



## Annual Operating Plan Community – 2017-18

**We will foster and celebrate inclusive school communities to enhance the learning experiences of all students.**

**Goal:** Facilitate opportunities for the use of strategies to encourage and support family involvement in our schools and learning at home.

**Supporting Strategies for Family Involvement (Responsibility: B. Blancher and K. Newhouse)**

<p><b>Strategies</b> (What will we do?)</p>	<p>Follow-up on the <b>Supporting Your Child – Strategies for Literacy, Numeracy and Well-Being</b> resource created last year through the combined efforts of the Elementary and Secondary Program Teams and Special Education Team, ensure that families are able to access the guide and are finding it useful to support learning at home.</p> <p>Work with the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee to identify strategies/resources that support family involvement and begin the process of creating a resource guide for School Councils to support increased involvement of families in schools.</p>
<p><b>Evidence of Progress</b> (How well did we do it?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey of schools (through a Family of Schools model) will be conducted to determine how they are using and communicating the <b>Supporting Your Child</b> resource</li> <li>• Follow-up surveys for School Councils will be conducted and reviewed in time to get an idea of the value of the resource to families</li> <li>• Based on results of the surveys, revisions will be made to the <b>Supporting Your Child</b> resource, as necessary, to increase its effectiveness for families</li> <li>• A resource guide of strategies to support family involvement in our schools will be available in print and online to Administrators and School Councils.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Status</b> (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)</p>	<p>The <b>Supporting Your Child at Home: Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy</b> is available online in the Parent Portal section of granderie.ca. Copies were shared with School Council members at the School Council Orientation Session on October 4, 2017 and information about the document was part of the Multi Year Plan presentation by the Director. Anecdotal evidence from those in attendance is that the document is valuable, comments included that parents appreciate the live links available in the electronic version and it was recommended that those links are checked occasionally to ensure that they remain live.</p> <p>October 2017 Director’s Meeting – Annual Operating Plans were presented and the following was part of the Community AOP presentation:</p>

<p><i>For Goal #1, last year the focus was on the learning at home piece which remains as a focus as there is still follow up to do in terms of assessing the value of resource – <b>Supporting Your Child at Home, Strategies for Literacy and Numeracy</b> created by our Program and Spec Ed teams, which also includes a well-being component.</i></p> <p>Upon review of the goals in January 2018, it was determined that it may be too early to assess value of the document and that this should wait until the 2018-19 school year. Additionally, GEPIC went in a different direction for the spring parent involvement event which did not lend itself to a review of the document.</p> <p>For data gathering purposes, schools were surveyed about communication and use of the document this year.</p> <p>64 schools responded to the survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72% of schools reported that the document was shared in the fall with School Councils – hard copies were made available and the link to the online document was distributed.</li> <li>• 28% of schools reported that they add the link to their website and shared information through newsletters, social media and at meet the teacher events.</li> </ul> <p>35 schools made suggestions to increase communication about this document in order to further engage families. A sample of comments is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Centrally post the document to school websites (push out) if possible.</i></li> <li>• <i>I would like to share portions of this resource each month in my newsletter.</i></li> <li>• <i>Please highlight this again with our August reminders. This is a great resource. Resources for high school should be shared with students as well.</i></li> <li>• <i>This document provides a great resource to shared with parents at Grade 7 transition to high school presentations and at Grade 9 Parent Information nights.</i></li> <li>• <i>Is it possible to share the document on the front page of the parent portal link to highlight it? Also, create a short, engaging presentation that highlights key points in 60-90 seconds that speaks to this online resource – can be used at open houses across the board.</i></li> <li>• <i>We have tweeted out some of the websites for math help, EQAO etc. We could include it as part of the registration package and at Parents' Nights.</i></li> </ul> <p>The suggestions will be reviewed and acted upon as appropriate.</p> <p>The family involvement resource guide development will begin in the 2018-19 school year. GEPIC had other priorities this year – a new Chair, a new process for grants, and a new direction for events.</p>	
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**Goal:** Develop a process to formally integrate and celebrate the partners whose contributions enhance the learning experiences of our students.

**Educational Partnerships** (Responsibility: B. Blancher and K. Newhouse)

<p><b>Strategies</b> (What will we do?)</p> <p><b>Evidence of Progress</b> (How well did we do it?)</p>	<p>Continue working on the draft partnership guide developed in the spring of 2017. Create a communications plan for the guide, along with strategies to foster and maintain partnerships and begin implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft will be presented to elementary and secondary administrators to gather feedback on the guide</li> <li>• Exec Council will review the draft and revisions will be made, as necessary</li> <li>• A partner survey from each of the Higher Improvement in Performance (HIP) Schools will lead to the creation of a template of service providers that can be shared with all schools, so that schools with similar community needs can have equal access to partners</li> <li>• A communications plan aimed at highlighting the guide, as well as an overview presentation, will be developed to support awareness and learning</li> <li>• A review of a sample of schools across the system, will be conducted to evaluate and monitor the process of integrating and celebrating partners</li> </ul>
<p><b>Status</b> (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)</p>	<p>A draft of the Grand Erie Partnership Guide was presented to elementary and secondary administrators at the January 2018 Director’s meeting.</p> <p>Following this, the Grand Erie Partnership Guide was provided to all HIP Schools to pilot beginning in March 2018, with the request to use the guide to review a current partnership in which the school was engaged or to guide the school while pursuing a new partnership. HIP administrators provided feedback via a Microsoft Office form. Feedback on four areas was provided – the usefulness of the guide, information about the services that the partnership provides, the social determinant of health that it seeks to support, and how schools recognize or celebrate the partner</p> <p>Administrators shared that the guide was helpful to them for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the guide provided a good framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the partnership</li> <li>• the guide makes explicit what a community partnership looks like and helps to articulate how a partnership should be benefitting students, school and partner</li> <li>• the guide assisted in helping the school choose the partner</li> <li>• the guide was a good reminder of the importance of engaging in community partnerships</li> </ul> <p>Administrators shared that they recognize partners in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acknowledged partner in school newsletter</li> <li>• highlight the partner at awards ceremony</li> <li>• highlight the support of the partner through social media</li> <li>• include the partner in school run recognition events</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have a recognition event for partners</li><li>• have a joint dinner or lunch with school and partner in attendance</li><li>• recognize the partner at a school council meeting</li></ul> <p>The concept of a template of service providers is currently under reconsideration as concerns have been expressed about how this may create unintended negative consequences for our relationships with current partners.</p> <p>Next steps for 2018-19 will be to develop a communications guide and presentation to support awareness across the system.</p>
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