



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

January 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

MS Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Present: S. Nichol (Chair), J. Roberto (Director of Education), L. Alliston, L. Campbell, T. Knight, J. Maillet, K. Newhouse, D. Sararas, M. Sararas, N. Waldschmidt, R. Collver, E. Dixon, S. Gibson, C.A. Sloat, T. Waldschmidt

Regrets:

Recorder: Kathryn Giannini

A- 1 **Opening**

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement

B- 1 **Minutes**

- (a) Approval of Minutes
- (b) Business Arising from the Minutes

C- 1 **Financial Report**

- (a) GEPIC Budget
\$9,299 and each school also receives \$500 for parent engagement.
- (b) PRO Grants for 2020-21
Predetermined again this year by MoE at \$15,958.38.

D- 1 **Updates from the Board Table**

1500 devices were distributed within the District, thanks to ITS. S. Gibson spoke to the Human Rights Session/Presentation, which was a great learning opportunity. T. Waldschmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

E- 1 **Director's Update**

J. Roberto shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Committee. The elementary declaration closed on January 13, 2021. The secondary declaration closed on January 6, 2021.

Managing the Pandemic

Grand Erie continues to work closely with the Public Health Unit. We will receive an update by January 20, 2021 from the Ministry and will align our process with the Public Health Unit recommendations. Emergency childcare remains open and there will be an update in the upcoming weeks. Masking is compulsory for students in grade 1-3. Masks are also required outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

Kindergarten registration has started, and Grand Erie has posted on social media websites. This will be virtual.

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There is a one-time funding available for parents and the deadline to apply for this funding has been extended to February 8, 2021. \$200 is available for each child up to the age of 12. \$250 is available for each child or youth up to age 21 with special education needs. This funding is also available for students age 13-grade 12, including those in secondary schools over the age of 21.

Remote learning resources are available at the following link:

<https://www.granderie.ca/board/parentportal/remote-learning-resources-families>.

TVO Learn is also a great link for families: <https://www.tvolearn.com/>.

F- 1

GEPIC Chair's Update

- (a) GEPIC Grants 2020-21 Summary

This was discussed at the previous meeting.

- (b) GEPIC Grant Application and Deadline 2020-21

How can grants be used during the pandemic? Could we offer activities through a virtual platform? Self-care and wellness are identified as essential areas of focus. As we continue to be under a Provincial Stay at Home Order, and it may not be safe to drop-off materials at people's homes in order for them to participate in a virtual activity. There may be an opportunity to have guest speakers present virtually regarding some important, key topics. There are books that could be recommended, and we could have authors present as guest speakers. There also may be the option to pool all of our resources and grant funding and allocate this towards library and technology resources. \$350 could be allotted to each school. This may not qualify for grant funding and will need to be explored further. It is also recommended that we look into meditation websites and apps that could be made available to families to promote wellness and self-care. K. Newhouse shared that LifeSpeak is available to staff and we may be able to make this available for families as well. This will be brought back to the next GEPIC meeting.

- (c) GEPIC Video Update

This item was not followed up on. Production companies will continue to support people during the pandemic. This can be discussed next year.

G- 1

Planning, Discussion and Sharing

- (a) School Council Start-up Review

The 2021-21 School Council Start-up Survey Results are shared by K. Newhouse. There was a glitch in the system and only 26 surveys were collected. 100 people participated in the survey.

- (b) Spring Speakers Series

The next step will be to partner with the Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee and have a joint guest speaker.

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Other Business

- (a) School Year Calendar Committee is looking for School Council representatives for 2021-2022

There are currently two parent representatives. These individuals have done a wonderful job.

I- 1

Future Meetings

- (a) March 4, 2021; May 13, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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