



## MINUTES

**Present:** Chair Sarah Nichol, Brenda Blancher, Susan Gibson, Yvan Brochu, Barkev Poladian, Kendel Ince, Nancy Waldschmidt, Tom Waldschmidt, Jean Montgomery, Tiffany Knight-Leegstra, Kimberly Newhouse, Jen Smith

**Regrets:** Rochelle Winter, Marcel Coudenys, Eva Dixon

**Recorder:** Valerie Slawich

**A - 1 Opening** **B. Blancher**

(a) Welcome

- Brenda welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

**B - 1 Minutes** **S. Nichol**

(a) Approval of Minutes

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

(b) Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

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

(a) GEPIC Budget

- The GEPIC budget remains unchanged.

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

- The Ministry announced the PRO Grants on December 21. We have 31 grants valued at \$30,599; could be a challenge to utilize the monies this late in the year.

**D - 1 Updates from the Board Table** **E. Dixon/S. Gibson**

(a) Susan Gibson only officially started her role as Trustee in December, therefore there is no update tonight.

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

The Director's annual report was posted in December (for 2017-18) on our website, you can read it here <https://bit.ly/2PneNIX>.

**Kindergarten registration** for September 2019 is now in full swing at all elementary schools. **Grade 8 Parent and Student Nights** began in November at our secondary schools and continue throughout January. We are finishing up Semester 1 in our secondary schools and preparing for Semester 2.

**Secondary School final** exams start on January 24. Semester II starts on February 4; students will soon begin the process of choosing courses for 2019-20 in the next month.

**Mapleview Elementary School in Dunnville**

Opening was November 12th – students first day at the new school; a community open house was held on December 19th and the official Grand Opening will take place in May during Education Week.



## Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 10, 2019, 6:30 pm  
Dogwood Room, Waterford District High School, Waterford

### Parents Reaching Out Grants

As has been reported previously, the announcement of these grants was delayed – we usually hear about these in September – due to the government line by line audit of all accounts. On December 21st, I received a memo from Assistant DM Denise Dwyer to let me know that Grand Erie has been awarded \$30,599 for PRO grants for 2018-19 to support 31 School Council projects. These grants support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being.

I am very pleased with the number of projects being supported as this reflects an increase from 2017-18 where 24 projects received funding and reflects almost an additional \$8,000 in funding.

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

### OPHEA Healthy Schools

OPHEA is excited to announce that 357 schools from across Ontario have made a commitment to well-being by registering for Ophea's Healthy Schools Certification for the 2018-2019 school year.

*12 Grand Erie Schools have applied this year, up from 8 last year.*

Burford District Elementary School  
Central Elementary School – Gold 2018  
Delhi Elementary School  
Houghton Elementary School – Gold 2018  
J L Mitchener Elementary School  
Jarvis Public School  
Major Ballachey Elementary School  
North Ward Elementary School – Gold 2018  
Pauline Johnson Collegiate - Vocational School – Gold 2018  
Ryerson Heights Elementary School  
Walter Gretzky Elementary School  
Waterford District Secondary School

We will find out late next spring which schools achieve their certification.

### National Indigenous Peoples' Day and Final Exams

Trustees approved a revision to the Secondary School Year Calendar to change June 21st from an Exam Day to an Instructional Day.

### F - 1 GEPIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol

#### (a) GEPIC Grant Awards

- Grant awards were made, but considering the late announcement of the PRO Grants, we now have some schools receiving money from both grants. Members decided tonight to send out another opportunity for schools who haven't received a GEPIC grant to apply for their event being held between March and June. The application cut-off is February 11<sup>th</sup> with award announcements on March 1<sup>st</sup>.



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- Jenn Smith moved, and Tom Waldschmidt seconded to send out another opportunity for schools to apply for a GEPIC Grant.
- Kimberly will prepare and send out within the next week.

### G - 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

K. Newhouse

- (a) Spring Event "Paul Davis" April 16, 2019 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | NPCVS
- <http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/> Smart Parenting and Social Media
  - light dinner 6:00 – 6:30 in the cafeteria with Paul Davis starting at 6:30
  - start advertising after March Break
- (b) Ideas for events in 2019-20
- School Council Orientation next year is Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Waterford District High School.
  - Various ideas were discussed with the agreement to think over them and decide at the next meeting.

### H - 1 Other Business

- (a) None.

### I - 1 Dates 2018-19

- (a) March 7, 2019; May 2, 2019