



# The Leader

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Regular Meeting of the Board

September 25, 2023

All reports for this meeting can be found here: [bit.ly/3t9Tw96](https://bit.ly/3t9Tw96)

#### Learn Lead Inspire Award: Harper Hyslop, River Heights Public School

Harper Hyslop's achievements remind us that the littlest learners are capable of very big things. Harper, currently in Grade 1 at River Heights Public School, was in Kindergarten when she started thinking about the ways she could influence positive change in her community. Her initiative and generosity have led to impressive results. Inspired by a food drive her school was hosting, Harper decided the sky was the limit, and sold toys, gathered spare change, and collected bottles and cans from family and friends to raise \$118.50 to donate to the Caledonia Community Foundation. A month later, coinciding with Remembrance Day, she donated an additional \$155.30 to the Royal Canadian Legion. Why stop there, she thought. Throughout the school year, she continued to raise funds and made triple-digit donations to Inclusions Development Services, the Caledonia Food Bank, and the Haldimand County Library to help fund summer programs for children.

Her remarkable achievements resulted in Harper receiving the Young Leader of the Year award from the Caledonia Chamber of Commerce, recognizing individuals under the age of 35 who have made outstanding contributions to the community. Harper was honoured with a Learn Lead Inspire award for her big vision and goal setting, which has inspired her entire school community.



Above: Harper Hyslop.



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### Grand Erie Approves Appointment of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee

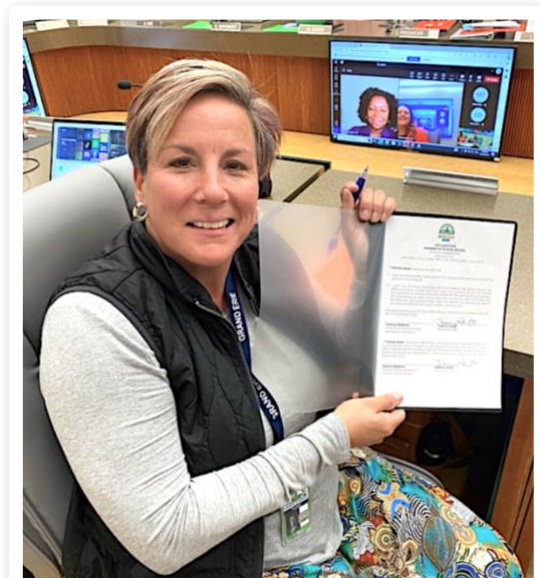
At the beginning of Grand Erie's Regular Board meeting, Tammy Sault assumed the role of trustee, representing the interests, under the Education Services Agreement, of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) students who attend Grand Erie schools.

"I am honoured to have been appointed to this very important role with the Grand Erie District School Board," said Tammy Sault. "Representing our students from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation is a privilege that I look forward to upholding. Ensuring that all nation members are supported throughout their educational journey is a priority not only for me, but also for our community as a whole."

Sault is the first trustee appointed to represent MCFN learners in Grand Erie. The region the board serves encompasses the First Nation communities of Mississaugas of the Credit and Six Nations of the Grand River. Sault will join Claudine VanEvery-Albert, trustee representing the interests of learners from Six Nations of the Grand River. It marks the first time more than one trustee representing Indigenous learners has been appointed to the board.

The appointment follows a motion put forward at the regular board meeting in March of this year, approving the representation for the remainder of the current 2022-26 term of the board.

Sault brings a wealth of leadership experience to the new role, holding various roles within the First Nation including Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation classroom teacher, Special Education Resource teacher, and as an Indigenous voice at the table for Grand Erie's Special Education Advisory Committee.



Above: Tammy Sault.



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### Director's Report Highlights

#### A Grand Return

It's been an energizing month across Grand Erie as excited students and passionate educators start the 2023-24 school year on a positive note. The first day back was preceded by a system kick-off in late August which included Family of Schools sessions, a Grand Erie student panel in which learners from across the district articulated the challenges and opportunities they've experienced in the school system, and a keynote by Mike Shoreman, the first Canadian athlete with a disability to cross all five Great Lakes, raising funds for children and youth in crisis in the process.

The first day of school saw Director Roberto visit the Link Crew at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School to see how this group of senior students supports learners new to secondary school, as well as a visit to Bellview Public School where new and returning students were welcomed with signage and an opportunity to put a bobcat paw print on the fence along Erie Ave.



**Above:** North Park Collegiate and Vocational School's Link Crew show off their school spirit.

### National Truth and Reconciliation Week

This week we recognize Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 29) and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30), with schools and classrooms across Grand Erie taking part in a variety of activities and projects to connect to this important learning.





Learn

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### Summer Learning in Grand Erie

The positive start to the school year follows a summer of learning that has allowed many learners to put their best foot forward. From Camp SAIL, which empowered students with math strategies in a fun, engaging way, to the Summer Institute, which offered educators and support staff a number of inspiring sessions, to additional qualification courses completed by educators, the summer months laid the foundation for a successful year ahead.

### Professional Development

September 15 was Grand Erie's first system-wide Professional Development day. Themes for the day tied in strongly to major initiatives and ongoing work. The Math Achievement Action Plan was introduced to educators who also dove into Universal Design for Learning with a view to knowing students individually.

### In Memoriam

Memorial statements were read to honour the memories of Grand Erie staff members Sheryl Cartwright and Greg de Waard, and Grand Erie students Avery Warwick and Lucas Crump. Our deepest condolences go out to the friends, family and colleagues of Sheryl, Greg, Avery and Lucas.



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### Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2021, 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 the vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire, and a mission to build a culture Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

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

#### Learning

- [New Caledonia Elementary School One Step Closer to Breaking Ground](#)

#### Well-Being

- [Empowering Emotional Resilience](#)

#### Belonging

- [Grand Erie Approves Appointment of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee](#)