



# The Blackboard

## Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

### Regular Board Meeting | August 27, 2018

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2w9yC9R>



#### First Day of Classes at Mapleview Elementary School Set for Monday, November 12

Through the Major Construction Update Report, Trustees received an update Monday evening on the construction of Grand Erie's newest school, Mapleview Elementary. The report, which summarizes the work completed at the site over the summer, also provided a revised project schedule and a recommendation on the preferred move-in date for all students. Following discussion of the report, Trustees approved the recommended move-in date of Friday, November 9. This means the first day of classes in the new building for students and staff at Mapleview Elementary will be Monday, November 12. It also means both sites (Mapleview Elementary School and Fairview Avenue Public School) will be closed to students on Friday, November 9 to allow staff time to coordinate the movement of school/classroom resources and supplies. Mapleview Elementary will

feature child and family programming spaces as well as child care. It is funded through a Capital Priorities Grant of approximately \$10 million from the Ministry of Education.

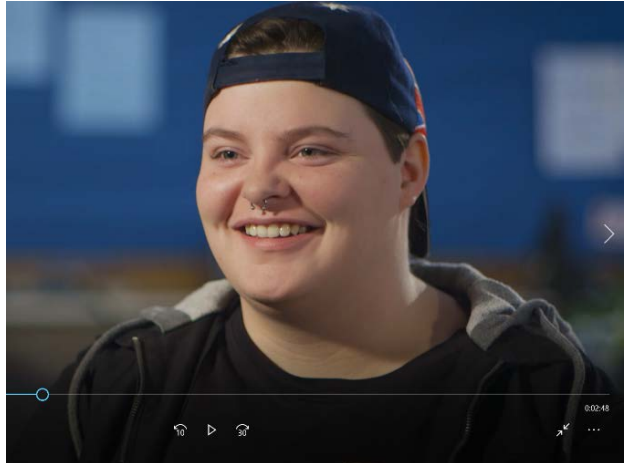
The new school brings together students and staff from both Fairview Avenue and Grandview Central Public School. On June 11, 2018, it was determined that the opening of Mapleview Elementary – originally scheduled for September 2018 – would be delayed. The decision did not change the Board's plan to unite students and staff from both Fairview Avenue and Grandview Central for the 2018-19 school year. Next week (September 4), students from both schools will unite at the Fairview Avenue Public School site until construction is complete. This site, in the short-term, is able to accommodate all students as the EarlyON Child and Family Centre was moved this summer. To read the full Major Construction Update report, which provides an update on the budget for Mapleview as well as a progress report on the elevator installation at Major Ballachey Public School, see pages 63-69 here: <https://bit.ly/2w9yC9R>. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan – *Success for Every Student*.



## Multi-Year Plan Videos: Focus on Equity

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction that guides the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is the goal of *Success for Every Student*. Each fall, as a way to highlight the Multi-Year Plan, a series of videos has been created. This year, to demonstrate what the Multi-Year Plan means, Grand Erie is focusing on one of the six indicators that helps the board achieve *Success for Every Student*. Equity is a part of everything Grand Erie does, from the supports provided to students and staff, to the events and activities the board honours and celebrates. Equity is,

and continues to be, a guiding force for the board. These videos, created by Grand Erie's Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee, tell just four of the many stories of students and staff embracing Equity. The videos will be used as training resources and shared widely with the Grand Erie community over the course of the 2018-19 school year. The first video highlights Matt Peaire's story. Peaire, a Simcoe Composite School student, came out as transgender in Grade 11. After years of struggle, he found support from Jason Dale, a Guidance Teacher at the school who was a tremendous resource for Peaire. Dale helped Peaire stay in school and succeed. He provided the safe and encouraging environment Peaire needed to build his confidence. Peaire now speaks to various groups, including the Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk, about his experiences. Watch the full video here: <https://bit.ly/2MR3ZiY>.



## School Council Report

School councils play a vital role in the education of all Grand Erie students through their work to promote parent engagement and improve student achievement. Each year, the Board provides every school council \$500 to help encourage or increase parent involvement, and to support causes each school council believes will benefit their school. Each June, school councils are asked to provide a brief report on the activities and initiatives they supported with this funding. The 2017-18 school council reports, which highlight three examples of how the funding was used, are included in Appendix A of the School Council Report (pages 79-89) here: <https://bit.ly/2w9yC9R>. Examples from 2017-18 generally fall into three categories: education-focused activities or events (e.g., math, reading, coding, technology), family fun events (e.g., fun fairs, movies, holiday activities) or Meet the Teacher nights. This report supports the Community indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following goal: "Facilitate opportunities for the use of strategies to encourage and support family involvement in our schools and learning at home."

## 2016-20 Multi-Year Plan Update and Communication Strategy

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new five-year strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Communicating Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan to all internal and external stakeholders is crucial for the plan's overall success. Communicating the Multi-Year Plan began with the launch in 2016-17 and continued in 2017-18 with the creation, development and execution of the Multi-Year Plan Communications Strategy. This year, the Multi-Year Plan Communications Strategy will focus on continuing to build awareness and understanding of the plan, particularly with external audiences (i.e., parents, media and community member). It will find ways to ensure all Grand Erie staff

understand the important role they play in contributing to the plan. Finally, it will showcase the progress the board is making with the Multi-Year Plan by highlighting a wide range of activities, events and initiatives the school board and/or schools are doing to demonstrate the plan's six indicators. Appendix A of the 2016-20 Multi-Year Plan Update and Communications Strategy Report (pages 27-35) here: <https://bit.ly/2w9yC9R> provides an update on the success of the 2017-18 Communications Strategy. Appendix B outlines the 2018-19 Communications Strategy for the Multi-Year Plan.



### Summer Programs for Grand Erie Students: Camp SAIL and Focus on Youth

Summer programming for Grand Erie students winds down this week. Camp SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning), which began August 13, saw more than 200 students register for the three-week program. Intended to help students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 5, the primary focus of the program is to support students with numeracy expectations, and to sustain or increase individual skill development, engage parents and build student confidence.

The free program also gives students a true summer camp experience as they engage in fun, experiential learning activities such as swimming, salsa dancing, cooking, yoga, rock painting and juggling. Seven Grand Erie schools hosted Camp SAIL programs this summer including: Branlyn Community School, Caledonia Centennial Public School, North Ward School, Prince Charles Public School, Waterford Public School, West Lynn Public School and Woodman-Cainsville School.

The Focus on Youth Program had another successful summer. The job placement program, which ran from July 3 to August 24 gave 30 Grand Erie students the opportunity to work for six weeks. In total, 18 students spent the summer working with children in summer camps or at childcare facilities. Another 12 other students were placed as general labourers within Brant, Brantford, Haldimand, Norfolk and Ohsweken.

### First Board Meeting for 2018-19 Student Trustees

Monday's Regular Board Meeting marked a special occasion. It was the first meeting of the year for 2018-19 Student Trustees: Allan St. Pierre (Tollgate Technological Skills Centre), Alex Hauser (McKinnon Park Secondary School) and Jayden Hsiao (Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School). St. Pierre is Grand Erie's first Student Trustee representing Indigenous students. He, along with Hauser and Hsiao, was elected this past spring by students to share their voices at the Board table. Learn more about St. Pierre, Hauser and Hsiao here: <https://bit.ly/2Mz1jqF>.





## Grand Erie Preparing for Back to School

The countdown to Back to School is officially on at Grand Erie. Administrators and system leaders, Principals and Vice-Principals, will kick off the 2018-19 school year tomorrow (August 28) at Valley Heights Secondary School. Registration for all secondary school students will begin this week, including special welcome events and activities for new Grade 9 students. The first day of school for all Grand Erie students and staff is Tuesday, September 4. For important details about back to school, visit: <https://bit.ly/2OQIHmW>.

## Additional Items

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**Approval of minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of the June 25, 2018 (Regular Board) meeting.

**Trustees also received the following reports:**

- 2018-19 Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting Proposed Schedules for Agenda Items
  - Trustees approved the schedule of agenda items for all 2018-19 Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meetings as well as the 2018-19 review schedule of Grand Erie Bylaws, Policies and Procedures
- OPSBA Membership Fee for 2018-19
- BL8 – Committee of the Board – Compensatory Education
- Major Construction Update
- S07 – Student Expulsion
- 2016-17 Energy Consumption/Conservation Report
- Municipal Elections Compliance Audit Committee
- Summary of Accounts – June 2018
- Summary of Accounts – July 2018
- Audit Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 27, 2018
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 26, 2018

## Multi-Year Plan Stories

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In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent work related to the Multi-Year Plan.

### Achievement

- Experiential Learning at the Forefront at Valley Heights Secondary School
  - <https://bit.ly/2MvG7Su>
- Camp SAIL Sets its Sights on Mathematics this Summer
  - <https://bit.ly/2NaAvll>

## Environment

- Custodians Work to Ensure Safe, Welcoming Environments Across Grand Erie
  - <https://bit.ly/2NnmjNw>

## Equity

- Indigenous Education Newsletter Highlights the 2017-18 School Year
  - <https://bit.ly/2PGynes>