



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, January 25, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair S. Darling, Trustee T. Sault, Trustee N. Waldschmidt, Superintendent P. Ashe, D. Dean, G. Stead, Superintendent J. White, B. DeMille, B. Arthur, E. Huxley, R. Jakaitis, C. Maunder, J. Smith.

Regrets: Superintendent R. Vankerrebroeck

Recorder: E. Roberts

A - 1 **Opening**

Roll Call / Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement

Superintendent White opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and confirmed Roll Call had been completed. Superintendent White welcomed the members in attendance and read The Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Minutes**

(a) **Approval of the Minutes – October 26, 2023**

Moved by: J. Smith

Seconded by: E. Huxley

THAT the October 26, 2023, Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee minutes be approved.

Carried

(b) **Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil**

C - 1 **PRO Funding Update**

Superintendent White reviewed the PRO Funding process and timelines for 2023-24. In addition to the \$500 allocation schools have received, an additional \$30,000 in funding (\$300 - \$1000 per school), is available for schools to apply for to promote parent/caregiver engagement. Each school will receive a package that includes an application form and due dates. Approved amounts will depend on the number of applications received.

D - 1 **School Highlights**

(a) School Council Chairs shared highlights of school activities including successful fundraising campaigns at Graham-Bell Victoria PS and notable turnout at family engagement activities, including a movie night at J.L. Mitchener PS.

Administrator D. Dean shared highlights of school initiatives for elementary students including Math enrichment activities; use of the Knowledgehook application tool to support Math strategy implementation, and restorative practice activities with Consultant, Garth Bell



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In secondary schools, Administrator Geoff Stead highlighted Tech. projects that develop life skills for students, a student Member of Parliament project with collaboration from students throughout the province, and an agricultural Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program promoting outside academic building engagement.

E - 1 System Updates

Superintendent White highlighted the following activities and initiatives:

- The You Belong Here Campaign signage.
- Future Grade 9 Information Nights have commenced.
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open.
- Communication Boards – a new tool to help students with difficulty communicating is being used across the system. The boards feature easy to use icons and symbols where learners can point to pictures to indicate a need or to share a thought.
- Best Start Network partner visits to Six Nations of the Grand River have been undertaken to better understand supports available to families and children in the Early Years.
- The Director's Annual Report 2022-23 has been published and is posted on the Grand Erie website.
- Invitation – An Evening with Michael Jacques, February 7, 2024, at Pauline Johnson CVS from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Days of Significance recognized in schools and on Grand Erie media.

F - 1 Updates from the Board

At the December Board Meeting, Chair Gibson and Vice-Chair Doyle received recognition for their service for 2023 and are continuing as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for 2024.

Student Senators (secondary student leaders) had an opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Johnny Henderson from the group Live Different, who shared his experiences on how he overcame various personal challenges and an inspirational message about persistence during difficult times.

G - 1 Learning Session

(a) New Language Curriculum

Superintendent White shared that the 2019 Right to Read Inquiry report contained recommendations to the Ministry of Education, school boards and faculties of education to address systemic issues affecting the right to learn to read. Updated curriculum has been written in part to respond to these recommendations. Implementation of the new curriculum commenced at the start of the current school year.



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(b) **Anti-Racism Videos**

Superintendent Peter Ashe gave an overview of Grand Erie's Anti-Racism Project and anti-racism initiatives. The Anti-Racism project was undertaken to develop materials for educators and education workers to provide increased knowledge and understanding related to diverse groups. A number of Anti-Racism videos have been produced. A sample video was presented.

H - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Speaker Series**

The following GEPIC speaker engagements are being planned. Further details will be announced.

- Indigenous Education – March 28, 2024
- Student Anxiety and Well-Being-April 25, 2024
- Equity and Diversity – May 23, 2024

(b) **School Year Calendar**

The 2024-25 School Year calendars (elementary and secondary) have been drafted and is awaiting approval by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The calendar will be posted on the Grand Erie website when finalized.

(c) **Spring Event**

The April 25, 2024, speaker event on Student Anxiety and Well-Being will be open, and promoted, for all families and caregivers.

I - 1 **Future Meetings**

GEPIC

- March 28, 2024
- April 25, 2024 (Annual Event)
- May 23, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.