

## PIC Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2016 Meeting

In Attendance: Martha Rogers and Guest Speakers Simon Bell & Robin May

Present: Martha MacNeil, Kathy Watts, Karen Dopson, Cat Thompson, Paul Smith, Amanda VanSoelen, Debbie Bush, Rosemond Anim-Somuah, Vikki Brown, Nicole Clark, Jennifer Edwards, Sue Shaw, Katherine Selves, Lorrie Wren, Barb White, Amanda Gudino, Maureen Oesch, Heather Janes, Anees Munshi, Rabia Khan, Lindsay Glaivaz

(see attached spreadsheet with everyone else- email sign in sheet)

- 1) Welcome & Introductions- went around the room and everyone introduced themselves and said which school or position at the board they had. Great representation from all areas of the school board, both elementary and secondary, as well as English and French schools
- 2) Approval of Agenda- Rosamond Anim- Somuah 1<sup>st</sup>, Vikki Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3) Approval of September 2016 Minutes- Nicole Clark 1<sup>st</sup>, Kathy Watts 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 4) Presentation by Focus On Nature by Simon Bell & Robin May
  - Started by Bob Bell in 2008, was in 3 schools, has grown to 80 schools this year
  - Goal is to get children/ students be more physically active, and interact/ foster an appreciation for nature
  - All day programs for schools, need 3 volunteer staff as well as teacher and parent support so that children can have 1 on 1 help and do some group work
  - Not for profit organization, relies on grants, corporate sponsorship (Linamar etc)
  - \$300 cost to school for the day, actual cost closer to \$800
  - Have class set of cameras (30) and laptops
  - Use the Google Piccasa program to edit pictures
  - Children are excited to take their own photos and edit, each child has a chance to do a short slide show to class and pick their favorite photo- creates pride in their work, hopes to inspire them to continue seeing the beauty in nature
  - Learn basic photography composition, rule of thirds etc., teach them to think outside the box for composition (underside of flower, close up pictures etc)
  - More volunteers needed, issue finding volunteers who are willing to travel outside city of Guelph area, training 2x year (next training workshop is next spring)
  - Pictures are displayed at GGH, Linamar staff lounge, Quebec Street Mall, Exhibit to be held at Ackers Building, Guelph Civic Museum
  - Kids LOVE the program- very positive feedback
  - Summer & March Break camps available
  - For more information, visit website at [www.focusonnature.ca](http://www.focusonnature.ca) or email [simon@focusonnature.ca](mailto:simon@focusonnature.ca)
- 5) a) Board Report- Brent McDonald
  - People for Education Conference- November 12  
Speaker is Stuart Shanker – Self Regulation  
You can register on their website [www.peopleforeducation.ca](http://www.peopleforeducation.ca)  
\$60 per person  
They currently have a survey for schools now open to gauge school supports- sent to school principals

- Digital Saturday- two events this year, first is November 26, 2016 9AM-11:30AM at Spencer Ave. Public School in Orangeville, 2<sup>nd</sup> to be announced, likely in Fergus area (considering partnering with Fergus Library)
- Parent Info App- there is parent request for a “one stop shop” type app for parents to access school information and lots of resources from an app- field trip forms, homework communications, attendance updates etc. Currently using multiple websites or email lists to access information. Hope to have more of an update next month
- Learning Choices Group needs a parent rep. Rosemond has agreed to be our PIC rep. Group is responsible for hearing proposals from teachers, schools, parents, community groups for alternative learning programs that can be implemented by the board. Must present plan that is sustainable, fair, inclusive etc. (ie. CELP, IB, DaVinci) \*\*see board website for more information on current programs available
- Online payment available for schools for lunch programs, class trips etc. Parents noted that some schools are pushing too hard, saying it is the only option- Brent to investigate and communicate to schools.
- 5b) Martha Rogers- Director, Ministry of Education
- Current government court found the previous government removal of union’s bargaining rights as unconstitutional, not resolved yet
- EQAO- problems with testing at the high school level- timeline of breakdown was discussed. Parent, teachers and students are all very upset, unclear yet if any tests will be counted, likely not. There are huge costs to the tests- computers, scribes and aides, modifications for students. EQAO at this time will not compensate for costs to repeat the test

#### 6) Martha MacNeil- Trustee Report

- Handouts available on table regarding various topics, free for taking
- Board Boundary Review for North Dufferin- more information on board website  
They need parent/ community feedback, last day for feedback is Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>
- We Day was last Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Visit <https://www.we.org/we-day/we-day-events/toronto> for more information about event. Fantastic day, it was enjoyed by all who attended. 10 tickets available per school, students must earn their ticket. Each student went home with a gift bag with books, video from Jamie Oliver etc.
- Beyond Secret Path- Truth & Reconciliation for what happened to Aboriginal students in residential schools. 4 trustees from board visited school in Brantford. Guide was a former student.  
Visit <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/arts/beyond-secret-path-6-indigenous-artists-making-powerful-work-about-reconciliation-1.3819324> for more information
- Treaties Recognition Week (November 6-12, 2016) for more information, visit [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/oct2016/min\\_treaties\\_recognition\\_week.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/oct2016/min_treaties_recognition_week.pdf)
- Safe & inclusive Schools- event on October 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information on this, visit the board website at <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/program/article.aspx?id=27732>
- U of G study regarding students crossing the street. Article in Tribune (could not find link, sorry!), as well as information on U of G website <http://news.uoguelph.ca/2016/10/research-aims-make-streets-safer-kids/>
- Walk to school day, 3 weeks ago- information on City of Guelph website at <http://guelph.ca/2016/09/mayor-guelph-hurricanes-players-walk-students-school/>

#### 7) Chair Report- Maureen Oesch

- Invite members to consider taking a turn as chair for upcoming meetings

- Reminder of the CBC showing of Secret Path by Gord Downey and his brother Mike- share with parents and students at schools
  - Reminder that everyone should utilize the information on the board website, lots of information and links that are helpful for parents and students <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/>
  - GCVI in Guelph is using their pro grant for mental wellness info night. They are looking for other schools to partner either this year or next year
  - Arbour Vista Public School is doing event on November 24<sup>th</sup> on promoting resilience in young children with Reaching In, Reaching Out. For more information, visit website at <http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/> geared to children up to age 8 specifically, but can be adapted to older children
  - Ecole Guelph Lake is hosting a screening of Miss Representation which exposes how mainstream media and culture contribute to the underrepresentation of woman in positions of power and inference on November 10<sup>th</sup>. It is an event that requires tickets. Visit <http://www.ugdsb.ca/guelphlake/> for more information
- 8) Spring Event- Brent McDonald
- Event planned for Wednesday, April 26, 2016 at Centre Wellington DSS in Fergus
  - Team is planning at this point, will be looking for volunteers to help out day of event
  - Speaker is Nancy Angevine from With Equal Step(she presented at PIC last May)
  - for more information, visit <http://withequalstep.com/index.php/about-us>
- 9) Treasurer Report- Vikki Brown
- \$500 was sent out to each school for Parent Involvement. \$38,500 was sent out. For ideas and guidelines, visit <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/pic/schoolcouncil.aspx?id=37141>
  - Money was spent on advertising in newspapers and online about PIC meetings
  - Current balance is \$6,383.75
  - Much of the money to be spent on Spring Event
  - Axy had a fundraising idea of selling raffle tickets- sent email to Brent. If a possibility, Brent will report next meeting
- 10) PIC Executive Positions to be filled
- Chair will be rotating position, Amanda VanSoelen to chair November meeting, no meeting in December. January to be chaired by Heather Janes, February by Rabia Khan. The rest of the year to be discussed at November meeting
  - Learning Choices Rep- Rosemond Anim Somuah
  - Secretary- rotating position, November Maureen Oesch
  - Dufferin Area Rep- Cat Thompson was added as 3<sup>rd</sup> person for parent advisory
  - Guelph Area Rep- already have 4 people (max). More people can attend, just can't vote
  - Centre & North Wellington Area Rep- each area only has one parent, two more each needed. If interested, please contact Brent at [brent.mcdonald@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:brent.mcdonald@ugdsb.on.ca)
- 11) No new business to cover
- Meeting ended at approx. 9:15PM

**Next Meeting at the Upper Grand District School Board Office**  
**500 Victoria Street North, Guelph**  
**Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:45PM**

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