

Minutes from May 28, 2013

Agenda was accepted (1st Karen 2nd Armand Matte) and approved

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GECSB Nutrition Program- M.L. Biggly

- Students were reluctant to use this program due to the stigma attached to it.
- Student Nutrition Program is for ALL kids.
- They serve nearly 4 million meals a year.
- Government gives 12 cents per student and require them to have fresh fruit and two other nutritious foods.
- Jumpstart and Forgotten Harvest help fulfill the program's needs.
- Local high schools get food for about 600 students each morning. Principals changed the schedule so that the nutrition break is after the first period due to other before school activities so that all the students can benefit from it.
- In grade schools there is a "happy" mood around the prep areas from both the volunteers and the students.
- Volunteers are helping teach kids the importance of good nutrition as well as letting other parents know about how nutrition plays an important role at school. Focusing on breakfast.
- Kids love breakfast program because they get good nutritious food as well as a social gathering.
- For more information on this program, call M. L. Biggly at the Board Office.

Parent Portal and Office 365 Update- John Howitt

- A co-op student from Walkerville is helping write the stories on the Portal
- All old website info has been transferred to the Portal
- All but two schools are on the Portal
- New feature coming soon, "School Finder"
- Each school has a map attached to their Portal site
- Bottom of each school's Portal site has all of the school's information
- Intranet is launched. All employee info is there for employees only as well as "Team Sites"
- Next part to launch will be the "Parent Portal". There have been several challenges (delays).
- It is anticipated that the board will gain access to the new login system and will test it over July and August. Parents will help test the portal in September.
- "E-Commerce" will come shortly after the Parent Portal is released. It is a way to pay for school purchases like spirit wear and field trips. It can be a "pay as you go" or you can deposit a lump sum to withdraw off of. The second option will avoid the transaction fees for this service
- Q: Will GECPIC have a "Team Site" A: There is a problem with including everyone. Will have to email all council chairs and have to publish everything under the Parents portion of the Portal. This way all parents can access it, not just GECPIC.
- Demo of Office 365
- Changing from First Class to Office 365 will save the board \$80,000
- Q: Do we need to use the website or can we use existing Office accounts? A: You can add a new account to already existing Office accounts

- Q: Will First Class emails be migrated to Office? A: You should forward all important emails from First Class to your new Office account
- Q: Will chairs still have access to Board Member's emails? A: Yes

Tweeting with the PRO- Scott Scantelbury

- Web Portal HAS to be the main way to communicate with everyone to get notices and invites out.
- Twitter is a nice "general" communication tool
- What to consider: Your handle. Your picture. Promoting your account. Gathering followers. Who to follow. What to tweet. What to re-tweet.
- Some Twitter resources can be found at; Support.twitter.com and Mashable.com/guidebook/twitter
- Rule of thumb for privacy protection, no more than two identifiable in a tweet or picture

Chair Report- Jamie del'Eveille

- Not much to report on due to the school year wrapping up
- Reminder to council chairs to hand in a school report to the Board. There is no set format for this report

Mental Health Committee Workshop Report- Tracy Rilett

- Thanked all speakers for their work on the seminars
- Brief recap of the topics they covered. Overview of Mental Health, Anxiety, Depression, Suicide, Crisis Response, and Self-Medication (coming up on June 5th)
- They had a contact list of 265 people that attended, averaging 55 people per seminar
- Would like to continue seminars next year if GECPIC can get another grant
- Videos can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx8dLYfSNHhSH4IrnQKLWQ>

Director's Report- Warren Kennedy

- Announced a grant (\$30,00) to work with Dr. Ken Leithwood to see how to get people more involved with schools
- Sub-Committee of GECPIC to see how to get parents involved
- Superintendent Pyke is heading a committee called the "Safe Welcome Committee". This committee will review processes in place with regard to our schools being welcoming to parents.
- Policy on Human Rights (handout). Any comments on the policy should be given to Superintendent Pyke as she is overseeing this policy.
- Warren gave thanks and acknowledgements to Trustee McKinley, Principal Awender, GECPIC Execs, and parents for coming out and supporting the Board

Budget Update- Jamie del'Eveille

- Update was handed out with agenda.

GECPIC welcomed Kathleen Westlake and Usha Jacob as our Community Reps

End of Meeting Motion 1st Gene Myers, 2nd Armand Matte. Meeting adjourned