

# **Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC)**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2011**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Board Office – Kingsville Room

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:** Sheet was distributed for sign in.

**AGENDA:** Motion to accept agendas made by Gene Myers and seconded by Susan Tate.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Motion to accept previous minutes made by Armand Matte and seconded by Kelly Schwab.

### **WHAT IS A PARC? Power Point Presentation by Terry Lyons and Giuliana Hinchliffe**

- PARC is an acronym for Program and Accommodation Review Committee.
- The board is trying to manage their finances to the best of their ability to provide the most programming for the dollar.
- Board is facing decreased enrolment (7000 empty spaces) and aging infrastructure.
- A PARC is necessary when the board begins to spend a lot of money on empty spaces when the money could be better spent on programming.
- A PARC committee consists of a mix of representation from every school involved in the PARC. Each school is represented by the principal, a member of the teaching staff, and 2 parents.
- The committee has regular meetings to review data and determine recommendations as well as four public consultation meetings.
- The committee then writes a report and submits it to the Director of Education and to the school board.
- The next PARC's being formed are for the Forster family of schools, the Herman Family of schools, and the Kingsville Family of schools. The Forster family of schools includes Forster Secondary School, Dougall, Marlborough, General Brock, J.E. Benson, and Dr. H. D. Taylor Public Schools. Century Secondary School will be included in this review due to its location within this region. The Herman Family of schools includes W. F. Herman Secondary School and David Maxwell, Coronation, Percy P. McCallum, Gordon McGregor, Roseville and Davis Public schools. The Kingsville Family of schools includes Kingsville District High School and Jack Miner, Ruthven, Kingsville and Pelee Island Public Schools.

### **Chair's Report: Jamie de l'Eveille**

- Jamie spoke about the Fall Workshop. It was a great success and a lot of positive feedback was received.
- Some of the Trustees were able to attend the Parents for Education seminar.
- Jamie reported on his attendance at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
  - A student from Forster was recognized as Student of the Month for organizing the collection of Halloween costumes for children.
  - The Audit Committee discussed uses for the \$3.7 million surplus. Some of the topics discussed were classroom furniture and unexpected expenditures.
  - The Enterprise Portal will hopefully be starting in January. Staff will be using it first and then it will be opened up to everyone.

### **Principal's Presentation: Chris Inverarity from Brock Public School**

- Brock has a large turnover rate of about 40-45%.
- They were looking for a way to engage parents and came up with the idea of a Parents Field Trip to Fighting Island.
- They applied for a PRO Grant and received the money.
- Settlement Workers (SWIS) from the New Canadian Centre were used as translators.
- Parents could bring a friend which made them feel more comfortable.
- Fort Malden and The Arts (downtown) are some other field trips that parents have taken.

### **Director's Report: Warren Kennedy**

- The focus for the Board is how they can support the Parents and the Community in the educational process.
- PIC activities which were discussed at the People for Education conference 2011 were discussed.
- Director Kennedy will be sending out a survey of questions regarding parent involvement.
- A question was raised regarding having a school Facebook page outside of the Board's website. One-way Facebook pages are permitted however, the information will probably have to be redone when the portal becomes available.
- An update on the budget was presented.
- A discussion was held regarding playground equipment. Any questions should be presented to Al Cook in Facilities Services. He can provide the pros and cons of the equipment.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting: January 24, 2012**