



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

Committee of the Whole Board Meeting | January 14, 2019

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2QFnB7l>

GELA Annual Report

Each year, the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) program provides Trustees with an update on how it's implementing Ministry of Education initiatives and how it's supporting and engaging all students as they strive to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or further their individual educational needs. GELA supports a wide range of programs for students both under and over the age of 21 as well as other Ministry initiatives and programs offered to the communities within the Board.



Some of GELA's programs for students under the age of 21 include: Day School, School Within a College (SWAC), Night School, Summer School, eLearning, Passion Courses and Dual Credit. Some of the GELA programs that support students over the age of 21 include: Mature Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (MPLAR) program, Adult Dual Credit, eLearning, Independent Study, Family Literacy Program and the Personal Support Worker Program (featured above). Some of the other programs GELA offers through additional Ministry initiatives include: Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, Bridges to Success and CareerLink.

Highlights from GELA's 2017-18 Annual Report include:

- Summer School 2018
 - 438 in-class credits earned out of 452 attempted (96.9 per cent success rate)
 - 1,046 eLearning credits successfully earned out of 1,153 attempted (90.7 per cent)
 - 1,530 overall credits earned out of 1,659 attempted (92.2 per cent success rate) for an increase of nearly three per cent from Summer School 2017
- 168 credits earned out of 174 attempted (96.5 per cent success rate) by students in the popular Personal Support Worker Certificate program
- 91 credits successfully earned out of 95 attempted (95.7 per cent) by students in SWAC
- 32 of 35 credits attempted (91.4 per cent success rate) by students under the age of 21 in the Dual Credit program
- 2,989 total credits earned by GELA students in 2017-18, an increase of 224 or seven per cent from the year before

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and *Success for Every Student* through the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff; We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." It also supports the Equity

indicator and the following statement: “We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included.” To review the full 2017-18 GELA report, see pages 7-18 here: <https://bit.ly/2QFnB7l>.

Impact of Ministry of Education Funding Changes in 2018-19

Last month, School Boards across Ontario received information from the Ministry of Education related to changes in funding for the 2018-19 school year. The changes relate to EPO (or Education Program – Other) funding. On Monday evening, following a review of the information received from the Ministry, Grand Erie’s Senior Administration team provided Trustees with a report on the impact of these changes. Categorized into three areas – significant impact, unknown impact and no impact – the report outlines how these changes will effect Grand Erie’s Fiscal Year Budget in 2018-19.

Based on the information provided, the overall financial impact on Grand Erie this year, is a reduction of \$211,000 – of which, \$108,000 can be negated by reducing spending. The remainder will be addressed by Senior Administration in the coming weeks. Further updates will be brought to the Board through monthly financial forecasts. This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan through the following statement: “We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes.” To review the report, see pages 23-25 here: <https://bit.ly/2QFnB7l>.

2018-19 GEPIC Grant Recipients

On January 11, Grand Erie’s Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) announced the recipients of its 2018-19 Parent Engagement grants. Applied for by school councils each December, these grants support parent engagement at Grand Erie schools through parent-focused events or activities. Generally, they also support student achievement and align with Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. In total, \$5,350 in funding was distributed through 12 GEPIC grants, making an impact at 23 Grand Erie schools. For the complete list of 2018-19 GEPIC Parent Engagement grant recipients, visit: <https://bit.ly/2RrISXp>.

2018-19 PRO Grants

Each year, the Ministry of Education provides funding to school councils through its Parents Reaching Out grants (PRO) program. Designed to support parents in identifying barriers to engagement, PRO grants are applied for each spring and announced during the following school year. In December 2018, the Ministry announced the 2018-19 PRO Grant recipients. In total, Grand Erie received \$30,599 in funding for 31 projects. For the complete list of 2018-19 PRO grant recipients, visit: <https://bit.ly/2M7ZgGR>.

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Additional Appointment to the Special Education Advisory Committee
- Category III Trips (SO15)
- Enrolment vs. Capacity by School Report
- OPSBA Report

The following Policy and Procedures will be sent out for comment:

- F6 Purchasing
- FT1 Major Construction Projects
- P104 Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)
- SO103 Safe Arrivals
- SO106 Field Trips/Team Travel Booking

The following Procedure was received as information:

- SO102 Request for School Assistance in Health Care

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

- Inspiring Writers at Thompson Creek Elementary School
 - <https://bit.ly/2SGdUql>
- Ready, Set, Kindergarten! Grand Erie Gears Up for Registration Month
 - <https://bit.ly/2SGdUql>

Community

- Bellview Public School Community Celebrates the Season at Annual Turkey Dinner
 - <https://bit.ly/2H3T6c0>
- Grand Erie Schools Decking the Halls and Adding Holiday Cheer with a Variety of Events, Activities
 - <https://bit.ly/2Eucb46>

Environment

- Maplevue Elementary School Welcomes Community at Holiday Open House
 - <https://bit.ly/2Gl0zCY>

Equity

- On the Job with... Joe Tice, Itinerant Teacher, Indigenous Engagement and Support
 - <https://bit.ly/2rLpW6T>
- Grand Erie Honours National Indigenous Peoples Day by Adjusting its 2019 Exam Schedule for Secondary Students
 - <https://bit.ly/2Py1IGD>

- North Park's Link Crew Takes Home a Peace Medal
 - <https://bit.ly/2QXoDA9>

Technology

- Major Ballachey's Library Evolves into Learning Commons
 - <https://bit.ly/2RglWJA>
- Lakewood Elementary Takes Part in Hour of Code
 - <https://bit.ly/2D0k00m>

Well-Being

- Growing Positivity at Courtland Public School
 - <https://bit.ly/2GZyx06>
- Getting Active, and Going in the Direction of Your Dreams
 - <https://bit.ly/2GvP9MV>