



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FROM: Raquel Roberts, Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: GECPIC Annual Report 2025-2026

DATE: June 23, 2026

Creating Confident Learners

Engaging Communities

Demonstrating Ethical
Stewardship

Aim:

To provide an overview to the Board of Trustees on the work of Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC).

Context:

The Greater Essex County Parent Involvement Committee (GECPIC) is a committee established in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education Parent Involvement Committee framework. The committee supports the Greater Essex County District School Board by providing parent and community perspectives on policies, programs and practices that impact student achievement, well-being and family engagement. GECPIC serves as an important forum for strengthening partnerships between families, community organizations, and the school system, and for promoting meaningful parent involvement across the district.

GECPIC Executive:

Bridget Fauteux, Chair
Deepa Taneja Chawla/Daniela Masotti, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Nisha Withane
Christina Sayer
Padu Surtani
Yetunde Osanyin
Entela Bilali
Jennifer Deimer
Pragya Chhetri
Fahema Sikl
Tara Barnett
Hanan Othman

Principals:

Laura Bates and Najet Jones

Trustees:

Julia Burgess

Kim McKinley, Alternate Trustee

Community Members:

Ashley Kirby – Windsor Essex County Health Unit

Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 (Hybrid)

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

October Meeting

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson of GECPIC.- Bridget Fauteux self-nominated for the position.

Vice-Chairperson - Taneja Chawla was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson of GECPIC.

Presentations / Reports

- Superintendent Roberts provided information on the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. The deadline for School Councils to apply is November 17, 2025.
- Superintendent Roberts indicated that GECPIC's focus will continue to be developing connections with school councils.
- GECPIC members were reminded that GECPIC is a Board committee, and members are encouraged to attend Board meetings, either in person or virtually.

November Meeting**Presentations / Reports**

- Wellness Report – PALS
PALS was expanded to 10 additional schools for the 2025–2026 school year (attachments provided).
- Acadience Screener information was shared by Superintendent Roberts.
 - Ministry of Education advised that teachers may use their professional judgement regarding the frequency of screenings. The Board disagrees with relying solely on professional judgement. Consistent screening is critical for closing achievement gaps.

Materials Shared

- Ontario-Wide Multi-Day Career Fair
- K–12 Cyber Awareness Month

- PRO Grants - 27 applications were received and approved.
- Ontario School Year Calendar (OSYC) 2026–2027: Superintendent Roberts explained why there is an earlier start for staff (September 2, 2026) for the 2026-2027 school year. Students will start the school year on September 8, 2026.

January Meeting

Presentations / Reports

- PALS Presentation – Superintendent J. Bell and Special Assignment Teacher Jon Pillon
- SHSM Presentation – Superintendent M. Castellano, Teacher Consultant SHSM - Justin St. Pierre and Special Assignment Teacher for OYAP, High Skills Major and Program Support - Trent Duroucher
- Barrier Grants Presentation – Superintendent C. Mills-Special Education and Supervising Principal Laura Bates were successful in obtaining eight grants totalling \$811,000.00
- JK Registration – Kindergarten Open House took place on February 19, 2026.
- Exams and Second Semester – Secondary exams took place between January 23-30, 2026.
- TEAC (University of Windsor) – selection of one parent member to represent GECPIC.
- Election for Vice-Chairperson Vacancy - D. Masotti was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson of GECPIC.

February Meeting

Presentations / Reports

- EarlyON and Child Care / NTIP - Presented by Clayton Callow, Principal Early Years Lead and Jocelyn Brent from EarlyON (Roseville Site).
- Robotics – Teacher Consultant C. Guthrie - Presentation deferred to April meeting.
- WECHU – Connected, Not Controlled Challenge - Presented by Ashley Kirby (Nurse at WECHU).

April Meeting

Presentations / Reports

- Budget Consultation - Presented by Superintendent Shelley Armstrong and Manager of Financial Services, Shawn Maheux.
- Robotics – Presented by Teacher Consultant Craig Guthrie

Selection Committee – two parent members were selected to assist the Chair/Vice Chair for the selection of GECPIC Committee Members for the 2026-2027 school year.

Applications for GECPIC Committee Members was released May 1, 2026. The Selection Committee will meet in June to select parent members. For the 2026-2027 school year, there will be 9 vacancies for GECPIC.

For the 2025-2026 school year, GECPIC was consulted on the Ontario School Year Calendar and the GECDSB Budget Planning.

For the 2026-2027 school year, there will be 9 vacancies for GECPIC.