



## GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**TO:** CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
**FROM:** Dr. Jeff Hillman, Superintendent of Education  
**SUBJECT:** GECPIC Annual Report 2022-2023  
**DATE:** June 20, 2023

Creating Confident Learners

Engaging Communities

Demonstrating Ethical  
Stewardship

**GECPIC Executive:**

Stephanie Slipiec, Chair  
Mahbooba Quriashi, Vice Chair

**Committee Members:**

Dana O'Neil, Lisa Wright, Keisha Nolan, Dimitrios Michos, Christina Sayer, Krista Regehr, Nabhdeep Dhillon, Baturh Krkwan, Robert Ross, Lisa Renaud and Abbas Divan Mohaideen

**Principals:**

Laura Bates and Najet Jones

**Trustees:**

Linda Qin  
Kim McKinley, Alternate Trustee

**Community Members:**

Louise Cervini – IEAC  
Rima Nohra – New Canadian's Centre for Excellence  
Maia Williamson – United Way  
Clarese Carter – Family Fuse

**Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC)**

**Meetings for 2022 -2023**

**Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Location: Board Office – 451 Park St. W**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

**General Meeting Details:**

**October 25, 2022**

Elections were held for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair; Stephanie Slipiec was elected as Chair and Mahbooba Quraisha was elected as Vice Chair. Our Principal representatives shared

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their experience with the Board and asked the Committee what they would like from them for this upcoming year. We then had Madeline McEachern present an update on Communications for the Board.

### **November 22, 2022**

GECPIC Confirmed the dates for the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. There was an update provided on PRO Grants and the application deadline was provided. The Notice of Motion for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation from Trustee Cipkar was shared and the Group was asked to review the motion for their input. We began to discuss the idea of a networking and learning session for Parent Council Chairs.

### **January 24, 2023**

An update on PRO Grant applications was provided along with information on how funds were allocated; we were also provided a summary for PRO Grants for past years. The committee discussed the number of applications and how the committee could support and encourage a more consistent turnout. The committee was then engaged on the School Year Calendar and asked for feedback regarding the PA Days.

Presentation: J. Canty/T. Turner

During this meeting we were engaged as a parent Group about the upcoming census and were provided opportunity to give feedback and ask questions to further our understanding.

The evening finished off with an update from Madeline McEachern who provided information to the committee about upcoming Kindergarten Open Houses and Gr. 8 to Gr. 9 Information Nights.

### **February 28, 2023**

Presentation: S. Armstrong

Superintendent Armstrong attended the meeting where she presented the draft mission statement for the Climate Action Plan and asked for feedback from the committee.

The Board Motion for the Review of Police Programs in Schools was discussed and the committee was asked to select a representative. The PIC/School Council Policy and Regulation would be reviewed and updated in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Principal representative. Further discussion occurred regarding Networking Sub-Committee. Discussion and a vote took place and the meeting time was changed to a 6pm start.

### **April 25, 2023**

Update provided on the Policy/Reg for School Council based on the meeting held with working committee of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Principal Reps. There was a discussion on the Application process for GECPIC. It was decided that an information session via TEAMS prior to the application deadline would be held. Selected one parent member for the Selection Committee – Lisa Wright. Discussion continued on planning for the School Council Chair Fall Networking Session. Parent and Community members discussed a response to the request to build a profile for the new Director of Education.

### **May 23, 2023**

Policy/Regulation for School Council was passed at the May 16, 2023 Board Meeting. GECPIC Applications for the 2023/2024 school year was closed and forty-four applications were received. Two potential dates were put forward for the School Council Networking Session. The first meeting next year will be held at the Board office from 6pm-8pm.

**Chair's Closing Thoughts – Stephanie Slipiec**

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The work that GECPIC focused on this year was aligned with the trajectory set out from the previous few years, with a focus on building a connection between GECPIC and the local School Councils; the goals set out to achieve and contribute to this outcome were to further develop resources to better support local School Councils, and to establish and strengthen the network between School Councils, their Chairs and GECPIC.

The committee was able to participate in active conversation and discussion around the topics presented at each meeting and provided valuable feedback to the Superintendents and their work that was presented to us throughout the year. The committee identified a gap between the understanding of the role of GECPIC as an applicant, and then as a member – noting that most new members of GECPIC are missing that true understanding of the work the committee focuses on. It was agreed unanimously that it would be beneficial to host a session prior to the application deadline for the 23/24 School Year; this session was held and received well by all attendees. We will recommend that similar sessions are offered earlier on in the application process next year.

It was a pleasure to lead this Group of Parents and Community Representatives again this year, and truly feel as though this Group of voices representing the Parent and Community perspective is invaluable to the Board and will only continue to strengthen that relationship. As always, the support and direction from the Principal Representatives, Communications Officer, and of course Superintendent Jeff Hillman and Beth Silverio was not only appreciated but valued. Thank you to all, and I look forward to seeing what progress GECPIC can continue to make at the Board level over the coming years.

**Summary of Tasks:**

- ❖ Update of School Council Policy and Regulation
- ❖ Update on GECPIC Policy and Regulation
- ❖ Hosted first virtual meeting for GECPIC applicants for the 2023-2024 School Year
- ❖ Planning for Network of School Council Chairs meeting in October 2023

**Consultation on:**

- ❖ PRO Grant Process
- ❖ Student Census
- ❖ Climate Action Plan
- ❖ GECD SB Budget Planning