



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 22, 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, Nancy Waldschmidt, Leanne Smith, Brent Howard, Jean Montgomery, Brian Doyle, Jenn Smith, Lorelei Parsons, Barkev Poladian, Christina Rajsic

Regrets: Sarah Nichol, Tiffany Knight

2. Minutes

B. Blancher

2.1. Approval of January 11, 2018 Minutes

- Tom Waldschmidt moved to approve the minutes; Jean Montgomery seconded ~ carried

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

3. Financial Report

B. Blancher

3.1. GEPIC Budget Update

- To date, St. George-German and Port Rowan have accessed their GEPIC Grants.
- Sarah will send out a reminder beginning of April to spend their GEPIC Grant money.

4. Updates from the Board Table

T. Waldschmidt/B. Doyle

4.1. Tom Waldschmidt Introduced Brian Doyle, Trustee from Haldimand County. Tom went to Reading Rocks at Cedarland School, commenting that Principal Holly Knill did a fabulous job. Brian shared that we've had a unique year so far; and praised Administration's leadership during the flood.

5. Director's Update

B. Blancher

We are at the point in the school year when planning for the next school year starts to gear up with staffing considerations and budget planning.

Some highlights since the last meeting:

New Indigenous Student Trustee – Trustees approved this addition at the February 26th Board Meeting so when our Student Senate meets in late April to elect Student Trustees for 2018-19, there will also be an election for an Indigenous Student Trustee.

Parents Reaching Out Grants – application period is now open – information has been sent out and is included on our Agenda tonight. Deadline for applications is June 5th.

Grand Erie schools and sites participated in Pink Shirt Day – part of an international movement to stand together against bullying and intimidation and other misuses of personal power. – February 28th – lots of Twitter activity.

Energy Efficiency Award - In recognition of our commitment to energy conservation and efficiency in 2017, the Grand Erie District School Board has been acknowledged by Energy +, our local distribution

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company serving Brant County schools. The Grand Erie District School Board was recognized as community leaders and congratulated for our efforts in conserving energy through our LED retrofit program, participating in the saveONenergy program that offers incentives and educating our staff and students on the importance of energy and environmental conservation.

New Dunnville Elementary School – construction continues on this new school which upon opening in September will consolidate the students from Grandview Central (which closes June 30th) and Fairview Avenue which will be demolished. Transition Committee continues to meet and a naming process for the new school is currently taking place.

Elgin Avenue – Transition Committee is currently in place discussing the relocation of students and staff for the 2018-19 school year during the major renovations at Elgin Avenue.

Ministry of Education DRAFT Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines - the Ministry of Education has released the Draft Revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline– the Ministry is inviting feedback on the draft document until March 23rd and hopes to release a revised PARC this spring after which time we will be expected to revise our existing policy FT5 – Pupil Accommodation Reviews. The memo received does state that the ministry expects school boards to undertake extensive community consultations to promote understanding of PAR processes and only once revised PAR policies have been approved by trustees can any new PARs be started.

SpeakUp Project Approvals

Grand Erie submitted seven project proposals and had 3 accepted. SpeakUp Projects help students lead projects that make a difference in their school and/or community. Three schools were successful: North Park Collegiate, Pauline Johnson Collegiate, and Thompson Creek Elementary.

Spec Ed Plan survey – this is an update to an item I brought to GEPIC in my report last March to share that we had begun to take input from parents through a survey available on our website. Last year there was a deadline to participate – middle of April. There is no deadline anymore - this survey is available at all times to allow for parents to offer input at any time.

Upcoming Events

ECO Conference – April 11, 2018 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 Symposium alternating years for both elementary and secondary students.

This will be an opportunity for **secondary students across GEDSB** to actively be engaged, educated and inspired to become environmental stewards and leaders. The day will include a keynote address, lunch and a number of break-out workshops hosted by a number of local and provincial organizations.

April 11, 2018 also marks the International Day of Pink. It is a day where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of bullying.

Grand Erie Student Senate Meeting – April 26th which includes the election of the new Student Trustees for 2018-19.

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Along with several Grand Erie Trustees and members of the Sr. Admin team, I will be attending the **6th Annual Country Breakfast at Springview Farm Golf Course** on April 26th in support of the Child Nutrition Network and REACH.

May 3rd is our **Education Week Gala** at the Sanderson Centre

Education Week is May 7th to 11th

6. GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

6.1. GEPIC Grants

- Revised Application – please let Kimberly know if you have any further suggestions

6.2. PRO Grants Applications open for 2018-19 ~ deadline June 5, 2018

- This has been sent out to all schools; all information is posted on our website
- Individual schools and PICs can apply ~ special consideration for:
 - a. Support and engage parents who have not been previously active in the school community, parents from racially or ethnically diverse communities, or hard-to-reach parents; and/or
 - b. Support the engagement of parents from Indigenous communities; and/or
 - c. Promote increased access and awareness of math strategies and resources for parents to support their children's learning at home at school; and/or
 - d. Promote the value of postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college, or university) by providing parents with information on postsecondary education pathways, possibilities, and supports for their children.

7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing

K. Newhouse

7.1. PIC Symposium ~ April 20-21, 2018

- The Annual PIC Symposium information is included in this Agenda Package.
- 2 parent members of GEPIC; up to 4 school council parent representatives; and 1 parent representative from IEAC can attend.
- Registration cut-off April 11th and hotel room bookings must register by April 6th – please let Sarah know by March 29 if you'd like to attend.

7.2. Spring Session ~ April 25, 2018

- WDHS Cafeteria 6:00 – 8:30 pm; EDUKIDS has confirmed they will provide daycare
- Safe Schools presentation on The Impact of the Legalization of Marijuana on Families
- Health Units will be present to share resources

7.3. Planning for GEPIC Spring 2019 event

- Paul Davis <http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/> Smart Parenting and Social Media
- April 16, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm in Brantford, possibly at Branlyn School, as they have YMCA childcare

7.4. Fall 2018 School Council Start-up

- October 18th from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at Waterford District High School

8. Other Business

8.1. Correspondence – Thank you letter from Jarvis Public School

9. Dates 2017-18

9.1. May 3, 2018 *note – date changed from May 10th

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