

GPACA ANNUAL DIRECTORS' REPORT:
Respectfully submitted - Stacey Godsoe, Chair
March 26th 2018
Annual General Meeting of the GPACA

GPACA has been functioning - strategizing, lobbying, meeting, fundraising, ... for one year.
Established March 8th, 2017.

Our purpose is to ...

Society Objectives:

- ❖ *To facilitate the development and sustainability of cultural, educational and community-development initiatives in the Greater Petite Area of Lunenburg County Nova Scotia.*

- ❖ *To acquire land, design and build and/or renovate or otherwise configure a community space, and maintain and operate as required, to support the primary objective of education and development in the Greater Petite Area.*

JUDICIAL RULING -

But our initial purpose was to be able to engage a lawyer to launch an appeal of a particular motion of the SSRSB made in March of 2017. We were of course successful in this effort - finally hearing the result of our appeal from September 7th a little over 5 months later on Feb 13th with Justice Brothers' very comprehensive written ruling that the SSRSB "did not afford a school community the procedural fairness required". She also cited that their confusion and lack of clarity resulted in some "unreasonable interpretations" (that they could not rescind a motion they themselves made; that their clarification of a motion was not relevant to the meaning of that motion and resulting vote as a board...), and some "unreasonable, interpretive errors and breaches of fairness" and that "the Board not knowing what it decided" and "passing motions so incomprehensible the Board itself is unsure what they mean", "seeking legal advise to interpret their own motions" resulted in "The Board itself creating [sic] unnecessary uncertainty" for our community.

And finally - "The 2017 motion closing Petite Riviere Elementary is set aside as a violation of the duty of procedural fairness".

The SSRSB determined that they would not appeal this ruling after consultation with their lawyer which means that her determinations stand and that PRES will stay open for the upcoming school year (September 2018). We understand that this is the minimum during this time of transition for the whole Dept of Education - the dissolution of school boards and creating of an appointed provincial advisory council and multiple "enhanced SACs" across the province. We are very optimistic that we can continue to work with our communities to position our school as flourishing and an excellent example of an innovative rural school model for all to emulate!

ACTIVITIES -

Our membership has grown to 90+ members, we submitted a petition to the Provincial Legislation in October of 2017 reflecting the desire by community to keep our school open with over 1500+ signatures, we won our judicial appeal! We raised over \$20,000 via fundraising efforts like - bake sale, bottle drive, concerts, T-shirt, sign and sticker sales... We supported one school walk-out, collaborated on the school Chicken Coop project with PRES Home and School and acquired a Lunenburg Community Health Board grant in the amount of \$2000 to that end. We attended various public meetings dozens of SSRSB mtgs a number of PRES SAC and MODL mtgs. Our school story was featured in various newsprint and radio stories - 63 in 1 yr! We met with multiple Education Ministers, MLAs, political leaders, presented at various public and community meetings. Hosted 1 public meeting (right before our inception) and 1 "Founding Meeting". We were engaged in multiple consultations with our legal team to review and provide feedback on various submissions to the court as well as respond to the SSRSB's submission. We gathered for multiple GPACA strategy meetings, created public communications through our website blog, Facebook page and twitter account. Wrote multiple letters to decision makers. All in an effort to rally support for our school and recognition of the level of procedural unfairness that was transpiring at the school board.

OUR FUTURE -

It has been a busy/intense year for current Directors and while we are still determining our ongoing commitment and capacity we wanted to hear from community on what the future of GPACA could and should be.

We have acquired nearly \$7000 in surplus that we need to continue to account for and determine best use. There is time and opportunity for folks to consider their interest in being more involved - as a member, a volunteer, come to meetings, consider being a Director. We anticipate the upcoming year will be quieter, a time for visioning, planning and reflection.

Announce the departure of a valued GPACA Director -

Johanna Hayes who has contributed so much to this cause as a Director and as our treasurer. We know Johanna will be missed but won't be far and will continue to remain engaged.

Thank you Johanna!!

We DO have some new directors coming on board to continue to forward the mission and mandate of GPACA.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stacey Godsoe, Chair GPACA