



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

Regular Board Meeting | November 26, 2018

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

Student Recognition

The recognition program is Grand Erie's way of honouring and celebrating students who have excelled in academics, arts, athletics or community involvement. On Monday, Gurnoor Minhas, a Grade 12 student from Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (BCI) was presented with a certificate from Trustee Brian Doyle and Director of Education Brenda Blancher. The Student Recognition Awards program supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and *Success for Every Student* through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff."

GURNOOR MINHAS – BCI – ACADEMICS

Gurnoor Minhas' leadership capacity, professionalism, and tireless pursuit of success have resulted in some remarkable achievements. Most notable are her recent victories in business competitions through DECA, an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of hospitality, marketing, law, finance and management. A year ago, Minhas wrote a business exam to qualify for DECA's regional competition. From there, she moved onto the provincial level, analyzing a real-world case study and presenting a strategy. This achievement earned Minhas a



spot at the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia last April where she garnered a financial grant to support her participation. Minhas is president of the DECA club at BCI, and works as a tutor and mentor outside of school. She is also a Loran Scholar finalist. As she prepares for further education, Minhas' successes during secondary school are sure to serve her well.



Enrolment Update

Every year, at the end of October, school boards across Ontario report their enrolment numbers to the Ministry of Education. On Monday, Trustees were presented these numbers for Grand Erie. As of October 31, 2018, the Board's elementary enrolment is 18,023. This represents an increase of 144 from 2017-18 as well as 280 from 2018-19 budget projections. Grand Erie's secondary enrolment is 8,079.45. While this is down 210.46 from last year, it is up 127 from 2018-19 budget projections. Overall, Grand Erie's total enrolment is 26,102.45 this year, up 407 from budget projections. To review the report, see pages 41-43 here: <https://bit.ly/2PWTopb>.



Multi-Year Plan Video: Brent Flicks' Story

At the centre of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. The six indicators that support the plan are: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community. To demonstrate the Multi-Year Plan in 2018-19, Grand Erie created an Equity video series. Equity is part of everything Grand Erie does, from the supports provided to students and staff, to the events and activities that are honoured and celebrated. Equity is a guiding force and the videos tell just four of the many

stories of students and staff embracing Equity.

The third video in the series highlights former student Brent Flicks, who has spinal muscular atrophy. During both his elementary and secondary school days, Brent and his family credit the Grand Erie educational assistants who supported him. Overcoming many obstacles, Brent now performs rap music under his alias B-Flix and regularly returns to the board to speak with students about his journey. Watch Brent's video here: <https://bit.ly/2FIA5Lq>. Brent's video, and his story, will be part of Grand Erie's celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Monday, December 3, 2018.

Report of Indigenous Services Canada and Six Nations of the Grand River

Trustees were presented with Grand Erie's Report to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Six Nations of the Grand River. The 2017-18 report features the results of secondary school endeavours by Six Nations students as well as the work of the Native Trustee, Native Advisor and Native Education Counselling staff who work under the Secondary School Education Services Agreement. The report also includes highlights of student activities in 2017-18 and a wide range of data on the success of Six Nations students. This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." To view the report, see pages 57-81 here: <https://bit.ly/2PWT0pb>.



2017-18 Financial Year End

Trustees were provided with Grand Erie's 2017-18 Financial Year End. An in-year surplus of \$920,000 was targeted for the 2017-18 school year in order to meet the objectives of the Board's Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan. As a result of enhanced monitoring and the utilization of existing grants, the target was successfully met and exceeded as Grand Erie generated an in-year surplus of \$1,519,000. Additionally, the Board's unsupported capital balance decreased. At the end of 2016-17, Grand Erie had an unsupported capital balance of \$19,035,692. Thanks to the use of existing school renewal funding as well as the proceeds of disposition from the sale of lands, Grand Erie's unsupported capital balance fell approximately 18 percent in 2017-18 to \$15,591,577. To review the 2017-18 Financial Year End, see pages 51-56 here: <https://bit.ly/2PWT0pb>.

2018-19 Grand Erie's Student Achievement Plan: Success for Every Student

Grand Erie's Annual Operating Plan for Achievement was presented to Trustees. The plan focuses on the goals outlined in the Board's Multi-Year Plan and the Mathematics Achievement Strategy goals. The plan is designed to include all students and is reflective of their journey from Kindergarten through Grade 12. It also identifies the links between what the board does, and how it does it. Finally, the plan demonstrates the cyclical nature of school improvement and aligns with the Board's focus on a multidisciplinary system and school-based teams approach. To review the plan, see pages 91-92 here: <https://bit.ly/2PWTopb>.



OPHEA HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Recently, OPHEA announced that 357 Ontario schools made a commitment to well-being in 2018-19 by registering for its Healthy Schools Certification. In Grand Erie, 12 schools applied, up from eight in 2017-18. Applicants included: Burford District, Central, Delhi Public, Houghton, J.L. Mitchener, Jarvis, Major Ballachey, North Ward, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Ryerson Heights, Walter Gretzky, and

Waterford District. Of the 12 Grand Erie schools that applied, four (Central, Houghton, North Ward and Pauline Johnson) earned OPHEA gold in 2017-18. Applicants will find out in the Spring of 2019 if they were successful in achieving their Healthy Schools Certification.

EQAO CHANGES

On November 16, the Ministry of Education announced new accommodations for EQAO to better align with regular assessment environments. These changes include: the use of headphones with calming white noise or music; access to resources for English and French language learners in Grade 9; access to virtual manipulatives via internet tools in Grade 9, along with concrete manipulatives; and encouraging the classroom environment to look more like it would during regular assessment activities. Principals were provided guidance on what is considered instructional or non-instructional.

THANK YOU TRUSTEES

Monday's Regular Board Meeting was the last one for the 2014-18 term. It was also the final meeting for outgoing Trustees Alex Felsky (Brantford), John Harris (Norfolk), Diane



Sowers (Norfolk) and Tom Waldschmidt (Brant/Norfolk). Director of Education Brenda Blancher thanked each Trustee for their efforts during the past four years and for their ongoing support of Grand Erie students and staff. She also wished them well with their future endeavours.

Additional Items

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the October 15, 2018 (Regular Board) and November 12, 2018 (Committee of the Whole) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Committee of the Whole Report – November 12, 2018
- Workforce Report
- Major Construction Project Report (FT2)
- Organization Board Meeting – Set Date, Time and Place
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Membership 2018-19
- Camp SAIL Report
- Appointments of Special Education Advisory Committee for the Term 2018-22
- Summary of Accounts – October 2018
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – September 20, 2018
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – October 18, 2018
- Student Trustee Senate Minutes – October 23, 2018
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes (Draft) – October 25, 2018
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – October 9, 2018
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (Draft) – October 24, 2018
- Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Committee Minutes (Draft) – October 30, 2018
- Privacy and Information Management Committee Minutes (Draft) – November 1, 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 the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

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

Community

- Gretzky Griffins Live Up to their Namesake
 - <https://bit.ly/2PFwMZU>

Equity

- Amazing Staff Ensures *Success for Every Student* at Caledonia Centennial Public School
 - <https://bit.ly/2TKUbl2>

Technology

- Grand Erie's Ed Tech Team Launches Website to Help Students and Staff Make the Most of Technology
 - <https://bit.ly/2AbKp8S>

Well-Being

- Jack Talks Help Start the Conversation on Mental Health
 - <https://bit.ly/2BwSg2k>