



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

May 11, 2017, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School

*Chair: Brent Howard*

*Recorder: Valerie Slawich*

### MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions B. Blancher
  - 1.1. Present: Susan Noort, Sarah Nichol, Liana Clarysse, Nancy Waldschmidt, Tom Waldschmidt, Christina Rajsic, Sheila Sloom, Jen Smith, Jean Montgomery, Shawn McKillop, Brenda Blancher, Brent Howard  
Regrets: Holly Knill Horvath; Karen Sandy
2. Minutes B. Howard
  - 2.1. Approval of Minutes  
Sarah Nichol moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Tom Waldschmidt  
~ carried
  - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes
3. Financial Report B. Blancher
  - 3.1. GEPIC Budget Update  
Only 2 of the 16 GEPIC grants have been spent and submitted to date. Reminders have been sent out to School Councils and Principals. Grandview Central had originally booked Heather Carter as a speaker ~ Brenda will check with Piyali Bagchee to see if she is able to stand in.
4. Updates from the Board Table K. Sandy/T. Waldschmidt
  - 4.1. Tom shared that the budget process is underway and fall commencements are being planned.
5. Director's Update B. Blancher
  - 5.1. April 12<sup>th</sup> was the ECO Conference at Camp Trillium for Elementary students, and the International Day of Pink. On April 20<sup>th</sup> we held the last Student Senate meeting of the year. Alicia Kelley from SCS and Geriann Hsiao from BCI were chosen to be the student trustees for 2017-2018. Anna Melick Public School had an open house on April 29<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the school closing this year. Decade information was in the gym and a few teachers from the original 1-room school house were present. May 1-5 was Education Week: the annual Student Gala kicked it off on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated the opening of the Bisons' Alumni North Park Sports Complex; and the grand opening of Ecole Confederation. We are in the process of reviewing the 2017-18 budget and a lot of planning for next year has already started. Today we signed the "Partnering Together for Healthier Schools Protocol". Calendars for 2017- 2018 have been approved and are now posted. TTSC 50<sup>th</sup> reunion is this Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> and WDHS 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary is on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. GEPIC Chair's Update B. Howard
  - 6.1. PIC Symposium Update  
Brent, Liana, and Sarah attended in April. It was a full day of speakers with the theme of well-being and wellness from home to school with an emphasis on self-care. We honoured our First Nations Peoples at the opening of the ceremony, shared by Elder Eileen Peters. Discussions around math and helping parents understand the curriculum took place. Many resources were shared that are available through the Ministry of Education website. There was much conversation around the new OSAP that is now available for parents. Sammy-Jo Small, goalie for our Canada Olympic Hockey team, was one of the speakers. PRO Grants were mentioned and school councils were encouraged to apply.



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7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing S. McKillop
- 7.1. Parent Resources  
Shawn presented a pamphlet "Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy" as part of the Community section of the Multi Year Plan. We looked at providing parent resources to support the home-school connection and asked the committee for their feedback on the format. This resource can be shared with School Councils when they reach out to Grade 8 parents coming to high school; at an open house or meet the teacher nights; make it accessible and visible in the school; share at EQAO times. Some feedback included: breaking out the resources into more specific age groups; drive communication to the website where current links are kept; consider adding to our Facebook page; push out when updates are available; teachers could provide links in their newsletters; and use 'Remind' for auto reminders.
- 7.2. School Council Annual Report  
This is to be completed by June 9<sup>th</sup> as it helps inform the work of GEPIC. Shawn will send out to school councils tomorrow.
- 7.3. Review School Council Handbook  
Every year we seek out changes to the current guide as a summer project, although it's been pretty consistent over the years. Please review online and send any suggestions to Shawn.
- 7.4. Fall Orientation  
Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 pm at WDHS with a light supper. This will be an information evening, then we can plan for another Open Session Forum evening early Spring.
8. Other Business
- 8.1. SEAC changed how they reach out to parents. Would like to do presentations to School Councils. More discussion is required for this to happen.
- 8.2. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities – all staff and volunteers have to complete accessibility training, which is available on our website. If you have already completed the training your own workplace, you don't need to complete ours ~ you can bring in a copy of your certificate of completion.
9. Dates 2017 - 2018
- 9.1. Tentative October 19, January 11, March 8, May 17  
January 11 and March 8 conflict with SEAC meeting dates – we will review meeting dates in October.