



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FROM: Raquel Roberts, Superintendent of Education
Vicki Houston, Director of Education

SUBJECT: GECPIC Annual Report 2023-2024

DATE: June 4, 2024

Creating Confident Learners

Engaging Communities

Demonstrating Ethical Stewardship

GECPIC Committee Members 2023-2025			
Family of School	Results	Term	2021-2022-2023 Members
Belle River DHS	Committee Member 2023-24	2 Years	Mensah Boadi-Suadwa
Essex DHS	Committee Member 2023-24	2 Years	Dana O'Neil
North Star HS	Committee Member 2022-24	2nd Year	Lisa Wright
Herman Academy	Committee Member 2023-24	2 Years	Amna Azam Masoodi
Kennedy Collegiate	Committee Member 2022-24	2nd Year	Dimitrios Michos
Kingsville DHS	Committee Member 2022-24	2nd Year	Christina Sayer
Leamington District SS	Committee Member 2023-24	1 Year	Sandra Wolf
Vincent Massey Sec.	Committee Member 2023-24	1 Year	Danielle Cutt
Riverside Sec.	Committee Member 2023-24	2 Years	Stephanie Slipiec
Sandwich Secondary	Committee Member 2022-24	1 Year	Krista Regehr
Tecumseh Vista	Committee Member 2023-24	2 Years	Attila Sherman
Walkerville Collegiate	Committee Member 2023-24	1 Year	Amanda Qaqish
Westview Freedom	Committee Member 2023-24	1 Year	Dinesh Kumar

Trustee	Kim McKinley
IEAC Member	
Community Reps.	Mike Wilcox - JMCC Clarese Carter - Family Fuse
Director of Education	Vicki Houston
Superintendent	Raquel Roberts
Principal - Elementary	Laura Bates
Principal - Secondary	Najet Jones

**Greater Essex County Parent Involvement
Committee (GECPIC) Meetings for 2023 -2024**
Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm
Location: Board Office – 451 Park St. W

Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – special event

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Thursday, April 18, 2024 – special event

Tuesday, April 25, 2024

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

General Meeting & Special Event Details:

October 8, 2023 – Special Event

We started off this year with a Networking Event for all School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs. This event was the culmination of the efforts of the 2022/2023 Committee and was delivered and supported by the 2023/2024 Committee. The opportunity to bring together representatives from schools across the GECDSB was very well received and has established a new conduit for our School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs to learn from each other, as well as elevating the relationship between this group of stakeholders, the GECDSB and GECPIC. At this event we introduced the audience to what GECPIC is and how we operate, an explanation of why we came to the idea of hosting a networking session, and then followed it up with breakout sessions on the ‘hot topics’ that we identified as key points of interest for School Councils.

October 24, 2023 – General Meeting

The first formal meeting of the year gave the newly formed committee an opportunity to introduce themselves and welcome all our new members this year, including our new Superintendent of Education, Raquel Roberts. Trustee Qin was in attendance and gave greetings on behalf of the Trustees to the committee. The committee was lead in a GECPIC By-Law review by Superintendent Roberts, and then elections for Chair and Vice-Chair were held. Stephanie Slipiec was acclaimed to the role of Chair, and Danielle Cutt was elected to the role of Vice-Chair. We then proceeded into GECPIC business where we created a schedule of attendance for Board meeting attendance by GECPIC members, meeting dates and location for the remainder of the year were confirmed, selected Committee Member, Amanda Qaqish as the representative for TEAC, reviewed PRO Grant Application timeline, and then we wrapped up the night by discussing the focus of work for the 2023/24 Committee.

November 28, 2023 – General Meeting

Presentations:

R. Roberts/S. Duben presented the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP)

M. McEachern presented the GECDSB Communications plan

The purpose of this meeting was to set our direction for the year, establish our working committees, and set timelines. The decision was made to continue the trajectory that the committee has been on for the last few years and committed to hosting another networking

session for School Council Chairs, as well as continue the efforts on building out the resources identified in the survey work that was completed in previous years. The group was divided into two committees (Resource Committee and Networking Committee), to better focus our efforts and accomplish the work set out. At this meeting we also determined which members would represent GECPIC at the Board meetings for the duration of the year.

January 23, 2023 – General Meeting

Presentation: K. Dominato, School Council Finances

To better help inform our committees to support the development of some of the resources, Kathy Dominato joined us for a presentation and to help answer some questions around the School Generated Funds Policy and Regulation. Superintendent Roberts shared the School Year Calendar for the 2024/2025 year and asked for feedback. Laura Bates then gave us an update on Kindergarten registration – timeline, new messaging and the swag developed for the events. The committee then utilized the remainder of the meeting to focus on the committee work, and broke out into small groups.

February 27, 2023 – General Meeting

Presentation: S. Armstrong & R. Bondy, Waste Audits

K. Gale, R. Essery, C. Weglarz, Environmental Stewardship

After the wonderful presentations from the Environmental Stewardship team, we transitioned to an update on PRO Grants and learned that 41 applications were received (35 Elementary, 5 Secondary and IEAC). Leveraging the time together, the group broke out into the two established committees to continue their work on developing resources and planning our next Networking Session.

April 18, 2024 – Special Event

We gathered at Tecumseh Vista for this event where we brought together the School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs where we offered a presentation from the Environmental Stewardship team, followed by a breakout workshop where the attendees reviewed and broke down the School Council Regulations and Policy. As the participants arrived, they were also offered a piece of paper where we collected any questions that related to School Council, with the intent of answering them AMA-style, but unfortunately ran out of time; we collected the questions and have composed a response that will be sent out to all School Council Chairs.

April 25, 2024 – General Meeting

Presentations: J. Bell, Guidelines for Student Dress

R. Roberts, Equity Action Plan

The committee started off this meeting reviewing the Networking Session held the week prior. Overall, there was very positive feedback about the event, but the group determined that next year it would be best to hold one Networking Session instead of two and offer it in November. It was also identified that the educational presentation, albeit very informative and interesting, took up too much time when the true desire of the attendees was to network with each other. We then reviewed the GECPIC application process, timeline review, and asked interested members to submit their name to be on the Selection Committee.

May 28, 2024 – General Meeting

Presentation: R. Roberts, on behalf of C. Howitt, Racial Slurs and Epithets

Our final meeting of the year was focused on building out the summary for all aspects of the Networking Session that will be sent to all School Council Chairs. We then selected our parent members who will sit on the Selection Committee for the 2024/25 Parent Members of GECPIC. Vice-Chair, Danielle Cutt was unable to attend the Selection Committee meeting, so deferred her spot to another parent member. It was determined that Amna Masoodi and Christina Sayer will join Stephanie Slipiec as the parent members of the Selection Committee. The night was wrapped up with a review session in a 'Start, Stop, Continue' format where we discussed recommendations on how GECPIC can improve for next year and years to come.

Chair's Closing Thoughts

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 Parent Councils; the goals set out to achieve and contribute to this outcome were to further develop resources to better support local Parent Councils, and to establish and strengthen the network between Parent Councils, their Chairs and GECPIC.

This year's committee was robust, focused, and determined to move the work forward that was committed to; we are proud of the output with running two successful Networking Sessions that brought together approximately 70 School Council Chairs and Vice Chairs, as well as moved the needle on the development of the identified resources to better support the work that happens locally within each School Council. The committee was also engaged on multiple topics where we participated in active conversation and discussion providing valuable feedback to the Superintendents and their work.

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 – Najet Jones and Laura Bates, our Communications Officers – Madeline M and Anita Gilliam, and of course Superintendent Raquel Roberts and Administrative Assistant, 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.