Cobblestone Elementary
- possible dates – week of April 16th – need to check on availability of schools

8. Other Business

8.1. None

9. Dates 2017-18

9.1. March 22, 2018; May 10, 2018

Adjournment – 8:17 pm