

**Upper Grand District School Board  
Parent Involvement Committee  
Elora Public School  
Minutes of Meeting on Monday, February 23, 2015**

**In Attendance**

**Parents:** Sara Dick, Kathy Watts, Lorri Wren, Debbie Bush, Megan Taylor, Maureen Oesch, Leanne Ladner, Mollie Loughran, Sonja McNabb,

**Board Personnel:** Darren Hale, Brent McDonald, Martha MacNeil, Hayley Warren,

**Community Member:** None

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Lynn Woodford

**Regrets:** Martha Rogers, Wendy Bauman, Kay Elford, Vicki Brown, Rosemond Anim-Somuah, Heather Bailey.

**Minutes Written by:** Lorrie Wren, Kathy Watts

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Welcome to all extended, and all present introduced themselves.
- Approval of Agenda: Debbie Bush, Maureen Oesch
- Approval of Previous Minutes: Martha MacNeil, Molly Loughran
- Announcement: In order to approve the minutes of a previous meeting, you must be in attendance at that meeting.

**Mental Health- Dr. Lynn Woodford**

- Dr. Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead
- Mental well-being prevention
- Steering committee: Member involved - Doctors, Parents, Board Employees, Students
- Staff wellness, Student wellness
- Values/ Commitments
- Goals
  - Suicide prevention and awareness
  - Safe talk
  - ASIST training
  - Ongoing increased collaboration with community partners
  - Student mental well being
  - Work with students to decrease stigma, increase mental health awareness
  - Problem solving
  - Collaborative case conferencing guide
  - Ongoing outreach to parents and students
  - Mental health incorporated into School Improvement Plan
  - Social Emotional well being programming for students
- [www.reachinginreachingout.com/resource-parents](http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/resource-parents)
- VTRA Level 1 trainers in the Board

- Mental Health Awareness
  - Supporting minds
  - Mental Health professional development days
  - Working with curriculum to embed/enhance mental health awareness
  - Work with Board and Mental Health staff and community partners for staff and student awareness
  - [www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/mentalhealth](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/mentalhealth) - links to info and resources, access to help, contact info
  - Mental Health articles and newsletters
  - PIC Events
  - Community agencies
  - Family health teams - councillor
  - UGDSB - Principal, Teachers, Social Workers, Guidance, Psychiatric Consultants, CYC's
  - Mental Health community members
  - [www.dufferinwellingtonspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com](http://www.dufferinwellingtonspecialneedsstrategy.weebly.com) - to provide your input, survey closes March 23, 9am
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MYCS) transformation - Lead agency for Wellington/Dufferin to be chosen this year

### **Board and Ministry Report: Brent McDonald**

- Due to weather there were school closures but not throughout the entire Board. There are challenges involved and patience is appreciated. Board is working with the transportation company.
- New health curriculum is now posted
  - Not in effect until September
  - Most vetted curriculum ever released
  - Educators will be trained, potentially April or May, for next year
  - Parent guides for the curriculum available
  - Start with your principal with your concerns
  - Student involvement will be assessed on an individual basis
- Martha Rogers currently busy with bargaining process meetings
  - Agreements - end of August
- Kenilworth to be kept open
- Couling Cres students to be housed in Tytler temporarily
- Next meeting: Review of Action Steps as they relate to 3 year plan. Looking for feedback on:
  - Board Improvement Planning
  - Prioritizing Initiatives and Resources
  - Supporting and Developing Staff
  - Ensuring Equity of Access and Opportunity
  - Promoting well-being
  - Enhancing Public Confidence (includes engaging the community)

## **Chairs' Report**

- Thanks to Darren and Leanne for hosting this meeting
- ProGrant - Dr. Lynn Colgan is a professor at Queens University, oversees student teacher program
  - Math Presentation on April 16th at King George at 5:30 pm - 7:30
  - Goal is 75-100 in attendance
  - Math swag bags and books provided, please encourage parents to come to this event.
- Conference call with People for Education - Talking about what is going on in other school boards
- Bob Soreneson - Resiliency in kids - Great ProGrant idea
- Read an article on fundraising in Toronto schools
  - Discrepancies within our own Board
  - Neighbouring schools get together to help each other, mentor each other
  - Goal to prevent the "have" and "have-not's"
  - UG Learning Foundation received monetary donations and disperses funds 4 times a year.
  - Encourage councils to get together and share ideas
  - Within the board, a group of schools in Dufferin get together 4 times a year to share ideas, share what is working in their schools and listen to presentations
- Dufferin Parent Support Network is hosting a Guest Speaker
  - Allison Schafer, based on her book - Honey I wrecked the kids - Misbehaving children always make us question if we are parenting properly. We feel like we are messing up our kids.
  - May 6th, 7 pm, Orangeville District Secondary School, 22 Faulkner Street
  - [www.dpsn.ca](http://www.dpsn.ca)
- Annual PIC Event - April 30th - Centre Wellington District High School, Fergus, 4-8pm
  - Guest Speaker - Chris D'sousa
  - Rights of students to learn in a bias free environment
  - Meal served
  - Breakout sessions

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Snacks from last meeting - new balance

## **Communication**

- Update PIC with any events you are hosting

## **Questions, New Business, and Final Remarks**

- Elora Event - Skills Competition: Boat Races - 1st and 3rd
  - April 16th 7-8 pm EQAO presentation, Parents shown sample questions from test, Run by Elora teachers

**Next Mtg Mon. March 30th, 2015 at 6:45, Board Office - 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph**