

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021
Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee

GECPIC EXECUTIVE 2019-2020

Kristen Siapas, Chair
Christie Nelson, Vice-Chair

Committee Members:

Helena MacKenzie, Derek DeMonte, Julie Fraser, Stephanie Segave-Tiessen, Saba Farooq, Lisa Renaud, Mohamed ElSadeek, Stephanie Slipiec, Rebekah Harrison, Helen Wiebe, Emily Lockhart

Principals:

Laura Bates, Desreen Burnett

Community Members:

Rima Nohra, New Canadians Centre for Excellence
Liam Giles-Hayes, United Way
Jason Tarnopolsky, Windsor Police Service

Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC)

Meetings for 2019-2020

Time: 7:00pm

Tuesday, October 27, 2019 - Virtual Meeting via Teams
Tuesday, November 24, 2019 - Virtual Meeting via Teams
Tuesday, January 26, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Teams
Tuesday, February 23, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Teams
Tuesday, April 27, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Teams
Tuesday, May 25, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Teams

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

The Parent Involvement Committee continued its work with the board this year, providing parent voice on the Single Use Plastic Committee, the Active Transportation Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Bullying Committee. Members of our committee were very grateful to be able to provide parent voice in the work of the board, not only in these committees themselves, but also in the presentations received by the GECPIC committee during our regular meetings. We held rich and valuable discussions with Superintendent Canty, Dr. Pike, and Dr. Howitt, who visited our committee to inform parents about their work and to gather information and feedback.

There is a network developing between PIC chairs provincially, informally known now as the Ontario Parent Involvement Committee Connection or OPICC. We held monthly

meetings this year via Zoom and are in the process of creating a more formal structure in order to be recognized by the ministry. As chairs, we were also invited to provide feedback to the ministry on several occasions (November, February, April and June) throughout the year on the topics of Parent Engagement, the Apprenticeship program, and Destreaming as they held virtual meetings for PIC Chairs and Board leads. It has been incredibly valuable to meet with these parents from across the province and develop an understanding of how different the work can be from board to board.

The main focus of the committee's work this year was the development, distribution, collection and reporting on a School Council Chairs Survey (report attached). This provides a strong basis for our work going forward and allows us to draw several notable conclusions, as illustrated in the report. This valuable information will inform the focus of GECPIC's work in the fall when we return.

Again, as we go forward, we will continue to look for those opportunities to improve parent-to-parent communication, to support our school councils, and to continue working to break down barriers to parent engagement and strengthen the work of the committee in partnership with the board. I want to applaud the work of the committee this year for their flexibility, passion, and commitment to parent engagement that supports students' education and wellbeing.