

**Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee  
2012-2013 Annual Report**

**GECPIC Executive:**

- |                        |                     |                      |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Chair                | - Jamie del'Eveille | - Taylor             |
| • Vice Chair           | - Armand Matte      | - Talbot Trail       |
| • Secretary            | - Katrina Elchami   | - Roseland/Massey    |
| • Conference Moderator | - Kelly Schwab      | - Riverside          |
| • Workshop Coordinator | - Cindy Mitchell    | - Herman             |
| • Member at Large      | - Gene Myers        | - Hugh Beaton        |
| • Member at Large      | - Karen Sequin      | - Princess Elizabeth |

**Meeting Dates:** October 23, 2012      October 27, 2012 (Workshop)      November 27, 2012  
January 22, 2013      February 26, 2013      April 23, 2013      May 28, 2013

**Guest Speaker Presentations** - Guest speakers were selected based on areas of interests determined by members of GECPIC:

1. October 23, 2012 – **Tom Renaud** – First Class Training.
2. October 23, 2012 – **Sharon Seslija** –Teacher Consultant – Presentation highlighted the In Sport We Are One campaign and the GECDsB involvement as a partner with our municipalities, coterminous boards and the University of Windsor. The goal of the campaign is to improve activity levels of students and their nutritional intake. Handouts were provided.
3. November 27, 2012 – **Dr. Cory Saunders** – “Beyond Sadness” – Signs, symptoms, community resources, the pressures of raising children with mental health concerns and tips to promote positive well-being.
4. January 22, 2013 – **Deb McCainey** – Grade 8 to 9 Transition and Option Sheets – Deb’s presentation highlighted what students could expect transitioning from grade 8 to grade nine.
5. January 22, 2013 – **Jeff Brosseau, Martha Hradowy and Mario Spagnuolo** – presentation highlighted Bill 115 from a union’s perspective. Handouts were provided.
6. January 22, 2013 – Parent & Family Literacy Centres – **Sue Chanko** – Presentation highlighted our PFLC’s where parents/caregivers and children from birth to 6 years of age can play and learn together in our local schools.
7. February 26, 2013 – Cancelled due to inclement weather.
8. April 23, 2013 – **Darlene Simpson** – GECDsB Social Worker – Drug Addiction and Awareness – Topics of discussion included trends, data, drug classifications, stages of substance abuse, indicators of use, risk and protective factors, getting the conversation started and available resources (CAMH)
9. May 28, 2013 – **Mary Lynn Bigley** – Presentation highlighted our student nutrition program and the ongoing efforts being made to engage and inform parents about student wellness. **Scott Scantlebury** – Scott emphasized the importance of the web portal as the primary communication tool for the board and provided information relative to communicating via twitter.

**Annual Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee Workshop (Giles Campus)**

- Social Justice – What You Need to Know....See Appendix One - Workshop Agenda

### **School Advisory Council Meet and Greet**

- Presentations by the Director, Chair and Vice Chair followed by a Q & A involving members of the GECPIC executive, the director and trustees.

### **Computer Volunteer Income Tax Program – A Guide for Community Partners (CVITP)**

1. Free clinics have been offered to low income individuals and families in our communities. CVITP clinics have provided services to over 600 individuals and families over the last three years.

### **Chair's Reports:**

1. The Chair's reports highlighted proceedings at Board meetings and important announcements regarding local and provincial parental engagement activities.

### **Resources Provided to Schools**

1. The Parent's Guide to Texting, Facebook and Social Media – Shawn Marie Edgington
2. A Parent's Guide to Raising Money-Smart Kids – Robin Taub
3. Raising a Self-Disciplined Child – Robert Brooks and Sam Goldstein
4. Raising Resilient Children – Robert Brooks and Sam Goldstein

### **Presentations from Administration:**

1. October 23, 2012 – Superintendent **Sharon Pyke** – Dr. Pyke provided an update on mental health initiatives and the hiring of two health nurses. She also asked those in attendance for ideas on how to message the school community in a Hold and Secure situation. GECPIC offered the following thoughts for consideration: Syner-voice, telephone trees, Board's website, creating staging areas, coloured paper in windows, media support and initiating an amber alert. Dr. Pyke thanked the group for their input and stated that she would be taking their ideas back to the committee for further discussion.
2. January 24, 2013 - Principal **Helen Dean** and Principal **Larry Anderson** – JK Registration – Helen and Larry described what parents could expect at JK Registration at all of our elementary schools – a supportive environment where parents would be encouraged to remain actively engaged in their child's education from K to 12.
3. January 22, 2013 – Vice Principal **Jon Proctor** – Parent/Guardian Survey – Jon's presentation highlighted the survey tool to be used with parents/guardians.
4. April 23, 2013 – **Dan Fister, Angela Ciarlariello-Bondy, Robert Catherine & Mike Turnbull** – presentation – Community Kitchen/Unemployed Help Centre
5. May 28, 2013 – Superintendent **John Howitt** provided an update on the Parent Portal and Office 365. Vice Principal **Tracey Rilett** – Mental Health Community Workshops – workshop topics included An Overview of Mental Health Issues; Anxiety; Depression; Suicidal Ideation in Children and Youth; Crisis Response; and Self-Medication. Each workshop was presented in a city and county location and videos of each presentation are available on the board website.

### **Director's Reports:**

1. Tuesday, October 23, 2012 – reinforced the purpose of GECPIC and provided a detailed summary relative to local bargaining, Bill 115 and the Liberal leadership race and how it might impact the GECDSB.
2. Tuesday, November 27, 2012 – provided an update relative to parent involvement across the district. Briefly discussed initiatives relative to FNMI (parent and community meetings) and the work that was initiated to support English Language Learner's families, through the production of a DVD. An update was also provided relative to the work of the GECPIC subcommittee and

the work they were doing for the GECPIC executive. A report will be presented to the GECPIC executive that will identify barriers to parent involvement and strategies they might use to intervene. A brief update was also provided relative to negotiations and minor changes the policy and regulation entitled Selection of Principal and Vice-Principal were presented to those in attendance.

3. Tuesday, January 22, 2013 – explained the difference between ratification of local issues and the MoU for CUPE. Provided an explanation for the school closure on January 11, 2013 and why we had to honour the professional activity day scheduled for January 18, 2013 (contractual obligations. Spoke to pamphlet that would be distributed in early February promoting JK registration, Parent and Family Literacy Centres and parent involvement. Presented the New Space policy and regulation for discussion and promoted the next presentation in a seminar series on Mental Health – ‘Overview of Mental Health Issues’ and the EQAO Parent Forum.
4. February 26, 2013 – cancelled due to inclement weather.
5. April 23, 2013 – topics of discussion included the volunteer policy, FDK funding, natural play areas, the future of technology in our schools, and recent student trends relative to mental health (the choking game, the cinnamon challenge, the salt and ice challenge and cutting).
6. Year in review and upcoming initiatives. Distribution of the policy and regulation on Human Rights with an invitation for input.

**PRO Grants – Local (28 schools with a total of \$19,459 in funding):**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Title of Project</b>
Amherstburg Public School	- A Discussion of Hate, Tolerance and Forgiveness
Anderdon Public School	- Family Literacy Celebration
Centennial Central Public School	- Early Literacy Support
Central Public School	- De-mystifying Assessment and Evaluation for Parents
Century Secondary School	- Century: Parent Connection
Dougall Avenue Public School	- Parents' Book/DVD Lending Program Expansion
East Mersea Public School	- East Mersea Public School Family Curriculum Night
Frank W Begley Public School	- Literacy & Numeracy Night at Begley
General Amherst High School	- Skills for Parent's Effective Transition with their Teen to High School
General Brock Public School	- Curriculum Field Study for New Parents
Gore Hill Public School	- Gore Hill Parental Involvement Night
Harrow District High School	- Welcome to the New Harrow Family
Harrow Junior Public School	- Welcome to the New Harrow Family
Harrow Senior Public School	- Welcome to the New Harrow Family
J A McWilliam Public School	- Bring-A-Parent-To-School Day
King Edward Public School	- Learning A to Z
Kingsville Public School	- Welcome...Let's Do This Together!
Margaret D Bennie Public School	- Parent Lending Library
Northwood Public School	- Parent Resource Room and Lending Library
Parkview Public School	- Boosting Student Success
Prince Edward Public School	- Parent Resource Library
Queen Elizabeth Public School	- Fun Family Learning Fair
Roseland Public School	- Multicultural Storytelling Night
Roseville Public School	- Parent Partnerships - Staying Connected
Southwood Public School	- Family Learning Night
Vincent Massey Secondary School	- Parental Involvement Equals Student Success / Easing the Transition Pre & Post-Secondary
Walkerville Secondary School	- Embracing Diversity and Promoting Tolerance
Western Secondary School	- Parent Teacher Connect

**Pro Grant – Regional (\$19,860.00 – Connecting Parents and their Children’s Education)**

- An application for next year will be submitted to continue the community mental health presentations.

**Budget:**

**As of May 28, 2013**

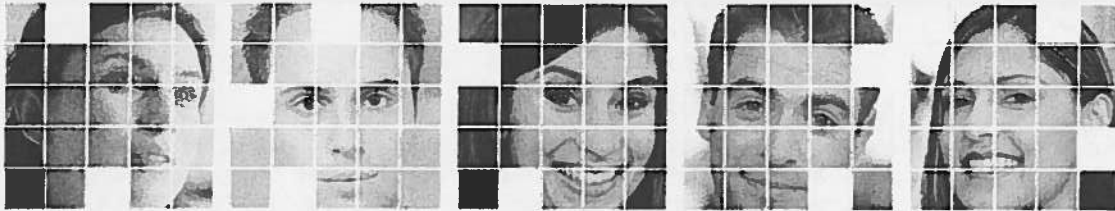
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GECPIC Promotional Items	\$1,486.52
Honorariums for the Fall Workshop	\$900.00
Catering for Fall Workshop	\$418.10
People for Education Conference - Reimbursement of Expenses	\$128.67
Via Rail - Chair and Vice-Chair attended People for Education Conference	\$232.93
Hotel Accom. for Chair and Vice-Chair to attend People for Education Conference	\$531.20
GECPIC Ad Hoc Committee Dinner Meeting	\$226.00
Commissionaire for Oct Meet and Greet at the Board Office	\$67.12
Refreshments for Meet and Greet	\$267.81
GECPIC Ad Hoc Committee Dinner Meeting	\$241.50
Refreshments for January GECPIC Meeting	\$228.26
Refreshments for April GECPIC Meeting	\$222.61
<b>Minus GST rebate</b>	<b>\$334.84</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,615.88</b>



# GREATER ESSEX COUNTY Parent Involvement Committee

presents

## Social Justice – What You Need to Know

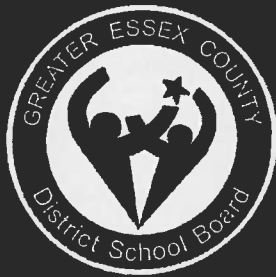


# Saturday, October 27, 2012

## Giles Campus French Immersion

### Public School

### 8:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.



All parents/guardians  
are welcome  
to attend!

\$300 to be used  
to offset library  
or nutrition program  
costs will be given  
to the highest  
percentage  
attendance of  
School Council  
members!

8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.	REGISTRATION (Refreshments will be served)
9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	WELCOME and OPENING CEREMONIES GECPIC CHAIR FNMI Singer: Teresa Sims
9:10 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Realizing the Promise of Diversity: Strategy Overview, Links to Student Success – Rachel Olivero, Diversity Officer
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Workshop #1
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Workshop #2
11:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Workshop #3
11:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Workshop #4
12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	LUNCH
12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Next Steps



**GREATER ESSEX COUNTY**  
Parent Involvement Committee

Social Justice – What You Need to Know

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### What is a GSA?

Host Presenter: Chris Rabideau

A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-run club, in a high school intended to provide a safe and supportive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their straight allies. It is a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and work to end homophobia and transphobia. The goal of most gay straight alliances is to help keep the school community safe, facilitate activism on campus, and create a welcoming environment for all students regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Come and see what is happening with GSA's at the GECSBI

### What is Voluntary Aboriginal (FNMI) Self ID?

Host Presenter: Dr. Clara Howitt

The Ontario government is dedicated to excellence in publicly funded education for all students, including First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. The Ministry of Education has identified Aboriginal Education as one of its key priorities. The goal is to improve achievement of FNMI students and to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in the areas of literacy and numeracy, retention of students in school, graduation rates and advancement to post-secondary studies. For this reason, the Ministry of Education encourages Boards to develop policies for voluntary and confidential Aboriginal student self-identification that would provide a basis for gathering the relevant data.

### What is Islam?

Host Presenter: Dr. Syed Ahmad

In a region as dynamic and diverse as Windsor and Essex County it is important that the public school system actively acknowledge both the freedom of religion that is protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the protection from discrimination and harassment based on religion that is part of the Ontario Human Rights Code. Come and learn more about Islam.

### What is Poverty?

Host Presenter: Adam Vasey

According to Nelson Mandela, "Overcoming Poverty is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice." Learn more about Pathway to Potential: Windsor and Essex County's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

### Does the shoe fit?

Host Presenter: Jessica Sartori and Rebecca Pyke

Hear two students' perspectives and real life stories about their journey to developing good mental health strategies. These former students courageously share their elementary and secondary experiences with the audience and their personal insight on how to recognize and support students with mental health illness or problems. Inspiring and thought provoking presentations geared to reduce the stigma of mental illness.