



Committee of the Whole Board No.1

November 2, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: G. Anderson - Committee Chair, R. Collver, D. Dean, B. Doyle, A. Felsky, J. Harris, J. Richardson, K. Sandy, C.A. Sloat, D. Sowers, T. Waldschmidt, M. Brown (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director — B. Blancher; Superintendents – D. Abbey, W. Baker, L. De Vos, J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson; Recording Secretary – T. Capinding

Regrets:

Trustees: A. Martindale (Student Trustee)

Administration: Nil.

A – 1 Opening

a. Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Harris

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

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, G. Anderson at 7:21 p.m.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: A. Felsky

THAT the agenda be approved as printed.

Carried



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(f) In Camera Report

Item C-1-a was added to the In Camera Agenda.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT Item C-1-a be approved.

Carried

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

Nil.

C – 1 Director's Report

The Director highlighted:

- Take Our Kids to Work Day on Wednesday, November 4, 2015: Grade 9 students from across the Board will learn about the many career opportunities as they participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day. Placements vary from school to school. This day is sponsored by The Learning Partnership.
- Director's Blog: Director of Education Brenda Blancher has been engaging with staff, parents and community members on a weekly basis since the start of school in a blog called Grand Connections available on the Grand Erie website. The blog is a chance to connect with everyone and share common experiences.
- Many Grand Erie District School Board schools will be participating in the Movember cause this month. Men and women across the globe join together to raise awareness and funds for men's health issues. Men will spend the month growing and grooming their moustaches and become walking, talking billboards for men's health causes. Multiple staff and students are participating across the Board
- Final Commencement and Award Ceremonies: Cayuga Secondary School, Delhi District Secondary School, and Hagersville Secondary School will host their commencements on Friday November 7, 2015 and North Park Collegiate and Vocational School will host their awards assembly on Thursday, November 5 and their commencement on Saturday November 7, 2015.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of November 2, 2015 as information.

Carried



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D – 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration - Action/Decision Items

(a) **BL7 Public Concerns**

B. Blancher reviewed this new Bylaw and outlined that this is a way of formalizing our protocol for handling public concern, and also to address the new powers of the Ontario Ombudsman to investigate complaints about school boards. When a complaint goes to the Ombudsman's office, the complainant can be directed back to the Bylaw and the complaints protocol.

Moved by: A. Felsky

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 7 - "Public Concerns", as amended.

Carried

C. A. Sloat suggested a summary of the usage of info@granderie.ca communication would be of interest and how it is utilized in communications annual report.

R. Collver spoke to the Role of Trustees as elected representatives of our communities and asked that the word elected be added. She also suggested that more direction is provided to make easier to find trustee and Superintendent contact information.

(b) **BL8 Committees of the Board**

B. Blancher explained the first two pages of the Bylaw have remained unchanged however suggested that the Special Education Advisory Committee, Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee and Communications and Engagement Committee review their terms of reference and bring back to the Board for approval.

It was suggested to defer the motion to approve until this review has occurred.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 8 – "Committees of the Board".

Defeated

Moved by: J. Harris

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board defer Bylaw 8 "Committees of the Board".

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board re-open Bylaw "Committees of the Boards".

Carried with a 2/3 majority.



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Moved by: A. Felsky

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 8 – “Committees of the Board”.

Carried

(c) **BL15 Trustee Expenses**

B. Blancher outlined that a number of comments were received and as they involve input from the trustees as the Bylaws belong to the trustees, she suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the Bylaw in consideration of the comments.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: A. Felsky

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board refer Bylaw 15 - “Trustee Expenses” to an Ad-Hoc committee.

Carried

(d) **SO1 Fund-Raising**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO1 - “Fund-Raising” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by February 19, 2016.

Carried

(e) **SO15 Out of Classroom Field Trips and Excursions**

B. Blancher noted that a great deal of work has gone into these revisions to make this process more streamlined for trip organizers.

There are a considerable number of requirements that need to be met to ensure student and staff safety during field trips and excursions and to ensure that parents/guardians are aware of all aspects of the trip and their obligations prior to signing the trip form.

The previous policy and related procedures, while comprehensive, were cumbersome to access and our hope is that by revising the policy down to its key components and then having all of the trip requirements in a comprehensive manual, the process has been made into more user friendly at the entry point and much more understandable for teachers, administrators and Superintendents in the planning, organizing and approval stages for each trip.



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B. Blancher outlined that the ultimate goal is to have the manual available in digital format on the Staff Portal in such a way that a teacher can easily access all the appropriate information and forms by trip category. She also noted that the manual is still a work in progress but because the plan is to have it reside as a stand-alone attached to the policy, it will be easier to update the manual as necessary.

The actual policy has been pared down to its key components have eliminated those components that are embedded in the procedure. The general procedures have been kept in the policy so that anyone accessing the policy can see what is followed in terms of things like accessibility, responsibilities and approval processes.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO15 - "Out of Classroom Field Trips and Excursions", as amended.

Carried

(f) **SO22 Fees for Learning Materials and Activities**

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO22 - "Fees for Learning Materials and Activities".

Carried

D – 2 **Administrative Procedure Consideration – Information Items**

(a) **SO115 Anaphylaxis (Life Threatening Allergic Reactions)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO115 - "Anaphylaxis (Life Threatening Allergic Reactions)" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by February 19, 2016.

Carried

(b) **S105 Out-Of-Classroom Trips and Tours for Students; Insurance Requirements for Trips and Excursions**



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Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board rescind Procedure SO105 – Out-of-Classroom Trips and Tours for Students; Insurance Requirements for Trips and Excursions.

Carried

(c) **SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together**

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO108 – “Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together” as information.

Carried

Trustees were interested in understanding the number of partnerships the Board has with community partners. This information will be provided by L. Thompson.

(c) **SO117 Parental Request for Temporary Excuse from Attendance at School**

Moved by: A. Felsky

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO117 – “Parental Request for Temporary Excuse from Attendance at School” as information.

Carried

(d) **SO124 Use of Service Dogs in Schools**

It was asked “what are the rights of individuals requiring service dog vs. rights of individuals with allergies to dogs”? L. Thompson explained that we respect the rights of all individuals and it would be adjudicated on a case by case basis resulting in a possible transfer to new classroom.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO124 – “Use of Service Dogs in Schools” as information, as amended.

Carried

E – 1 **Other Business**

Nil.

F – 1 **Correspondence**

Nil.



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G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board No.1 Chair, Greg Anderson