

GREATER ESSEX COUNTY PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (GECPIC)

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 ❖ 7:00 p.m. ❖ Kingsville Public School

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Sheet was distributed for sign in.

AGENDA: Motion to accept agenda made by Cindy Mitchell and seconded by Gene Myers.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to accept previous minutes made by Michelle Hedge and seconded by Gene Myers.

Essex Regional Conservation Authority - Presented by Danielle Stuebing and Janet Cobban

- Presentation giving an overview of the services offered by the Essex Regional Conservation Authority (ERCA).
- Today is Earth Day.
- They are a non-profit agency that manages the natural resources of the Essex Region in partnership with our member municipalities and the Province of Ontario.
- They offer many programs for schools to utilize including field trips, outdoor education programs, and Eco Schools programming.
- ERCA oversees several conservation areas including Hillman Marsh, Holiday Beach and John R. Park Homestead.
- Schools can ask for special programs to fit their needs.
- They can assist schools in obtaining funding for outdoor classrooms and school yard naturalization projects. Some funding sources include TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, EcoAction, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup, Environment Canada, Evergreen and Tree Canada.
- Water Day is a big event sponsored by ERCA and about 300 students participate. It is on May 28-31.
- The importance of getting outside was stressed. Parent involvement committees have the power to encourage teachers, administration, daycares and students to get involved in outdoor activities.

Council Corner - Presented by Michelle Hedge

- Presentation regarding improving parent engagement in schools.
- Number one key to success is being visible by being in the schools regularly.
- Collaboration is essential between the elementary school and high school.
- Keep parents up-to-date on school advisory council issues and meeting dates.

Principal's Report: Chris Mills, Glenwood Public School

- Racing Against Drugs is a community based drug and alcohol awareness program developed by the RCMP. It promotes a healthy drug free lifestyle while implementing the school curriculum targeting grade 5.

Chair's Report: Katrina Elchami

- The Diversity Workshop was held on March 29th and was very successful.
- Attended Safe Talk Training.
- Judged the Mind Force Competition
- Helped organize and attended the Low Stress Parenting Seminar. The City partnered with GECPIC and about 180 people attended.
- Attended the Ontario Health Schools Coalition Conference in London. Conference consisted of health professionals, educators, administration and parents. A lot of information was shared and ideas were exchanged.
- Will be attending the Parent Involvement Seminar in Toronto on April 26-27 with Cindy Mitchell. Preparing a presentation board and hosting a table at the event.

Director's Report: Erin Kelly

- Celebrate World Autism Day was on April 2.
- Ontario's Youth Challenge was on April 7.
- Sandwich are the Robotics Champions.
- Massey had the top participants in the Science Fair.
- Reko Tool and Mold is working with Belle River students in the OYAP program.
- The Run for Rocky was held on April 13.

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