

Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee
Tuesday, November 24, 2015 - 7:00 pm
Board Office - Kingsville Room,
451 Park Street West, Windsor

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Sign in sheet distributed.

AGENDA: Motion to approve agenda made by Katrina Elchami and seconded by Gene Myers.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to approve previous minutes made by Armand Matte and seconded by Beverlee Lachine.

Election for Vacant Seat (Member at Large): acclaimed by Sarah Gall.

“How Parent Councils can Support Kindergarten Registration and A Day in the Life” -
Jennifer Scott, Rob Romano, Theresa landolo,

- Presentation outlining the benefits of school council and word of mouth as a marketing tool for the school.
- Examples of t-shirts and registration bags were shown.
- Spoke to the benefits of School Council Facebook pages
- Advantage of having a Representative at open house includes the collection of names of interested parents, book sales on the same night, refreshments as ice breaker
- Guests spoke to the advantage of a positive relationship between Early Years and Parent Council.
- Members were asked for examples of their open house contributions (Jamie del’Eveille, Christa Confer and Michelle Hedge shared)

“Grade 8-9 Transition and WCCA Auditions” - *Natalie Middleton-Bondy*

- Presentation focused on the importance of kids having a sense of “agency”
- Twitter feed: @GECDSBSS
- Walkerville Application Package provided
- IEP does not effect acceptance
- Subsidy available for application process
- firm application deadline but a student can apply throughout the school year
- Course selection occurs in February
- Grade 7’s can shadow a special school, parents just need to ask for a shadow opportunity

School Climate Survey Results - *Manny Novelletto and Theresa Hoffman-Sartor*

- School Climate Survey created by the board to take the temperature of schools and look for ways to improve

- Focused on bullying and mental health, safe learning environment
- survey and results are located on the board website
- very few secondary parents filled out the survey, many possible reasons, language barrier being one.
- 2 requests of GECPIC: 1) some support to figure out how to have greater number of surveys filled out. 2) Feedback regarding reducing the number of questions on survey

Chair's Report - *Jamie del'Eveille*

- Chair spoke to the motion brought forward by the Board of Trustees stating a concern regarding making principals feel obligated to come to a meeting
- Director Kelly spoke to the motion stating a feeling of protection over the principals and adding to their work load
- Trustee McKinley spoke to the motion ensuring members understood that the motion was brought forward by one trustee, not the entire Board and expressed that she never felt mandated to come but always came when invited. With advance notice, more Trustees would come to meetings
- Kevin Johnson motioned that the Board of Trustee's motion be denied
- Beverlee Lachine seconded it.
- Vote was held: unanimous
- Jamie referenced Bullying Week, highlighting Walkerville's play
- Announced that the PIC ledger was not attached to the agenda and previous minutes as it should be.

Director's Report - *Erin Kelly, Director of Education*

- Random Acts of Kindness Day, many schools participated
- Announcement of 2 new schools this month, Giles and DM Eagle
- Many positive events happening at schools across the Board, annual food drive, TRIBES program, Confident Learners, To Kill A Mockingbird (Walkerville), Remembrance Day,
- Bullying Week - focus on Positive Relationships with each other, "My Daughter Vera" at Walkerville

Council Corner - *Katrina Elchami*

- Presentation on the P4E Conference that occurred this month.

*School Council Regulations are up for review next year and the Bylaws are to be reviewed.

Motion to adjourn made by Sarah Gall and seconded by Cindy Rabideau