

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (GECPIC)

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 ❖ 7:00 p.m. ❖ Princess Elizabeth School Library

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Sheet was distributed for sign in.

AGENDA: Motion to accept agenda made by Armand Matte and seconded by Gene Meyers.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to accept previous minutes made by Kelly Schwab and seconded by Gene Meyers.

Corrections: Should be Cape instead of Cate and Armand instead of Armande in previous minutes.

Mental Health by Sharon Pyke

- Hard for people with depression and anxiety to attend meetings or school.
- Mental health is not discussed because we do not understand it.
- GECDSB is trying to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness.
- Some of the initiatives the school board have undertaken are: Curriculum (Grade 11 Physical Education Class, Curriculum for grade 9 in 2012 and Grade 7 & 8 in 2013), Advocate Steering Group for teachers and staff, Steering Committee of Principal/Vice Principals to find out what is going on in the schools, and the "We Care for Kids" campaign.
- Working with the Regional Children's Center to add extra services.
- Partnering with Public Health Nurses.
- Yoo Magazine is part of the initiative.

Principal Presentation by Mike Haggard from Parkview - Community Involvement

- A presentation was viewed regarding the importance of community involvement in the school.
- As a new principal to Parkview, he knows the value of building the home and school relationship.
- He wanted the families to meet each other at Meet the Teacher Night. Parents came into gym and they had an introductory activity where young kids were asked to draw a picture of the family. The child stayed at the table and parents moved around to different tables.
- The school also has House Leagues from JK through Grade 8. Each house had to come up with a name, a cheer, and a banner. They presented their cheers in the gym.
- Clubs - Teachers lead clubs where all grades can attend.
- Winter Games Day.
- Cereal Drive: involvement outside the school which in turn involves the parents.
- Parents received a grant and they used the money for a games night. Organized the school into 5 centres including Board Games, Educational Games, Cards, Technology Games and Snacks. The evening was very successful. Created a take home package for the evening including games and information.

- The Chair spoke about her enjoyment in being able to volunteer. She enjoys being able to help with events that bring other parents into the school and help those parents feel involved.
- Vice Chair also feels that it is important to have community events to bring parents into the school more often.
- Did having the community event spur parents to ask about parent council? A few asked but not many

GCEPIC Survey Results

- 46 schools responded to the survey.
- Results were given out and then GCEPIC broke into 6 groups to go through the comments and look for comments that have not been heard before.
- Each group discussed their findings for their particular question.
- It was agreed that the findings would be taken back to the executive for further analysis and would be brought forward at the next meeting.

Chair's Report: Jamie del'Eveille

- Principal paid for cabs and pizza for the Mike Neuts presentation for Taylor parents.
- Yesterday, Jamie had the opportunity to attend the City Chess Challenge. Awesome event with 700 kids playing chess. Each school was allowed to invite 18 students. A student from Taylor won gold.
- April will attend PIC Symposium with Armand Matte. They will bring back information.
- Gene Meyers attending the Board Meeting.

Director's Report: Warren Kennedy

- Need GCEPIC's help in the Drummond Report.
- Drummond's Recommendations:
 1. Eliminate FDK (save \$1.5 billion) - liberals say no
 2. More money for First Nations students
 3. 5th year of high school (would have to pay)
 4. Eliminate 70% of non-teaching positions
 5. Bigger class sizes
- Don't get caught up in the conversations. Remind people that this is just the beginning of a long drawn out process and we need to focus on the kids. We need to remain positive.

Budget Update

- Nothing new except for the Windsor Star. We have about \$4,000.

Motion to adjourn made by Cindy Mitchell and Karen Seguin.