

Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee

GECPIC EXECUTIVE 2017-2018

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GECPIC Committee Representatives

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GECPIC Community Representatives

Monique Bergeron		Windsor Police Services
Reza Shahbazi Excellence	rshahbazi@ncce1.org	New Canadians Centre of
Alicea Fleming Windsor Essex County	afleming@weareunited.com	United Way/Centraid

Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC)

Meetings for 2017-2018

Time: 7:00pm Location: Published with each agenda

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 - Board Office

451 Park St. W., Windsor

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 - Tecumseh Vista Academy

11665 Shields St., Tecumseh

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – Talbot Trail Public School

4000 Ducharme St., Windsor

Tuesday, February 28, 2018 – Leamington District Secondary School

80 Oak St. West, Leamington

Tuesday, March 28, 2018 – Walkerville C.i.

2100 Richmond St., Windsor

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 – Massey Secondary School

1800 Liberty St., Windsor

General Meeting Details:

October 24, 2017

- Review of GECPIC Policy and Regulation
 - Mr. Hillman provided an explanation on the transition/implementation of the new policy/regulations and by-laws.
- Decision: GECPIC Executive selection process (Chair and Vice Chair)
 - Decision to hold Executive selection (vote) at this meeting.
- EDSBY - our GECDSB sharing platform: Shelley Hudson
 - A presentation on how to navigate on Edsby took place. Presentation will be provided on-line along with FAQ's for setting up Edsby

November 28, 2017

- Presentation: Rachel Olivero, GECDSB Diversity Officer
 - How do we approach diversity within our school communities?
- Report on People for Education Conference
 - Rebekah Harrison and Katrina Elchami were able to attend the P4E Conference and bring back what they learned to share with the group
- Discussion: Identifying Barriers
 - Exercise: Prioritizing the barriers facing the parents and families of GECDSB in order to aid with GECPIC planning
- Establishing Sub-Committees
 - GECPIC Established subcommittees in the following areas
 - Mental Health
 - Special Education
 - Parent Outreach
 - Equity and Social Investment
 - Parent Education
 - School Council
 - By-Laws

- Library Card Challenge

January 23, 2018

- Presentation: Christine Rideout-Arkell, Windsor Public Library
- Establishing Subcommittees exercise
 - Subcommittees were sent into breakout sessions to help make connections and start a conversation about structure and activities going forward

February 28, 2018

- Presentation: Alicea Fleming, United Way
 - Alicea highlighted the most recent information available to us regarding the work of the United Way in the more vulnerable communities of Windsor-Essex and how poverty and inequity impact our students

March 28, 2018

- School Calendar 2018-2019
- Discussion: GECPIC Elections and By-Laws

May 22, 2018

- Diversity Training, Julie Leadbetter, Windsor Pride
 - Discussed the potential for diversity training in our school communities and the value of recognizing diversity

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

This year GECPIC members faced a number of challenges as we began to grow into our new roles in a newly restructured committee. Firstly, who are we and how do we want to tackle the purpose we have been given: to communicate with the board, to communicate with parents, and to help advise the board in ways to engage with parents and break down the barriers to parent involvement? It's a tall order for the most experienced members of our board and our community – and who are we to take on this task?

Luckily, our parents are not alone. We had excellent partners from the community, Windsor Police, the New Canadian Centre for Excellence, and the United Way, who helped to advise us. We had leadership from Superintendent Jeff Hillman, whose work was an integral part of navigating the structures that already exist within the board. And we had the inspiration of our Trustee rep Julia Burgess, who never failed to come to meetings with enthusiasm and dedication, brimming with ideas and support for our subcommittees. We were also, of course, grateful to our parent members, many of them serving for their very first year on the committee. They arrived with an incredible amount of energy and enthusiasm, and a drive to make wonderful things happen within our board.

Some of our subcommittee members saw immediate results – we were happy to support the Mental Health seminar series as we have in the past, and our Special Education subcommittee members were able to present at the Strive symposium and begin the work of creating important parent-to-parent connections.

Others have more long term goals – our Library Card Challenge subcommittee is still working on the framework that will see us putting library cards into the hands of every family in our board by the end of 2019.

And still others are looking at the work just beyond the horizon – going into next year we are making a goal of reconnecting the school council chairs with the Parent Involvement Committee in a more meaningful way, that will help to provide support to those just beginning their work as volunteers within their own schools.

One of the things we hope to achieve going forward is to find those opportunities for input from our committee in the activities of the Board – our purpose has been articulated as such: “to provide information and advice to the Board on effective parent/guardian engagement strategies and practices” – if there is any place for the voice of our committee members, we will be happy to participate.

Looking back, it has been an incredible year. We have achieved some amazing things and are happy to say that the new structure has been implemented more than successfully. We are flourishing! And after our selection committee met last week, we are eager to begin next year with another boost of energy from several new members who will be joining us this September. This year has given us a solid foundation from which to grow.