



Chair: Sarah Nichol

Recorder: Valerie Slawich

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

B. Blancher

Present: Brenda Blancher, Nancy Waldschmidt, Tom Waldschmidt, Rita Collver, Carol Ann Sloat, Tiffany Knight, Barkev Poladian, Christina Rajsic, Jen Smith, Sarah Nichol, Sheila Sloat, Kimberly Newhouse, Leanne Smith, Marcel Coudenys, Brent Howard

2. GEPIC Slate of Members

B. Blancher

2.1. Election of Chair

- B. Howard nominated S. Nichol who accepted the nomination.
- T. Knight nominated N. Waldschmidt who accepted the nomination.
- Ballots were distributed and the ballots were collected and tabulated.
- S. Nichol was declared elected as Chair of GEPIC for 2017-18.

3. Minutes

Sarah Nichol

3.1. Approval of Minutes

- Sheila Sloat moved and Jen Smith seconded to approve the minutes.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

4. Financial Report

B. Blancher

4.1. GEPIC Budget

- The GEPIC budget this year is \$14,000.

4.2. PRO Grants for 2017-18

- The announcement of these grants was later this year than in the two previous years, however, we are happy to announce that on September 29th we received a memo announcing the approval of PRO grants valued at \$23,001 for 24 Grand Erie Schools – 10 more schools than last year. This information was shared with Trustees immediately since we didn't have a board meeting close to the announcement.
- Lots of great projects that span from Math, Parent Voice, Family Art Nights, Well-Being, and Social Media. Schools have been informed and provided with information and direction on using the grants.
- Congratulations to those schools who have received a grant! Information has been posted on the Grand Erie website and shared through social media.

5. Updates from the Board Table

K. Sandy/ T. Waldschmidt

- 5.1. Tom shared his enthusiasm for the many graduations held in the fall. He attended WDHS and PDHS with Trustee Rita Collver and will attend the final grad next Friday at DDSS.



6. Director's Update

B. Blancher

6.1. It has been a busy fall start-up:

- Our Fall secondary school commencement ceremonies continue, kicked off with the first ones taking place on September 29th, and finishing up on November 4th.
- always exciting and rewarding events – Trustees and members of Senior Admin participate in these ceremonies.
- awards assemblies have also taken place – honouring achievement.
- a number of fall sports – slow pitch, soccer, cross country, football took place in September and October.

6.2. Some highlights this fall:

- in late August we had 2 new staff in key roles join us – Raf Wyszynski is our new Superintendent of Business – started August 21st; Kimberly Newhouse is our new Manager of Communications and Community Relations and she started August 28th.
- both Raf and Kim have transitioned excellently to their new roles and have quickly become valued members of our team.

6.3. A four room addition at Thompson Creek Elementary in Dunnville:

- This completed addition made room for students of Anna Melick Public School which closed June 30th as a result of the accommodation review that took place in 2015.

6.4. New Dunnville Elementary School:

- to consolidate Fairview Avenue Public and Grandview Central Public – construction started a few weeks ago and we are hopeful this wonderful new school will be ready for the 2018-19 school year; lots of activities planned to bring these 2 school communities together.

6.5. Planning for a new school in Simcoe:

- lots of behind the scenes work determining where to relocate students currently at Elgin Avenue during the redevelopment of the school to consolidate the students and staff West Lynn Public and Elgin Avenue.
- A project team is being set up.

6.6. Ministry Announcement on September 6th – Updated Curriculum, New Report Cards Coming to Ontario Schools:

- Premier Kathleen Wynne and Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, announced the opening of public consultations for this new initiative and detail the new report cards, which will be introduced in schools for the 2018-19 academic year.
- Ontario's updated school curriculum will be developed through the public consultations with the goal of improving student achievement in core skills such as math and increasing emphasis on transferable life skills that can help students of all ages meet the changing demands of today and tomorrow. Communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and global citizenship are skills that will help Ontario students thrive as they grow up in a changing, interconnected world. Beginning next school year, new report cards will better track a young person's development of these essential and transferable life skills.



- 6.7. Ministry Announcement on Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan – September 7th:
- The Minister of Education announced the release Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan, a new three-year strategy to reduce systemic barriers and ensure that all students in Ontario can reach their full potential.
- 6.8. Revised PPM138 – Daily Physical Activity in Schools (DPA):
- Posted on October 5, 2017 and shared with our elementary school administrators – currently the PPM requires all school boards to ensure that students in grades 1 to 8, including students with special education needs, have a minimum of twenty minutes of sustained moderate to vigorous physical activity each school day during instructional time.
 - The revised PPM provides flexibility by allowing the 20 minutes of physical activity to be divided into smaller time allocations throughout the instructional day – i.e., 5 or 10 minute blocks.
- 7. GEPIC Chair's Update** **Sarah Nichol**
- 7.1. GEPIC Grant Application and deadline
- Deadline November 20, 2017 with awards announced by December 20, 2017.
 - Applications are available online [GEPIC Grants](#)
 - A \$10,000 budget for GEPIC Grants was moved by Brent Howard; approved by Sheila Slood, with a maximum grant of \$500 per school.
 - Subcommittee has been chosen, consisting of Brent, Sheila, Nancy, Sarah, Marcel. 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.
- 8. Planning, Discussion and Sharing** **K. Newhouse**
- 8.1. Orientation Session October 4, 2017
- 50 guests attended; School Council Guides and other resources were handed out; the brainstorming session encouraged discussions within each family of schools; a summary of the discussions was sent out via email to school chairs.
 - Send Kimberly an email if you want to be on the Distribution List for the Blackboard updates.
 - Feedback was received to hold the Fall Orientation 1 week later next year to allow school council chairs to be chosen; and for a closed Facebook page for School Chairs and Vice Chairs group. Kimberly suggested that it be parent-led instead of Board-led.
- 8.2. Spring Session
- We will pick members to form a subcommittee at the next meeting.
 - Once the subcommittee narrows down their ideas, Kimberly can send a survey to parents suggesting a few ideas for them to choose from.
- 9. Other Business**
- 9.1. None
- 10. Dates 2017-18**
- 10.1. January 11, 2018; March 22, 2018; May 10, 2018