

**Upper Grand District School Board
Parent Involvement Committee
Minutes of Meeting on November 30, 2015
Laurelwoods Elementary School**

In Attendance

Parents:

Board Personnel:

Community Member:

Guest Speaker: Christopher DiCarlo

Regrets:

Minutes Written by: Lorrie Wren

Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome to all extended, and all present introduced themselves
- Approval of Agenda: Members approved but no record with names
- Approval of Previous Minutes: Members approved but no record of names
- Reminder that donations can be made to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation and a tax receipt will be provided. Indicate School donation is intended for

Guest Speaker - Dr. Christopher DiCarlo

- Presentation “Introducing Standard Critical Thinking Skills to Ontario High Schools”
- Member of the “Society of Ontario Free Thinkers” and the “Centre for Inquiry Canada”
- Involved in a pilot project with the UGDSB
- Discussion on What is Critical Thinking, the ABC’s of Critical thinking

Board and Ministry Report: Brent McDonald

- Digital Saturday coming up. What technology can be used at home. Winter/Spring - What schools are interested in hosting
- Thoughts on PIC website - Opportunities to suggest modifications, what could added, kept

Directors’ Report

- Update on Union and Board labour discussions

Chairs’ Report

- Kathy attended the People for Education conference
- Looking for breakout session ideas for Spring event
- No newsletters by paper, all digital now.
- looking for suggestion on a speaker for a future meeting
- Provided information on Artists in Education, Ontario Arts Council, Aboriginal Artists in Schools, and Literacy Learning for Life
- Received a regional ProGrant \$15,000 Part 1 - “ Breaking down barriers through parent engagement”, Part 2 - Multiculturalism, helping refugee families transition into the Board

Treasurer’s Report

- \$6310, spent on last years regional grant

Trustees Report

- French Review almost complete
- Extreme weather policy almost complete - few changes with wording in current policy

Questions, New Business, and Final Remarks

- Sharing - Fresh from the Farm fundraiser, Upcoming Christmas Events, Glenbrook playground fund-raising success

Next Mtg Monday January 25th at 6:45, Board Office - 500 Vitoria Road North, Guelph