



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

October 25, 2018, 6:30 pm
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School, Waterford

MINUTES

Present: Chair Sarah Nichol, Maghan Ratch, Jen Smith, Jean Montgomery, Kimberly Newhouse, Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, Tiffany Knight-Leegstra, Yvan Brochu, Brenda Blancher

Regrets: Rochelle Winter, Marcel Coudenys, Brian Doyle, Barkev Poladian

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

A - 1 Opening **B. Blancher**

(a) Welcome

- Brenda welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

B - 1 GEPIC Slate of Members **B. Blancher**

(a) Election of Chair

- Sarah Nichol expressed interest in remaining as Chair for a second year.
- In the absence of other nominations, Sarah Nichol was acclaimed as Chair of GEPIC for 2018-19.

C - 1 Minutes **S. Nichol**

(a) Approval of Minutes

- Tiffany Knight-Leegstra moved, and Nancy Waldschmidt seconded approval of the minutes.

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

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

(a) GEPIC Budget

- The GEPIC budget this year is \$9,278, which includes the \$5000 base grant and \$0.17/student. Each school also receives \$500 for parent engagement.

(b) Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for 2018-19

- The Ministry has put a pause on this initiative as the current government reviews all accounts. We will share any new information as we receive it.

E - 1 Updates from the Board Table **B. Doyle/ T. Waldschmidt**

(a) As an outgoing trustee, this will be Tom's last meeting attending as trustee, but wanted to thank everyone for their support and kindness over the last several years.

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

(a) Our fall secondary school commencement ceremonies continue, kicked off with the first ones taking place on September 28th, and finishing up on November 3rd. These are always exciting and rewarding events – Trustees and members of Senior Administration participate in these ceremonies. Awards assemblies have also taken place – honouring achievement. A number of fall sports – slow pitch, soccer, cross country, football took



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- place in September and October. Grand Erie recognized Orange Shirt Day on September 28th.
- (b) **Mapleview Elementary School** – consolidating Fairview Avenue Public and Grandview Central Public – construction is finishing up – it was not ready for occupancy to start the school year but will be ready to welcome staff and students on November 12th. Members of senior administration and trustees will be present at the beginning of the day on November 12th to greet students as they enter their new school for the first time. We will also have a tour of the new school.
- (c) **Hagersville Child Care Centre** - Indigenous-led child care centre is currently in the implementation phase at Hagersville Secondary using surplus space in the building – on October 15th the Board approved the contractor and things will start to happen soon with the hope of the centre being operational in the late spring or early summer.
- (d) **Student Recognition Nominations** - Nominations are now open for Grand Erie's Student Recognition awards program. Students are honoured for outstanding achievement in one of four areas: arts, athletics, academics or community leadership.
- (e) **Recognition of Grand Erie efforts in energy conservation** - In recognition of our commitment to energy conservation and efficiency in 2018, the Grand Erie District School Board has been acknowledged by Energy +, our local distribution 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." This is our 3rd consecutive year obtaining this award, but we did receive it before as well before Energy+ bought Brant County Power.
- (f) **Student Senate – October 23rd** - Our Secondary School Student Council leadership comes together to learn and to network. This year with the addition of the Indigenous Student Trustee we have added students who are leaders in their Indigenous Student Clubs.
- (g) **Announcements from the Ministry - Provincial Consultations on Education Reform – email from Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister on September 28th:**
Message announced that the government had launched the consultations on September 28th and outlined the three ways for people to participate:
- Online submission form already in place at fortheparents@ontario.ca
 - Online survey available soon with questions that relate to the key themes.
 - Telephone town halls across Ontario – these town hall discussions will be aligned with the themes discussed in the survey – dates and times will be posted on fortheparents.ca as they become available.

Provincial Education Reform Telephone Town Halls Schedule – sent out by OPSBA on October 18th:

This component of the Ministry's education reform consultation was launched in the Northwestern region of the province on October 19th. This is a 90-minute telephone town hall and OPSBA has create a chart that lists the dates and locations for the town halls that started on October 19th and run until November 29th.

Participation details:

Participants are to provide their telephone number and email address to register for each session. This must be done by 4 p.m. the day before the town hall. Participants will receive an email reminder about the telephone town hall the day before the call, or if the



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consultation session is cancelled. Participants that don't register, can *try* calling directly into the toll-free number: 1-800-385-0829.

(h) **Dates – Southwestern Ontario**

- October 23: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- November 1: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (French)
- November 10: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(i) **Municipal Elections Results** - We will have new Trustees on the Board – term beginning December 1st – Susan Gibson, Brantford, Christina Speers, Brant County and Norfolk Wards 3 and 7, Don Werden and Eva Dixon – both Norfolk County. We say good-bye to Alex Felsky, Brantford, Tom Waldschmidt, Brant County and Norfolk Wards 3 and 7, John Harris and Diane Sowers – both Norfolk County.

G - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

(a) GEPIC Grant Application and deadline

- Deadline December 7, 2018 with awards announced after our January meeting.
- Applications are available online [GEPIC GRANTS 2018](#)
- A \$7500 budget for GEPIC Grants was moved by Sarah Nichol; approved by Tom Waldschmidt, with a maximum grant of \$500 per school.
- Subcommittee has been chosen, consisting of Nancy, Tom, Sarah, and Jenn. The decision of the subcommittee regarding successful GEPIC grant recipients will be sent out via email to members for approval since our next meeting isn't until January. We will also include partially completed cheque requisitions with instructions to help schools with reimbursements.

(b) GEPIC Grants 2017-18 Summary

- The summary provided information on schools that used their funds and those that were unable to use the funds for various reasons.
- Going forward, each member of the awarding subcommittee will make contact with the school council chairs to follow the progression of their event and provide support. If there are schools that cannot spend their grant, the money can be awarded to another school.

H - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

K. Newhouse

(a) Reflection: Orientation Session October 18, 2018

- We had a great turnout of 52 participants, with the majority of parents enjoying the evening. Exit survey feedback received centred around what guests enjoyed and what they'd like to change for next year's event.
- Kimberly will share the brainstorming summary in an email within the next couple of weeks.
- Proposed date for School Council Orientation next year is Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Waterford District High School.
- Spring Event April 16, 2019, 6:00 – 8:30 pm Paul Davis
<http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/> Smart Parenting and Social Media
- Venue - North Park Collegiate and Vocational School; light dinner 6:00 – 6:30 in the cafeteria with Paul Davis starting at 6:30

(b) Ideas for events in 2019-20



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- Will discuss at our next meeting.

I - 1 Other Business

(a) Suggestion from Community Member

- As Jean Montgomery had to leave early, she asked Sarah to share a note regarding the proposed amalgamation of athletics across Grand Erie. Jean suggested that this may impact student jobs and other evening commitments should the amalgamation mean longer distances for students to travel for sporting events. Jean suggested that parent and student consultations take place to consider unintended consequences of amalgamation. B. Blancher said she would share these suggestions with the committee reviewing the proposed amalgamation.

J - 1 Dates 2018-19

(a) January 10, 2019; March 7, 2019; May 2, 2019