

**Wellington District 31 Executive Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 19, 2018 @ 9:00**  
**UGSB Board Room, Guelph ON**

**Present:** Stephen O'Connell, Anne Smith, Nancy Baker, Michael Curtis,  
Mary Hermann, Brenda McGinnis, Marina Howlett, Carol Christie,  
Pam Niesiobedzki, Joan Miller, Joan Berry, Lynn Morrison,  
Frank Tersigni, Richard Goodbrand, Shirley Goodbrand, John Ritchie  
**Regrets:** Joyce Barnes, Pat Bruder,  
**Resignations:** Mary Gittins as of November 2018

**1. Welcome** Stephen welcomed everyone to the November meeting.

**2. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda:**

**Additions:** 1. Richard to run for Provincial Board of Directors: covered in  
#8 Other

**Motion by** Nancy Baker, seconded by Pam Niesiobedzki, **carried**

**3. Motion to approve the September 10, 2018 Minutes**

**Motion by** Brenda McGinnis, seconded by Anne Smith, **carried**

**4 Follow Ups**

**A. Fall Luncheon: October 25, 2018**

: Food, Entertainment and Arts and Crafts were well received

: 92 attended

: Next year's tentative date will be Thursday, October 24, 2019

**B. Wellness Workshop**

Meeting to be held at Brenda McGinnis' on December 6, 2018 @10:30

**5. Reports**

**President's Report: Stephen O'Connell**

**A. Membership Services Workshop (September 16-17, 2018)**

It featured speakers from the broader educational sector. They encouraged us to reach out to all sectors of education and make them feel welcome. Strategies were identified for approaching indigenous educators, early years staff, private school staff and post secondary staff.

**B. Governance Workshop (September 23-24, 2018)**

Looked at Governance from a committee member's perspective  
Gave a common base of understanding regarding our new Bylaw and Policies and the operation of all committees within this new structure

**C. Presidents' Workshop (October 28-29, 2018)**

Engaged District leaders in reviewing initiatives in the RTO/ERO

Health Plan, local governance, our Vibrant Voices advocacy, results of a focus group discussions of Dr. Paula Rochon's research and identification of local issues that the Board should hear about through liaison group discussions.

**D. Senate (October 30-31, 2018)**

\$64,000 has been set aside for a Goodwill Workshop  
Stephen is part of a committee starting to plan workshop on November 26, 2018.  
District 31 projected membership December 31, 2018: 1380 members, 14.9 grant per member in 2019  
OTPP pension increase 2.2%  
Job descriptions are coming

**E. Provincial Donation**

Deadline is March 28, 2019  
Suggested that we submit Therapy Dogs for Vets – Guide Dogs Canada  
Brenda wrote up a proposal before and will look it up

**Pension and Retirement Concerns: Marina Howlett**

Workshop was after Thanksgiving: discussion on Social Isolation Project, PSTO within community, how are our members involved, little time was spent on Pension issues  
COLA increase is 2.2% in 2019,  
Federal Regulatory Act: private vs. public, would create a 2 tiered system if government intervenes,

**Constitution: Marina Howlett**

A District Governance Document was formed (formally called Constitution Committee): Marina, Richard, Brenda, Anne, and Shirley  
Possible meeting dates in January/February 2019  
Richard says there is no rush

**Notes to Governance Committee** - add to model: newsletter editor role and editorial committee

So far – editing for content, grammar, punctuation, etc. – Marina, Brenda, Rick, Anne  
Layout – John, Anne  
Everyone is asked to edit their own articles so rough copy will be sent out to everyone and are asked to make corrections if they see errors in any part of the newsletter  
Advertising Policy will be followed

**Nominating/Executive Roles: Marina Howlett**

Vacancy for Newsletter: Mary Gittins has resigned  
Suggested that we need 2 people 1) creates, 2) edits

**Motion by** Marina Howlett that Pam Niesiobedzki accept the role as editor of the newsletter, seconded by Brenda McGinnis; carried

**Website: John Ritchie**

Issue: not used very much, need an attraction to get followers so send John items  
Website costs \$300 yearly- John spoke about spam and he will monitor to catch redirect to hosting company  
Could purchase SITE LOCK-\$400 US a year to protect the site  
Could move website to Provincial server but what is their protection  
Decision is postponed till 2019  
Need to post trips, SIGN UPs, etc to give people a reason to go to site  
Use Social Media to drive people to website

**Timed Presentation: Strong Start: Claudette Moffat**

Claudette presented program as a possible PSTO submission  
Started in Waterloo Region 17 years ago  
Now runs in all Wellington Catholic schools, in 16 schools in UGDSB  
Gave out a brochure explaining the program for all to read  
Teacher suggests children, assessments are given and they receive 30 min sessions for 10 weeks in the areas of letters, sounds, and building words strategies, assessed at end of program  
Joan Berry and Nancy Baker have worked in the program  
John Ritchie will email blast to see who volunteers and Joan will receive the info

**Nominating/Executive Roles: Marina Howlett (continued)**

Need another councilor as Mary Hermann has moved to secretary  
Suggested a Northern Wellington member, need to know by March  
Any member can attend a meeting but cannot vote  
Marina suggested that we need an editorial team composed of President (or designate) and two executive members appointed by executive. This editorial team would be included in new constitution.

Temporary Editorial team : Anne, Marina, Brenda, Rick. John will help with layout and format. Anne could help with this too.

**Motion by** Brenda McGinnis to approve Marina Howlett composing a post for new members to our Executive, seconded by Pam Niesiobedzki, carried  
John Ritchie and Richard Goodbrand to post on website

**Treasurer: Mike Curtis**

Looking into Electronic banking in the future, Sept. 2019 workshop may address this: concerned about putting it into the Cloud  
See Financial Report, November, 2018

**Next year Budget:**

**Wellness Workshop:** last year covered by Provincial, budget about \$400

**Entertainment: Motion by** Pam Niesiobedzki that we spend \$800 for Where Have all the Folk Songs Gone group Seconded by Joan Berry, carried

**Christmas Donations: Motion by** Carol Christie that we donate \$500 to support the same organizations as last year, Seconded by Marina Howlett, carried, Organization will be asked to indicate to us they have received the donation

**Scholarships:** Discussion of how scholarships are distributed and whether we are reaching a large audience

**Motion by** Richard Goodbrand that we continue our 3 High School (2 Public/1 Catholic) scholarships to \$200 per student, Seconded by Pam Niesiobedzki, carried

**Reserves and Surplus:** need to discuss district priorities as to whether we have a small or large reserve or have no money at all

Mike will send a new budget draft by email in January, send in suggestions and concerns to him by March meeting

**Goodwill: Mary Hermann**

Joyce sent an email stating the Goodwill Committee sent Birthday/Christmas cards to about 300 members, flowers to 15 members, get well cards to about 25 members and made a \$100 donation to RTO/ERO Foundation in memory of members who have passed away.

**Membership: Carol Christie/Frank Tersigni**

**RPW** is at The Victoria East Golf club on March 30, 2019 in the morning - continental breakfast provided. Provincial wants more local participation and a non-teacher speaker

**Membership Workshop:** more visual, more focus on cross section of educations, ie pictures of custodians, secretaries etc.

**Foundation: Joan Berry**

No report given

**Health and Benefits: Pat Bruder Absent**

No report given

**Newsletter**

Deadline for articles: January 8, 2019

When should it go out?

Mention May dinner

Pam will look into her local printer (maybe 3 days after deadline)

Original date to go out: January 17, 2019

**Political Advocacy: Brenda McGinnis**

Brenda will send Christmas cards to MP's and MPP's

Political scene is getting bad #1 concern is Climate change #2 gap between rich and poor, #3 changes to our Pension

Brenda will write letters to Tory MPP's on protecting the Environment will post answer on web site

Provincial priorities are Pharmacare, Pensions, Age Friendly Communities

Working poor suffer the most, won't raise minimum wage to \$15.00

**Social Advocacy: Brenda McGinnis**

Guelph/Wellington Underprivileged Seniors: should we as RTO District 31 get some names to give Christmas gifts to these seniors?

**Motion by** Brenda McGinnis that we support in some capacity "Adopt a Senior" program Guelph this year, seconded by Marina Howlett, carried

**Travel: Lyn Morrison**

Theresa from Great Canadian looking into "Dear Evan Hansen" tickets for a Tuesday or Saturday, runs till May 26 2019

**Fall ideas: Brigadoon at Shaw**, September 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Pelee Island or Haunted Kingston**: 3 day trip in October, 2019, info will be in January newsletter

**PSTO: Brenda McGinnis**

It was decided to support J.O.E. as our PSTO submission

J.O.E. has asked for volunteers from RTO to help, many have taught these adults, no motion recorded

Deadline is June 20, 2019

It was suggested we have a large "AD" identifying District 31 at the Dawson Road site if we get support from Provincial for tis program.

## **6. Spring Luncheon**

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – Italian Canadian Club: booked

Entertainment: Where have all the Folk Songs Gone? has been booked

## **7. Next Meeting Dates:** UGDSB Board Room, 9:00 am

Monday, March 18, 2019

Monday, June 3, 2019

## **8 Other**

**Motion by** Brenda McGinnis that District 31 Executive nominate, endorse and support Richard Goodbrand as a candidate for our RTO/ERO Board of Directors, seconded by Carol Christie, carried  
Richard requested minimal financial support due to concerns from a candidate re “hand outs” at Provincial election. Support letters, emails are ok. Handouts will be discussed at a later date.

**Motion by** Marina Howlett that District 31 gives \$600 toward Richard Goodbrand’s campaign, seconded by Brenda McGinnis, carried

**Motion to Adjourn** by Richard Goodbrand, seconded by Frank Tersigni, Carried

**Time:** 12:00 pm

Thank you to Nancy and Mike for the treats and coffee.