



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 23, 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: Brenda Blancher, Shawn McKillop, Holly Knill, Meaghan Bowler, Jennifer Smith, Tom Waldschmidt, Nancy Waldschmidt, Sarah Nichol, Sheila Slood, Jean Montgomery
Regrets: Susan Noort, Melissa Bairos, Sarah Butcher, Christina Rajsic, Liana Clarysse, Brent Howard, Karen Sandy
2. Minutes B. Howard
 - 2.1. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.1.1. Nancy Waldschmidt moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Sarah Nichol
~ carried
 - 2.2. Business Arising from Minutes
 - 2.2.1. none
3. Financial Report B. Blancher
 - 3.1. GEPIC Budget Update
 - 3.1.1. GEPIC grants are starting to be utilized
4. Updates from the Board Table K.Sandy/T. Waldschmidt
 - 4.1. Tom enjoyed his visit to Cedarland School to participate in 'Reading Rocks' where he spoke to students about Fire Safety, then followed up with a pancake meal. Tom shared that we are still waiting on an update from the Ministry of Education with regards to Elgin Avenue School.
5. Director's Update B.Blancher
 - 5.1. Brenda also enjoyed 'Reading Rocks', especially the questions from the children. Student Recognition started in September 2015, where students are recognized for going above and beyond. Students and their parents are invited to the Board Room for a presentation to celebrate their successes in Athletics, Community, and the Arts. PRO Grant applications are open with a deadline of May 25th. Brenda attended an Opening Reception for 'Walking Together' at the Woodland Cultural Museum in Brantford, hosted by eleven students in collaboration with survivors of Residential Schools. It runs until May 2nd, if you have an opportunity to check it out, Brenda highly recommends it! Grand Erie participated in Pink Shirt day on February 22nd. A Black History Visual Arts Program displayed some amazing portraits in the board room at the end of February. On March 3rd, Brenda attend the 'Living the Two Row' Conference at PJC which focused on treaty topics and culture from an Indigenous perspective and included both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students. The Special Education survey is live on our website until April 10th, as we are required to share our plan with the public. This replaces the public evening meetings that we used to hold. Upcoming events include the Elementary Student ECO Conference on April 12th at Camp Trillium, led by Katie Hashimoto, Supervisor of Energy and Environment Conservation. April 12th is also the International Day of Pink. Student Senate will hold their annual meeting on April 20th where elections are held for Student Trustees. The 6th annual Country Breakfast is on April 27th in support of Haldimand-Norfolk Reach. Education Week is May 1 – 5th; our Education Week Gala will be held at the Sanderson Centre April 27th.
6. GEPIC Chair's Update B. Howard
 - 6.1. Update not available.



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7. Planning, Discussion and Sharing S. McKillop
- 7.1. Parent Session Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Ryerson Heights with Child Care – 8:30 am – 2:00 pm.
- 7.1.1. Shawn explained that we did not receive a lot of interest from parents – we only have 16 registrants. The committee discussed whether to extend the registration date or to cancel the event. A unanimous vote was taken to cancel the event. Nancy suggested that the group should thank our staff for their efforts and for committing their time on a Saturday.
- 7.2. Annual Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Symposium April 1, 2017 – Liana, Brent, Sheila, Sarah and Tom and Nancy, will be attending.
- 7.3. Parents Reaching Out Grants – Applications Open for 2017-18
8. Other Business
- 8.1. How do students access MS Office on a personal device? ITS has provided the following:
- 8.1.1. All students have access to install Microsoft Office 2016 apps at home for free on 5 different devices (5 Licenses). The installs are available for Windows and Apple devices. The Microsoft Office 2016 suite includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access, Publisher, Outlook, Skype for Business and Onedrive.
- 8.1.2. Students have access to the MS office apps at home and as long as the work completed at home is saved on the OneDrive they should be able to access it again at School.
- 8.1.3. The students need to sign into their O365(email) account and they will have an Install Office 2016 button at the top left hand corner.
- 8.2. We do not have Board direction to not use churches for functions; Christian prayers are not appropriate – use a spiritual-based reading instead.
9. Dates 2016 – 2017
- 9.1. May 11, 2017