



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 5, 2020, 6:30 pm
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School, Waterford

MINUTES

Present: Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, Tiffany Leegstra-Knight Jenn Smith, Sara Nichol, Yvan Brochu, Barkev Poladian, Kimberly Newhouse, Rita Collver, Brenda Blancher

Regrets: None.

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

A - 1 Opening

B. Blancher

(a) Welcome

- Brenda welcomed everyone.

B - 1 Minutes

S. Nichol

(a) Approval of Minutes

- Nancy Waldschmidt moved, and Jenn Smith seconded approval of the minutes. The spelling of Yvan Brochu will be corrected in the minutes.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

C - 1 Financial Report

B. Blancher

(a) GEPIC Budget

- Budget remained the same

D - 1 Updates from the Board Table

E. Dixon/S. Gibson

(a) On behalf of E. Dixon and S. Gibson, R. Collver shared again the news of Brenda's retirement and that the search for a new Director has commenced. The Board and Senior Administration are busy with pre-budget meetings; preliminary talks include a survey on our website for staff and communities to access. A strong focus remains on student and staff well-being throughout job action.

E - 1 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 our last meeting:

(a) Climate Change Leaders Initiative – Grand Erie District School Board has entered into a learning partnership with Mohawk College. It is important for students to understand the impacts of climate change. The Initiative is about activating technology and student experiences through projects; offering learning modules for K-12.

(b) 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. Also known as Anti-Bullying Day, this took place on February 26. It is a day when people come together by wearing pink shirts to school or work to show they are against bullying. The focus for 2020 was "lift each other up."



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- (c) Ontario Bullying Student Survey – on February 26th, the Minister of Education announced the launch of an online survey to hear from students, parents, guardians, and school staff about experiences with bullying in Ontario schools. The goal is to determine, through survey responses, how bullying manifests itself in classroom settings to assist in framing the problem to develop programs and interventions to keep students safe.

Students, parents and guardians and school staff are encouraged to participate in the survey, which is posted at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-bullying-ontario-schools> and Information for Parents/Guardians about Ontario's Survey on Bullying is also [available online](#).

- (d) Labour Action – we have had a number of school closures due to strike days by both the elementary and secondary teachers' unions – five elementary school closures and two secondary school closures since our last GEPIC meeting. We continue to experience the impact of job sanctions on our schools.

Strike Days – OSSTF

December 4
December 11
January 21
February 21
March 5

Strike Days - ETFO

February 3
February 6
February 11
February 13
February 21

F - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

(a) PRO Grants

- GEPIC members will follow up with schools to obtain confirmation of event dates and provide support with completion of the appropriate paperwork required by the Ministry of Education.

G - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

S. Nichol

(a) Parent Engagement Video

- S. Nichol met with J. Gladish and Atomic Spark regarding the Parent Engagement video proposal. The plan is do a few stories following families from home to school. The video will demonstrate how easy it is to get involved in your child's school. The goal is to have a first cut ready by summer with the final ready to go in September. Ideas or suggestions can be forwarded to S. Nichol.

(b) School Council Report

- [O. Reg. 612/00](#) Section 24 "Annual Report" states "Every school council shall annually submit a written report on its activities to the principal of the school and to the board that established the council." Our annual report is due in August. There was discussion around how valuable this report will be due to job action.

H - 1 Other Business

- None.



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I - 1 Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

J - 1 Future Meetings

- (a) May 14, 2020 at the Ed Centre

DRAFT