

# Upper Grand District School Board

## Parent Involvement Committee

### Minutes of Meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015

#### In Attendance

Deb Drake, Darren Hale, Vikki Brown, Maureen Oesch, Heather Janes, Martha MacNeil, Brent McDonald, Debbie Bush-Bernabe, Kathy Watts,

Regrets: Sara Dick, Rosemond Anim-Somuah, Martha Rogers,

Minutes written by: Maureen Oesch

#### Welcome and Introductions

- \* Welcome to all extended
- \* Approval of Agenda: Heather Janes
- \* Approval of Previous Minutes: Martha MacNeil, Vikki Brown
- \* Healthy Schools Conference Information (Debbie Bush-Bernabe)

Reminder - Arbour Vista Public School (200 McCann Street, Guelph) opened in September

2014 and the school started a Health Club and received \$15000 seed funding in May and are presenting a conference on Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 6:30pm-8:30 pm for school leaders (students, parents, staff, community) in the Wellington and Dufferin Counties.

· For more information please contact [Glenna.rogers@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:Glenna.rogers@wdgpublichealth.ca)  
or [kirk.runciman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:kirk.runciman@ugdsb.on.ca)

\* Kathy reminded about the upcoming presentations for David Bouchard on November 4, 2015 in Orangeville and November 5, 2015 in Guelph at John F. Ross – asked for some volunteers to help run it.

\* Kathy talked about t-shirts for PIC members and asked us to order by size and style and she would decide colour, for future events where we host.

Presentation – Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship – Karen Acton, UGDSB:

\* Karen talked about “Going Green” in a big way – from students to teachers, to admin staff, to all levels of the Board office and beyond

- \* to produce “Globally Environmentally Responsible Citizens” and impart the moral and educational value of doing so
- \* Reasons? 1) legislated – 4 Pillars graphic of Learning and Teaching, Staff and Student engagement, Environmental Leadership, and Community Connections and Partnerships
- \* Contest last year re: mantra “Live Green, Learn Green, Go Green.”
- \* Environmental education needs to be embedded, not just an add on, in school life – curriculum, BIPSA, SIP, in Arts eg. Acrylics vs. oil-based paints, more outdoor education as part of everyday experience from k-12.
- \* Talked about the benefits to brain development and mental health – eg. “Last Child in the Woods” and “Nature Rocks” - a DSM-V disorder called “nature deficit disorder” - expose children to risks and realities in order to help them develop and maintain skills.
- \* Karen spoke of CELP, DaVinci and Headwaters semester programs in high school,
- \* Environmental Learning Centres in – portables of straw bale construction, with renewables at illustration – field trips -
- \* Ecoschools – many in this Board – 2 are platinum – Victoria Terrace in Fergus and Centennial in Guelph.