



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

Regular Board Meeting | September 24, 2018

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2MLK9S9>

Patti McCleister

Memorial Award

Kate Johnson-McGregor, Teacher Librarian at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (BCI), is the 2018 recipient of the Patti McCleister Memorial Award. Johnson-McGregor was presented with the award on Monday night by Board Chair Greg Anderson, Director of Education Brenda Blancher and McCleister's husband, Ted McCleister.



The Patti McCleister

Memorial Award is given annually to a Grand Erie District School Board employee who exemplifies outstanding leadership, inspires others, and is a driving force in realizing the Board's goal of *Success for Every Student*. Patti McCleister (pictured below) was Grand Erie's Training and Development Officer, a valuable team member and an inspiration to many. She passed away in 2013 after a valiant battle with cancer. Her memorial award is the highest honour given to Grand Erie employees and embodies McCleister's legacy of passion, creativity and commitment to leadership.

Johnson-McGregor has been an employee with Grand Erie for more than 20 years. She was originally hired as an elementary teacher in 1997 before obtaining further qualifications to teach secondary. In 2000, she made the move to BCI, working in the English department. She moved into her current role in 2011, where she has had a tremendous impact in evolving the space. Johnson-McGregor has also helped to build capacity across the board as other schools transform their libraries into learning commons.

A sought-after speaker and consultant, Johnson-McGregor is past-president of the Ontario School Library Association. Last year, she received an exclusive invitation to attend Library Day at Queen's Park where she met with then-Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter to discuss the importance of school libraries.



Major Construction Update

Staff provided Trustees with the final update on Major Construction Projects for 2017-18. The report highlights the construction of Mapleview Elementary School in Dunnville as well as the new elevator installation at Major Ballachey Public School in Brantford.

Construction of Mapleview continues to progress and the school is on-track for a move-in date of Friday, November 9. The first day of classes for Mapleview students and staff is set for Monday, November 12.



Trustees approved both dates at the August 28, 2018 Board Meeting. 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 Public School and Grandview Central Public School.

Installation of the new elevator at Major Ballachey began in February and is expected to be completed next month. For the full report, see pages 27-29 here: <https://bit.ly/2MLK9S9>. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*.

Annual Operating Plans

Senior Administration presented their Annual Operating Plans to the Board. These plans will guide their work and the system in 2018-19. Each plan addresses a component of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. While the Annual Operating Plans do not represent all of the work being done in Grand Erie, they do set out a clear direction in the areas of Well-Being, Technology, Community, Equity, and Environment. Grand Erie's Achievement Plan, which will be presented to the Board later this fall, covers the Achievement indicator.

Each Annual Operating Plan focuses on the indicator statements, goals and anticipated outcomes included in the Multi-Year Plan. They also feature specific actions and means by which the Board can assess Grand Erie's progress. To review the Annual Operating Plans, visit the following pages of the Agenda package here: <https://bit.ly/2MLK9S9>.

- Community (Pages 33-34)
- Environment (Pages 35-38)
- Equity (Pages 39-40)
- Technology (Pages 41-43)
- Well-Being (Pages 45-47)

2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan – Year 2 Update

In 2017, Grand Erie approved its 2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan. Created by the Strategic Communications Ad Hoc Committee, the plan aligns with the Board's 2016-20 Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. Four streams are identified in the plan: Leadership, Internal Communications, Marketing and Branding, and Public Relations. Within each stream are a number of objectives as well as a list of activities, timelines and outcomes. To review the Strategic Communications Plan, see pages 49-57 here: <https://bit.ly/2MLK9S9>.



Energy+ Award

In recognition of Grand Erie's commitment to energy conservation and efficiency, the Board was acknowledged in 2018 by Energy+, the local distribution company serving Brant County schools. This is the third year in a row that Grand Erie was celebrated as a community leader and congratulated for its efforts in conserving energy through the LED retrofit program, participation in the SaveONEnergy program, and education efforts on the importance of energy and environmental conservation. The LED retrofit program is a key component of the Environment indicator in Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*.

Orange Shirt Day – Friday, September 28

Orange Shirt Day is the 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 to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for the future. The date for Orange Shirt Day was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies in the school year ahead. Grand Erie students and staff will honour Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 28. To learn more about Phyllis' story, and the origins of Orange Shirt Day, visit: <https://bit.ly/2cIMbC5>.



2018 Leadership Gala

All Grand Erie staff are invited to the 2018 Leadership Gala to learn more about leadership opportunities and programming available during 2018-19. The gala takes place on Thursday (September 27) at The Greens at Renton in Simcoe. The opening reception begins at 4 p.m., followed by the formal program at 5:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact: Jenny Gladish at jenny.gladish@granderie.ca.

Fall Commencements Begin

It's that time of the year again! Fall commencements for Grand Erie students begin this week. Valley Heights Secondary School will host the first one of the fall on Friday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. Other Grand Erie schools will hold their commencements in the coming weeks.

Student Recognition Nominations

Do you know an outstanding student? Nominations are now open for Grand Erie's Student Recognition awards program. Students are honoured for outstanding achievement in one of four areas: arts, athletics, academics or community leadership. Selected students are recognized during Grand Erie Board meetings, and their story is shared on the website and through social media. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2jYyy9k>.



On the Job With... Tara McFarling

Tara McFarling, a Grade 8 Teacher at Major Ballachey Public School, is the first Grand Erie staff member to be featured in *On the Job With...* in 2018-19. The new feature story series will be created monthly by Grand Erie's Communications and Community Relations team. The series will highlight a wide range of staff who work tirelessly each day to realize the goal of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. Read McFarling's story here: <https://bit.ly/2NumDhK>. Do you know a Grand Erie staff member who should be recognized in the *On the Job With...* series? Contact: Kimberly Newhouse at: kimberly.newhouse@granderie.ca.

EcoSchools: Registration Begins Friday

Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certificate program for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The program works to nurture environmental leaders, reduce the ecological impact of schools, and build environmentally-responsible school communities. Grand Erie has participated in the Ontario EcoSchools program for almost a decade. The free Environmental Education Program has five areas of achievement: Teamwork and Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum and Environmental Stewardship. Last year, 35 Grand Erie schools received their EcoSchools certification. Registration for certification in 2018-19 begins this Friday (September 28). For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2Dn1eSM>.



Additional Items

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the August 27, 2018 (Regular Board) and September 10, 2018 (Committee of the Whole) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Student Trustee Report
- Committee of the Whole Report – September 10, 2018
- Appoint Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committee Member
- Summary of Accounts – August 2018
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – June 2018
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes, Safety Audit Tracking Report – Summer 2018

Multi-Year Plan Stories

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

- On the Job with... Tara McFarling, Elementary Teacher
 - <https://bit.ly/2NumDhK>
- Grand Erie's EQAO Results Demonstrate Progress; Align with Goals of Multi-Year Plan
 - <https://bit.ly/2xt68sl>

Equity

- Grand Erie Highlights Multi-Year Plan Through Video Series Focused on Equity
 - <https://bit.ly/2xBbDUV>