



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Head Office, 349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 5V3*

**Committee of the Whole Board No.1 Meeting
October 1, 2012, 7:15 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Trustees: D. Werden, Committee Chair, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, B. Johnston, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat, L. Bradovka (Student Trustee), D. Fleet (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director — J. Forbeck; Superintendents - G. Anderson, W. Baker, B. Blancher, J. Gunn, McDonald, A. Nesbitt; Recording Secretary — D. Fletcher

REGRETS:

Trustees: J. Angus, A. Everets

Administration: Nil.

A – 1 Opening

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair D. Werden at 6:30 p.m. for the purposes of conducting the In Camera Session.

(b) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil.

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: B. Johnston

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss Legal Matters at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

Open Session reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

(d) **Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair D. Werden at 7: 18 p.m.

(e) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

E-1-a Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices was added by R. Collver.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Macdonald

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil.

B – 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

(a) Nil.

C – 1 Director's Report

J. Forbeck stated that it is important to recognize that Wednesday October 5th is World Teachers Day. The Compensatory Education Committee and Audit Committee are holding meetings this week. The Norfolk Fair is hosting Young Canada Day this week.

B. Blancher provided a brief background on the Student Work Study Collaborative Initiative (SWSCI). It is a student-centered, asset-based model of inquiry and is unique in that it presents an opportunity for teachers to learn from and about their students in their own learning environment. This occurs in collaboration with a Student Work Study Teacher (SWST).

The learning process of the students, as well as the products of their learning forms the essential material of the inquiry. The ability to analyze the evidence (e.g., transcriptions, anecdotal notes, photographs, videos, podcasts, and oral recordings) with colleagues is key to the effectiveness of the process. Professional dialogue that focuses on authentic student-centered issues leads to further predictions and/or questions regarding how students might best learn within a specific context. Here classroom-based description and analysis help generate new knowledge and insights that may have both immediate and longer-term consequences for teaching and learning.

Kellie Thompson and Michelle Swyers highlighted the following items:

- Overview (ministry research project/LNS research project in grades K to 6. Studies the work and thinking of students currently performing at level 2.
- Objectives/
- Open to learning stance – the student experience, the power of “Co” (collaboration), plan of action (addresses achievement)
- The four learning themes
 - Assessment for/As Learning
 - Guided Practice
 - Instructional Tasks
 - Accountable Talk

B. Johnston enjoyed the presentation.

In response to R. Collver, the presenter confirmed 30 students would be seen in a year. With regards to data tracking, Sally Landon is exploring different methods to see what kind of data is useful. The focus is to create new thinking for teachers by what really moves student thinking forward, and is more about spreading the approach.

In response to C.A. Sloat, the presenter explained that a teacher identifies three to four students that are a good fit, and we follow up with a visit two to three days to observe. Data work samples are collected with a release meeting with teacher. It is then narrowed down to two to three students. The model is constantly changing.

In response to C.A. Sloat, the presenter explained that marks are not collected and evaluated however work samples are evaluated. Students are not identified as it is completely anonymous. Students are anonymous in report submitted to ministry.

In response to M. Macdonald, the presenter stated that the schools involved include the Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk areas. At the beginning of the school year, historical data is reviewed, with EQAO results that are at level two.

In response to D. Dean, the presenter explained that although it would be interesting to hear interactions with students and note taking, judgment is suspended because if they have a background prior then it is more difficult to concentrate on what the students are saying. They have been trained in observational notes.

In response to C.A. Sloat, the presenter explained that the level two report card marks have not been looked at to this point however would be considered. These students are performing at level two in every classroom; it is the initial way to identify schools.

Moved by: C. Lefebvre

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of October 1, 2012 as information.

Carried

D – 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision Items**(a) Bylaw 15 Trustee Expenses**

J. Gunn outlined the comments received and highlighted the revision made to show the managing of the approval process.

In response to M. Macdonald, J. Gunn explained that the Board provides purchasing cards as opposed to credit cards.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 15 – “Trustee Expenses”.

Carried

(b) HR4 Health & Safety

J. Gunn stated that no changes were made to the policy. It is reviewed annually, and there were no comments received.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School approve Policy HR4 – “Health & Safety”.

Carried

(c) SO1 Fundraising

J. Gunn highlighted changes made to #11 on the “revised” second page. Items were removed due to repetition. Largest change 9.5 provides clarity for school council around reporting procedure in relation to fundraising.

D. Dean recommending re-wording 8.4 in the proposed changes chart.

In response to C.A. Sloat, J. Gunn explained that minimal number of comments from parents and school councils may be the result of the Business Services department fielding inquiries and visiting school councils to explain the process.

R. Collver indicated that training of principals and treasurers on the school councils is working well.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO1 – “Fundraising”, as amended.

Carried

(d) **FT10 Green School Construction**

J. Gunn stated that the proposed changes are a result of the quality accommodations plan, the policy will now include renovations as well as new construction.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT10 – “Green School Construction” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 11, 2013.

(e) **SO2 School Councils**

J. Forbeck noted that this policy is driven by regulation and has been effect for a number of years. Parent involvement is suggested instead of parent participation. It includes the requirement for school council members to include annual school council orientation.

Recommendations were made to reflect the proper use of the word board.

D. Dean stated that during school council visits, he learned that the workshop is well received.

In response to R. Collver, J. Forbeck explained that school council chair orientation could include up to two people, and could be broadened to include more.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO2 – “School Councils” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 11, 2013, as amended.

(f) **SO4 Advertising and Material Distribution in Schools**

J. Forbeck explained how the policy allows for local decision making and system level of decision making. Procedures and applications will need revising to accommodate the high number of requests that come through the Director’s office.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO4 – “Advertising and Material Distribution in Schools” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 11, 2013.

D – 2 Administrative Procedure Consideration – Information Items**(a) FT117 Green School Construction**

This procedure aligns with FT10. J. Gunn highlighted the additions and clarified some of the new terms.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure FT117 – “Green School Construction” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 11, 2013.

Carried

E – 1 Other Business**(a) Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices**

R. Collver explained what Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices means to the students and how we need to educate and engage parents in this matter.

Discussion around how to educate parents included contacting local MPP, school council meetings, advertisements, and Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee.

R. Collver also recommended meeting with the local MPPs again.

E. Dixon agreed that parents are not truly aware of what is happening.

It was agreed that parents know why children are not doing extra-curricular activities.

A motion will be sent to the Minister of Education and copy to the Premier of Ontario, MPPS, OPSBA, Tim Hudak, Andrea Horvath, Education Critics and Leaders, Cabinet Ministers.

Communication to the community will be reviewed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

That the Grand Erie District School Board strongly appeal to the Minister of Education to rescind Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices as it undermines our mandate of student achievement and well-being.

Carried

F – 1 Correspondence

Nil.

G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board No.1 Chair, Don Werden