



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

May 3, 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

S. Nichol

**Present:** Brenda Blancher, Brian Doyle, Nancy Waldschmidt, Jean Montgomery Kimberly Newhouse, Brent Howard, Barkev Poladian, Sarah Nichol, Tiffany Knight, Jenn Smith

**Regrets:** Leanne Smith, Christina Rajsic, Julie Ford, Tom Waldschmidt

#### 2. Minutes

S. Nichol

2.1. Approval of March 22, 2018 Minutes

- The Minutes will be corrected to reflect that both Tiffany Knight and Sarah Nichol were 'regrets'
- Brian Doyle moved to approve the minutes; Brent Howard seconded ~ carried

2.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- None

#### 3. Financial Report

B. Blancher

3.1. An update was provided on who has spent their GEPIC Grant money; Val will continue to monitor and request paperwork.

3.2. Any leftover funds could be used to pay for items or supplies we may need next year.

#### 4. Updates from the Board Table

T. Waldschmidt/B. Doyle

4.1. The Education Week Gala was held today in Brantford; our brand new school is now under construction in Haldimand.

#### 5. Director's Update

B. Blancher

##### **Some highlights since the last meeting:**

March 27 Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair Awards at Mohawk College – 10 Grand Erie students received awards, many multiple awards and two projects were selected to move on to the Canada-wide Science and Engineering Fair. Schools represented were Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, North Park Collegiate and Vocational School and Lakewood Elementary School

##### **April 11 Secondary 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 11 International Day of Pink** - The Day of Pink is the International Day against Bullying, Discrimination, Homophobia, Transphobia, and Transmisogyny across the world.

**April 11 CWB Welding Foundation and Stelco Donation** – Stelco is making a large contribution to help the welding programs at four Grand Erie secondary schools – Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Cayuga Secondary School and Waterford District High School. An event to celebrate this investment by Stelco took place at the United Steelworkers Local 8782 Hall in Townsend.

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**April 21 Open Houses at Fairview Avenue and Grandview Central in Dunnville** – to celebrate many years of educating students in these communities as we prepare for these two school populations to consolidate at the new Dunnville elementary school (still to be named) in September.

**April 25 GEPIC Spring Event** – Wednesday April 25, 2018

Topic: The Impact of the Legalization of Marijuana on Families – a topic requested by GEPIC members 70+ people in attendance, lots of positive feedback.

**April 25 Release of the Independent Review of Assessment and Reporting Ontario** - A Learning Province – the Executive Summary has been provided.

**April 26 Student Senate** - our Student Trustees hosted the last Student Senate Meeting of this school year and we had an election for the 2018-19 Student Trustees representing the North and the South of Grand Erie and including our new Indigenous Student Trustee – a report is going to the Board on May 14.

**April 26 Rainbow Ball at BCI** - 4th annual. Building on the positive momentum of previous years, Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School hosted the fourth annual Rainbow Ball, welcoming LGBTQ students and allies from across Grand Erie to the semi-formal dance.

**Today: Education Week Gala** – our Education Week Kick Off Event took place today at the Sanderson Centre showcasing the talents of our Grand Erie students, emceed by our Student Trustees Jeriann Hsiao and Leicia Kelly.

### Coming Up

Education Week May 7–11: 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.

Public Budget Meetings with Trustees – May 15, 22 and 29 at the Education Centre in the Board Room

*She Split the Sky in Two* play by Aleria McKay at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, which advanced to Provincials.

## 6. GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

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

- Individual schools and Parent Involvement Committees (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.
- Nancy suggested we have some topics ready for the Orientation in October and have people vote

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7. **Planning, Discussion and Sharing** S. Nichol/K. Newhouse
- 7.1. PIC Symposium Reflection ~ April 20-21, 2018
- It was an excellent conference, and the networking was fantastic. Sarah personally preferred the two-day format over the one-day event held last year in London. There is a school in Peterborough whose School Council Guide shows their PIC has 12 roles and have had great success filing the roles. Sub-Committees meet to plan and execute PIC work and therefore hold fewer executive meetings. This was the first year that a representative from Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) was invited.
- 7.2. Spring Session Reflection "The Impact of the Legalization of Marijuana on Families" ~ April 25, 2018
- Well attended at 77 participants; thank you to Sarah for providing great replies on Facebook; going forward will do a feedback form for each event; note to not use the cafeteria tables again, they were too uncomfortable.
- 7.3. Fall 2018 School Council Start-up
- October 18 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at Waterford District High School
  - We should discuss CPIP
  - Discuss more defined roles for School Council Members – Sarah has a sample from Peterborough
- 7.4. Grand Erie School Council Guide
- Please send any revisions or additions to Kimberly by the end of June
- 7.5. Planning for GEPIC Spring 2019 event
- Paul Davis <http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/> Smart Parenting and Social Media; \$900 for the day; he can deliver a message to students at a school during the day, then speak at our evening event
  - April 16, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm in Brantford; venue - North Park Collegiate and Vocational School
- 7.6. Canada Learning Bond
- Kimberly will send link to School Council Chairs
8. **Other Business**
- 8.1. Andrea Riddoch at Teeterville Public School – inviting GEPIC to the uncovering of the new school mural May 10 @ 6:00 pm during their Education Week Open House – made possible by a GEPIC Grant 2016-17
- 8.2. Princess Elizabeth PS – Math Night May 8 from 4:00-6:00 pm, made possible by a GEPIC Grant 2017-18
- 8.3. J.L. Mitchener Public School – Paul Davis May 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- 8.4. Correspondence – Fresh from the Farm Fundraising
- Raise funds selling Ontario vegetables and fruits to the community
- 8.5. OneNote for GEPIC ~ may consider for next year
- 8.6. *Making a Difference for Kids – Running for Election as a School Board Trustee – Guide for Candidates and Communities*
- Sharing with parents
- 8.7. IEAC - Brenda will check into having a representative join GEPIC (SEAC is legislated; IEAC not yet)
9. **Dates 2018-19**
- 9.1. October 25, 2018; January 10, 2019; March 7, 2019; May 2, 2019