

**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (GECPIC)**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2012 ❖ 7:00 p.m. ❖ Riverside Secondary School**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**AGENDA:** Motion to accept agenda made by Kelly Schwab and seconded by Armand Matte.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Motion to accept previous minutes made by Gene Myers and seconded by Deb Gagnier.

**Scholarship and Bursary by Heather Perissinotti and Sonia DeAndrade-Scofield.**

- Students think that the Guidance Department is for troubled kids. The guidance department is working hard to change this image.
- Pathways
  - There are 4 pathways: Workplace, University, Apprenticeship, and College.
  - All pathways have value.
- College and University Information
  - The guidance department arranges visits by colleges and universities where they come to the schools to meet the students.
  - Information regarding universities and colleges is kept in the guidance office.
  - There are also open houses at colleges and universities.
- Scholarships and Financial Assistance
  - There are many forms of scholarships and financial assistance. Many are automatic and many require applications and can be national, provincial or local.
  - Many websites are available to look for aid including StudentAwards.com and ScholarshipsCanada.org.
  - The guidance department communicates these opportunities to the students in a variety of ways including announcements, appointments, the school website and the board website.
- Expanded Cooperative Education Opportunities
  - Students can apply for co-op in grade 11 or 12.
  - Co-op allows students to "try on" a particular career and is generally 2 periods per day for one semester.
  - Expanded co-op opportunities include home builders, hospital, nursing, dietary, and housekeeping.
- Apprenticeships
  - Students may start apprenticeships in a variety of trades while in secondary school through OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program).
- Dual Credits
  - This includes students who need or want learning opportunities outside of high school and who would benefit from a college or apprenticeship experience.
  - Free for students and transportation is provided.

### **Principal Presentation by Hazel Keefner from Riverside**

- A presentation was viewed regarding their Carousel of Nations.
- They had a lot of participation. They saw a lot of parents who don't usually come to the school or connect with teachers.
- In some countries, you only go to the school if the child is in trouble.
- They had over 50 student volunteers.
- A lot of different cultural food was served and a lot of it was donated by the parents.
- The evening gave parents a new perspective on what school is about.

### **Chair's Report: Jamie Del'Eveille**

- If there is surplus from PRO and PIC grants, the surplus will go back to the school board to use. Also, if you don't use the allotted funding for one event, you can request to use the funds for something else.
- Ontario PIC School Council Association: They are trying to recreate the provincial body for the PIC and their goal is to create a website to pool resources.
- COPA has handouts available on their website.
- Jamie Del'Eveille and Armand Matte attended the PIC symposium.
  - Trustee Meeting
  - Pictures of JK registration
  - Best Buy Mill Street Grant of \$20,000.

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

- Answered questions about the monetary expense of taking extra credits after graduation.
- Gave an update on negotiations with teachers.
- They are currently transferring information from the current board website to the Portal.
- Briefly went over the survey results.

**Motion to adjourn made by Deb Gagnier and seconded by Gene Myers.**