

**Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee**

March 4, 2021, 6:30 pm

MS Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Present: S. Nicol (Chair), J. Roberto, Y. Brochu, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden, T. Knight, N. Waldschmidt, T. Waldschmidt, E. Dixon, L. Munro, W. Baker, B. Poladian, S. Gibson, C. Bibby, M.B. Stapleton, J. Maillet-Bloomsburg

Recorder: K. Giannini

A- 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement
J. Roberto welcomed everyone to the GEPIC meeting and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B- 1 Minutes

- (a) **Approval of Minutes**
THAT the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of January 14, 2021.
Moved by: N. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: T. Knight
Carried
- (b) **Business Arising from the Minutes**
Nil

C- 1 Financial Report

- (a) GEPIC Budget
We still have \$15,958.38 in our account, not including PRO grant money.

D- 1 Updates from the Board Table

- (a) S. Gibson stated that she is very excited about the equity work occurring within the district.
- (b) T. Waldschmidt highlighted some of the outstanding work in Grand Erie. We celebrated Black History Month in February. The students at Banbury Heights raised awareness through a creating a video. They created murals and students were very engaged. Wednesday, February 24, 2021 was Pink Shirt Day in support of anti-bullying. This year's theme this year was "lift each other up". Updates have been posted on our website. This week we celebrate our amazing Social Workers and we thank them for their work in supporting our students.



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 4, 2021, 6:30 pm

MS Teams Meeting

E- 1

Director's Update

Managing the Pandemic:

Information regarding voluntary asymptomatic testing will be released. We are working diligently with our coterminous Board. Vendors will attend school sites to administer testing. They will be responsible for testing, set-up and take-down. Families will receive test results by the vendors. If a student tests positive, Public Health will be in contact with the family to follow-up regarding further testing and contact tracing. Testing will be offered on weekends and evenings.

There has been a change in terms of the Ministry playbook, which outlines what is to be followed regarding COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID-19 updates will be uploaded daily before 4:00 p.m. Grand Erie will be updating our website and following every weekend, on Monday, we will update any positive cases over the weekend. This change is so that we can concentrate on the families being impacted and focus on their needs. This is also to support the Principals as they send out communication to families when a positive case is verified. This information will be shared with the community.

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten Registration is open. You will see community reminders being sent out.

Niigaan Sinclair:

Niigaan Sinclair presented to teachers, and then invited the community at large for a session. 130 participants engaged in this session with Niigaan Sinclair. Niigaan shared a message of envisioning Indigenous Success and a path to the future by redefining measures of success for Indigenous students outside of grades and achievement. He highlighted the importance of connections with community and relationships.

De-streaming Grade 9 Math:

The new de-streaming Grade 9 Mathematics course will be offered in September 2021. The Ministry of Education has identified three main goals for de-streaming:

1. Cultural shifts in schools and Boards to identify and dismantle systemic discrimination and structural inequities;
2. Increased educator capacity for effective culturally responsive instruction, assessment and evaluation in de-streamed classes;
3. Increased student engagement, achievement and well-being.

F- 1

GEPIIC Chair's Update

S. Nichol provided an update regarding the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Chairs meeting. Last week, there was a meeting with the Ministry as well. The goal is that all Parent Involvement Committees help each other out and share best practices.

SUCCESS for Every Student



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 4, 2021, 6:30 pm

MS Teams Meeting

Almost half of the Boards have been engaging regularly. There has not been a lot of clear direction regarding PRO grant funds.

G- 1 Planning, Discussion and Sharing

Book Club

S. Gibson spoke about the new book club. We will first be reading *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. We are currently working on a flyer which will be shared with everyone shortly.

Speaker Series

J. Roberto advised that it will be GEPIC virtual Thursday throughout the month of April 2021. It is not mandatory to attend all sessions, but everyone is welcome to attend as many sessions as they choose. The sessions will include:

- Mental Health & Well-Being During COVID-19;
- How to be an Ally for Marginalized Students;
- Parenting in a Pandemic;
- Indigenous Education and Reconciliation.

J. Roberto inquired if the Parent Involvement Committee would be interested in looking into obtaining the Indigenous People's Atlas for libraries. We will get a cost first and this will be shared with the Committee prior to proceeding.

Equity in Grand Erie Presentation:

C. Bibby shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Equity in Grand Erie.

Virtual Academy Feedback:

What do you believe is working well?

E. Dixon shared that she joined a couple virtual classrooms and it was a very positive experience.

S. Gibson advised that her daughter is in the Virtual Learning Academy and this is fantastic preparation for University and independent learning.

M.B. Stapleton shared that the independence is excellent, as you are able to see how well students can manage and build resilient skills. There is value in them going forward with the Virtual Learning Academy in the future.

What do you see as the biggest challenges?

T. Waldschmidt stated that internet connectivity is an issue for some, depending on their location.

T. Knight shared that teachers have been very attentive and ensuring that all children are being heard. However, some students are shy and virtual learning provides them with the opportunity not to participate.

SUCCESS for Every Student



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

March 4, 2021, 6:30 pm

MS Teams Meeting

S. Gibson advised that some parents struggle with helping their children with their schoolwork and managing technical issues. Some parents are also concerned that their children are not engaging or attending classes.

N. Waldschmidt advised that some parents are concerned that their children are not engaging or attending classes.

S. Nichol stated that this can highlight inequities in class and can impact students with disabilities. Some students require additional support.

Do you see a desire to continue the VLA?

Seven members of the Committee saw a desire to continue with the Virtual Learning Academy.

H- 1 **Other Business**
Nil

I- 1 **Future Meetings**
May 13, 2021

Moved by: T. Knight

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Carried.