



# The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING | SEPTEMBER 25, 2017**

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2hoOjS7>

## Student Recognition

The recognition program is Grand Erie's way of honouring and celebrating students who have excelled in academics, the arts, athletics or community involvement. On Monday, Alexa Windle (Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School) and Ascension Harjo (Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School) were each presented with a certificate from Trustee Diane Sowers and Director of Education, Brenda Blancher.

**Athletics – Alexa Windle – Grade 9:** This summer, Alexa competed in the 2017 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. She was one of the youngest competitors to qualify, and came home with two bronze medals (discus and hammer). Provincially, Alexa is ranked first in hammer and discus, and second in shot put in her age group. She has also been nominated for Ontario Midget Thrower of the Year.



**Arts – Ascension Harjo – Grade 11:** Ascension was introduced to hoop dancing at a young age through his family's involvement in the traditional healing dance. Today, he is an accomplished artist. This summer, Ascension performed in the Opening Ceremonies of the North American Indigenous Games. He also competed in basketball at the Games.

Do you know a Grand Erie student who deserves recognition? Learn more about the criteria as well as the nomination process here: <http://bit.ly/2iYyy9k>

### **Patti McCleister Memorial Leadership Award**

The award is presented annually to a Grand Erie employee or group of employees, who best embody Patti McCleister's legacy of passion, creativity, and commitment to leadership. Recipients routinely go beyond their job descriptions to make Grand Erie an even better place to work and learn. They also inspire others in the process.

The 2017 recipients are: Mary-Jane Hutfloetz, a teacher at Graham Bell-Victoria Public School and Genevieve Rochette, a designated early childhood educator at St. George-German Public School. Ted McCleister was on hand to present the award, along with Board Chair David Dean and Director of Education, Brenda Blancher.



**Mary-Jane Hutfloetz** brings curriculum to life in unique and meaningful ways to foster each student's sense of social justice and global citizenship. She facilitated the Pen Pal program with students from Six Nations of the Grand River Community, and led the Green Team efforts at her school, resulting in silver-level designation through Eco Schools. She is also responsible for a wide-range of fundraising activities and events, including Save the Evidence, Fort McMurray wildfires, Terry Fox Run, and the Milk Program.

**Genevieve Rochette** is an advocate for French language and culture in her school community, resulting in student achievement and pride in learning. Her inclusion of inquiry-based learning and technology in the classroom serves as a model for others. A Grand Erie leader for commitment to on-going learning, best practices and Kindergarten assessment, her enthusiasm and passion inspires staff and students alike.



## Grand Erie Leadership Video



Leadership is a journey, and hearing from leaders at various points along the way can serve as inspiration to others and the start of larger conversations. For this year's leadership video, six Grand Erie staff members climbed aboard a boat and let the wind catch their sails – both literally and figuratively. Their stories

and advice are a testament to the leadership and development opportunities that exist within Grand Erie, and provide a warm 'Welcome Aboard' for those hoping to embark on their own leadership journey. View the 2017 Leadership video here: <http://bit.ly/2fldDb1>

## Grand Erie participates in Orange Shirt Day, September 29

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School commemoration event in British Columbia in 2013. It grew out of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken from her on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Grand Erie will take part in Orange Shirt Day on September 29. To learn more about Phyllis' story, and the origins of Orange Shirt Day, visit: <http://bit.ly/2cOfyER>



## Brantford Power Award

In acknowledgement of Grand Erie's commitment to energy conservation and efficiency, the Board was recognized by Brantford Power at an event on September 20. Grand Erie was celebrated as a community leader for efforts in conserving energy through the LED retrofit program as well as staff/student education on the importance of energy and environmental conservation. Grand Erie's LED retrofit program is a key part of the Environment component of the Board's Multi-Year Plan, which is focused on Success for Every Student.

## Annual Operating Plans – 2017-18

Senior Administration staff presented their Annual Operating Plans, which will guide their work and the work of the system throughout the 2017-18 school year. Each plan addresses a component of Grand

Erie's Multi-Year plan. The Annual Operating Plans do not represent all of the work being done at Grand Erie. They do, however, set out – at a high level – a clear direction for Senior Administration and all schools in the areas of Well-Being, Technology, Community, Equity, and Environment.

Grand Erie's Achievement Plan: Success for Every Student, which will be presented to Trustees on October 30, covers all of the areas included in the Achievement component of the Multi-Year Plan.

Each Annual Operating Plan focuses on the indicator statements and anticipated outcomes of the Multi-Year Plan. They also include specific actions and means by which the Board can assess Grand Erie's Progress. Moving forward, the Annual Operating Plans will be shared with elementary and secondary school principals, managers and union presidents.

To review the Annual Operating Plans presented, see the following pages of the Agenda package found here: <http://bit.ly/2hoOjS7>

- Well-Being (Pages 49-51)
- Technology (Pages 53-56)
- Community (Pages 57-58)
- Equity (Page 59)
- Environment (Pages 61-65)

### **Contract Award – Fairview Avenue Redevelopment**



Trustees approved the Fairview Avenue Redevelopment contact award to J.R. Certus Construction Co. Ltd. The contract includes construction of a new elementary school to accommodate the consolidation of Fairview Avenue Public School and Grandview Central Public School. The new construction

features child care, as well as child and family program spaces. Construction will begin this fall and continue throughout the summer of 2018. The new school will open in September 2018, before the old school is demolished.

### **Major Construction Projects – Final Report**

Trustees received an update on the four-classroom addition at Thompson Creek Elementary School (now complete); the Fairview Avenue Public School redevelopment (tender closed); and the renovation of space for the Hospitality Program and Self-Contained Multi-Handicap Room at Pauline Johnson Collegiate (nearing completion).

### **Fall Commencements begin**

Fall Commencements for Grand Erie students begin this week. Celebrations take place September 29 at Simcoe Composite School and Valley Heights Secondary School. On October 5, celebrations will be held

at Paris District High School, followed by Dunnville Secondary School and Waterford District High School on October 6.

#### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**Memorial Statement:** A memorial statement was read to honour Winnifred (Winnie) Jacobs who worked at Tollgate Technological Skills Centre and Paris District High School.

**Approval of minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of August 28, 2017 (Regular Board) and September 11, 2017 (Committee of the Whole).

#### **Trustees also received the following as information:**

- Committee of the Whole Board Report
- Summary of Accounts – August 2017
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – June 1, 2017
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – June 2017
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee – Safety Audit Tracking Report (Summer 2017)
- Audit Committee Minutes (Draft) – September 19, 2017
- Compensatory Education Steering Committee Minutes – May 4, 2017