

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (GECPIC)

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 ❖ 7:00 p.m. ❖ Board of Education - Kingsville Room

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Sheet was distributed for sign in.

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to accept previous minutes made by Armand Matte and seconded by Gene Myers.

How Parent Councils can support Kindergarten Registration and A Day in the Life - Presented by Principals, Laura Bates (Sandwich West), James Cowper (Eastwood), and Teresa Iandolo (Prince Edward)

- Presentation giving an overview of Kindergarten Registration nights and A Day in the Life days.
- A school's relationship with a child and their family is a year long process including July and August.
- The principal at Eastwood has found that sharing parts of his personal life has increased his integrity with families at his school.
- Principals routinely share ideas regarding Kindergarten Open House.
- Teachers and school councils are an integral part of the planning process and participate in planning committees.
- GECDSB has a Renewed Vision of Excellence which includes:
 - Achieving Excellence
 - Ensuring Equity
 - Promoting Well Being
 - Enhancing Public Confidence
- The vision in GECDSB: Excellence in Education - Every Learner, Every Day! Principals connect this to the Board Improvement Plan which is Engaging and Empowering Students, Staff and Administration.
- Kindergarten Open Houses are a family affair. Letters or invitations are sent to incoming students and parents.
- Some ideas for Kindergarten Open House include:
 - Passports to Success.
 - Community Event.
 - Student Ambassadors.
 - Community Partners (e.g., public library).
 - Themes for the nights (e.g., Prince Edward had a Movie Star Theme with a Walk of Fame, Movie Room, Light-Camera-Learning, and an After Glow Reception).
 - Open House should be very warm and welcoming.
 - Interactivity (e.g., Eastwood used QR codes and parents used iPads to scan codes around the school which activated videos on the iPad).
 - Postcards home.
 - T-Shirts.
 - Welcome to Kindergarten Bag which might include a CD, magnetic letters, books, etc.

Mental Health Strategy and School Climate Survey - Presented by Superintendent Sharon Pyke

- **The Mental Health Strategic Plan**
 - A 5 year plan from 2013-2018. Superintendent Pyke is the lead for this plan. The Ministry of Education has mandated that a steering committee be put into place. The GECD SB had already been doing what the Ministry mandated for quite some time.
 - By Year 5, the Mental Health Strategic Plan aims to:
 - Reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.
 - Promote mental health, wellness and well being.
 - Deepen our relationship with community partners on pathways to care.
 - Develop a school board understanding of mental health literacy.
 - Mission: All students and staff of the Greater Essex County District School Board have a right to an environment that is free from stigma.
 - Year 2 Goals (this year)
 - Continue Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).
 - Continue Ministry of Education "Supporting Minds" document rollout.
 - Develop a system plan for "Mindfulness".
 - Expand "Beaker" program to other families of schools.
 - Expand delivery of addiction services to 7 secondary schools by June (currently have 2 nurses going to 4 schools).
 - Continue Mental Health Minutes.
 - Continue the mental health/wellness workshop in our community in conjunction with the Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee and community partners.
 - Develop Mental Health Accommodation Plan.
 - Develop a tool to appraise and select evidence-based programming.
- **School Climate Survey**
 - Rolled out 2 years ago and is completed every 2 years.
 - Board is encouraging all parents to fill it out.
 - It will be coming out again during January/February 2015.

Principal's Report: Chris Mills, Glenwood Public School

- Chris Mills is part of the Tech Council for the Board and updated us on what is happening with IT around the Board.
 - Hardware
 - WAP Upgrade
 - Upgraded connectivity
 - Device replacement
 - Wireless controller upgrade
 - Router upgrade
 - Software
 - Implementation of Windows 7 and Forefront Identity Manager
 - Canada's Antispam Legislation
 - New Backup system
 - MS System Center implementation
 - Wireless modernization

Chair's Report: Katrina Elchami

- Reported on People for Education Conference.

Director's Report: Erin Kelly

- Leadership Conference
- Spirit Day
- Take Your Kids to Work Day
- United Way Workplace Day
- Random Act of Kindness Day
- Many Successes in Sports
- Active School's Program
- Veteran's Memorial Project
- Remembrance Day
- FNMI Community Evening
- Suicide Prevention Day
- Bullying Prevention Month
- Positive Post-It Note Day

Motion to adjourn made by Gene Myers and seconded by Cindy Mitchell.