

## GPACA AGM 2019 Director's Report

**Directors (March 2018-March 2019):** Stacey Godsoe (Co-Chair), Tara Jaskowiak (Co-Chair), Peter Garcin (Treasurer), Sarah Tingley (Secretary), Leitha Haysom, Phyllis Price, Paul Aucoin, Kristy Boutilier, Sadie Watson

### REFLECTION AND REFOCUS:

- Our continued **mandate** is to support the sustainability of the school, education and support for children in our communities (this being the primary objective of organization and its decision-making) - and without the need for active campaigning/advocacy or fundraising efforts this past year we have the opportunity to contain our activities to this purpose.
- We also recognize that all funds remaining have been given in trust with the purpose of sustaining the school so we have determined a policy to protect this end and agreed, that **50% of funds raised that remain would be held in reserve specifically for sustainability of school** (in the amt of \$3000)
- **A new policy for spending/funding requests** as well as joint advocacy requests outline a process and criteria for decision making on these kinds of requests
- Created a compiled "**Lessons Learned**" document RE our school campaign to document the highs, lows and possibilities (for our records for now)
- Tara had the opportunity to **share our story** with community change makers from around the world at the Community Change Festival in Toronto, hosted by the [Tamarack Institute](#).
- Board members Tara Jaskowiak and Phyllis Price contributed to a video on volunteering in community for the Community Sector Council  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKZmxYVE1il&fbclid=IwAR08INVmZs6TedkyPGfotk3BcolyWcdvDNFQMtoQmz4zL-wQToJ63FaovbU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrc-ucgTaZw>
- Brainstorming and info gathering around "**green directions**" for the school but we are realizing we need to increase our capacity and expertise in this area so are proposing a **working group dedicated to this issue**
- As well - two other possibilities for working groups are evolving - **after school child care and events** - which would join community and GPACA directors in efforts around these identified areas
- SSRCE has a **new Regional Executive Director** - Paul Ash and GPACA has reached out to welcome him and had a positive response back.

### SUPPORT FOR PRES:

- **Art Infusion Project** (\$1000) - all grade, art pilot program unique to PRES (the school is tracking measurable academic and social/emotional changes in the students);
- From our settlement with SSRCE \$1000 went to the PRES **Home and School** to support their efforts
- Supported the PRES **SAC 'Grassroots Workshop'** by donating funds for a graphic recorder for this event - very rich conversations and connections were made (all Elem

SACs were invited for a full day offering of speakers, discussion and homemade lunch). Some highlights were seeing such a large contingent from Tancook Elem - very keen to host the second annual SAC workshop on the island! Other schools very interested in the Pre-Primary program and outdoor ed/learning opps at PRES.

- GPACA provided funds to PRES for the **chicken coop project** - \$800 to go toward solar panels for automated watering system and light for the winter months (still plans afoot to have a webcam installed to live stream activities in the coop to the students and anyone interested!). Thank you to Conquerall Electric for installing the solar panels. This project is still actively engaging children on animal care, science, engineering as well as developing empathy and many other social/emotional lessons as well as multidisciplinary opportunities across the curriculum and continues to be a great school-community collaboration. AND provides healthy organic eggs for the breakfast program as well as organic fertilizer for the school garden.
- GPACA helped spread the word for a potential **after-school child care program** at PRES - all that is needed is a part-time Early Child Care Educator but no luck securing this to date. This is an identified need in our community and one GPACA continues to explore - this is another opportunity for members/community to become involved (via a **After School Child Care WG**)
- **Supported a school donation campaign** initiated by members Andrea and Brian Lohnes - three opportunities to donate to the school (ongoing and on their website or in person) - 'Outdoor Classroom', 'Art Program', 'Music Program' (included in donation perks were handmade cards by Art teacher Skylar Sheaves and students).

#### **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY:**

- **Thanked our lawyer**, Brian Casey from Boyne Clark with a local bounty gift basket including fresh fish and lobster, preserves, baking, redeemable gift cards for businesses and services and other treats all donated by community members and businesses. He was very touched.
- Successful "**thanking local businesses**" campaign in early summer - print and social media + custom-designed graphic (Anna Bald) - thanking local businesses for their continued support as well as /encouraging folks to "shop local".
- Not successful in our Lieutenant Gov's **Community Spirit Award** application last Spring (through a very collaborative effort by many community members and groups) but we did follow up to learn what we were missing and there is an opportunity to reapply this Spring, given interest and capacity to do so.

#### **COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERSHIP:**

- We have put the word out to community and membership to **remove Save Petite signs** in order to keep the impact fresh should we need them again and to remain accountable to potential for litter/sign pollution.
- Have tried to **reach out to our listed members** more regularly this past year but please do let us know if you would like to be added or removed from this email list at any time.
- Making efforts to continue to post on **social media** but have definitely decreased our frequency.

## ADVOCACY:

- Most recently GPACA **submitted and presented to the provincial electoral boundary review commission**. Their report outlines a number of scenarios - and a very likely change for many of our communities to move from Lunenburg West constituency to Queens. The purpose of the commission's review is to address voter parity issues (Queens being a very large but very sparsely populated constituency) but there were no indications in their report that they understood the impacts to our area if this change goes forward (and we have been here before between 2001-2012 when many of our villages were moved into Queens and then back again...). We outlined the issues we felt key, including our need to retain our 'community of interest' and ties to Lunenburg West/ Bridgewater as our economic, recreational and political centre (vs Liverpool). Of particular concern to us is that our interests and needs would not be understood or prioritized by an elected official in Liverpool (for example should we face school closure again, we would need to advocate to two diff MLAs, possibly from different parties). The Commission will put forward a recommendation to the Attorney General April 15th. Other community members presented in support of the status quo as well, including MODL representatives Mayor Carolyn Bolivar Getson and councillor Lee Nauss, and MLA Mark Furey. MODL also submitted a letter of support of our submission as well as their own submission to the commission after GPACA members presented our concerns to them at council.

FOR MORE INFO:

[http://petiteforthefuture.ca/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Electoral-Boundary-Review-PRESENTATION-final-January-2019\\_GPACA.pdf](http://petiteforthefuture.ca/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Electoral-Boundary-Review-PRESENTATION-final-January-2019_GPACA.pdf)

- Promoted and shared a **school bus safety survey**. DOE has developed a focus group/committee on this topic which one of the school SAC members is on.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

- Develop **guiding principles** for GPACA
- Develop **membership guidelines**, benefits and nominal fee structure - small annual fee of \$5 has been proposed in order to confirm commitment and provide clarity of our membership numbers. It also will have the added benefit of protecting our capital from operational fees, like banking and registry of joint stocks etc....
- **Working Groups** - three opportunities for members and community to be involved: **Green Reno Working Group, After School Child Care Working Group, Event Planning Working Group**.
- We have talked about potentially developing a **scholarship** for a student from PRES, possibly a grade 6 student. This could be presented at the year end grade 6 closing in June.