



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting of the Board

December 11, 2023

All reports for this meeting can be found here: bit.ly/41nkXcr

Susan Gibson Elected Chair of the Grand Erie District School Board for Third Term

Grand Erie Board of Trustees elected Susan Gibson as the 2024 Chair of the Grand Erie District School Board during the annual Board Nomination and Organization meeting held on Monday, December 11. Brian Doyle was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Board. Gibson represents the City of Brantford, and this is her third one-year term as Chair of the Board. Gibson was first elected to the Board in 2018. She has a more than two-decade career as a health care leader, advocating for patients and their families. She has transferred that passion for helping others to her role as Trustee in public education, collaborating and problem-solving to support student success. Doyle, who represents the County of



Above: Chair Gibson and Vice-Chair Doyle received a special recognition for their service to Grand Erie this year. Each is continuing in their roles in 2024.

Haldimand, is now embarking on his third year in the role of Vice-Chair. Also elected during Monday night's meeting were Claudine VanEvery-Albert as Grand Erie's Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) Director/Voting Delegate and John Bradford as OPSBA Alternate Director/Alternate Voting Delegate.



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Student Showcase: Simcoe Composite Musical Interlude

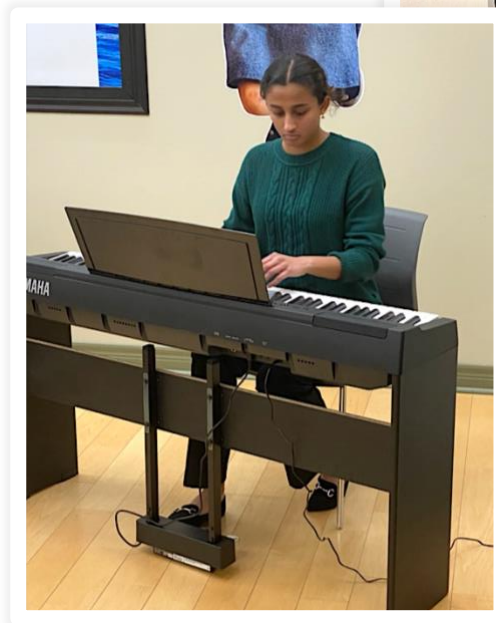
Monday evening's student showcase included musical performances featuring learners from Simcoe Composite School (SCS)'s music program. Maggie Baker and Madison McCann sang a duet, and Sidhi Ramakrishnan performed a solo. SCS is home to an expansive music program designed to appeal to a wide range of experiences, offering instrumental music to students in all grades and levels, as well as a beginner Guitar course. SCS provides many extra-curricular music activities as well including the concert band, the junior band consisting of learners in grades 9 and 10, a jazz band, vocal ensembles, and a teacher band comprised

of both teachers and students. These school bands perform regularly at a variety of concerts and festivals throughout the year, including the Golden Horseshoe Music Festival, Norfolk Arts Festival, and the Canada's Wonderland Music Festival. Its concert band is returning to the Nationals competition in Toronto next spring, an invitation-only festival for the most competitive high school bands in Canada.



Above: SCS students Maggie Baker and Madison McCann perform a duet.

Left: SCS student Sidhi Ramakrishnan plays piano.





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Holiday Gift Created by Construction Technology Learners

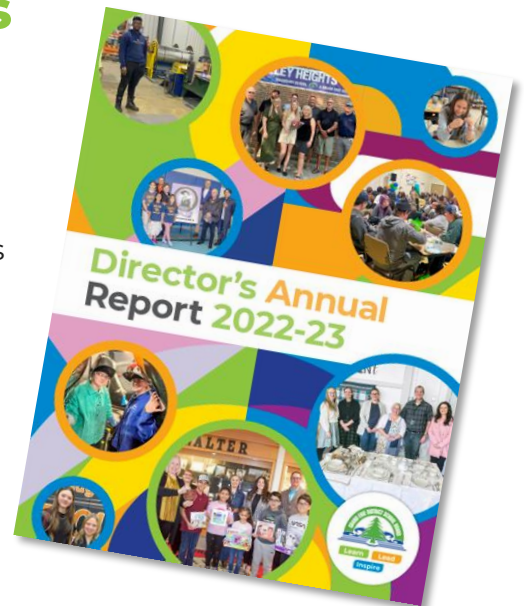
Simcoe Composite School brought another highlight to Monday's board meeting, with a hybrid presentation gifting Grand Erie's Trustees with Learn Lead Inspire-themed coasters made by the Grade 11 Construction Technology class. Educator Jeremy Theobald and student Turner Fleet joined virtually to explain the process, design and construction of the wood pieces, a collaborative effort between learners in the course.

Right: Grade 11 student Turner Fleet shows one of the completed coasters.



Director's Report Highlights Director's Annual Report

The Director's Annual Report presents a selection of achievements, milestones and highlights from the previous school year, the result of the whole system working together to learn, lead and inspire. This year's report showcases Grand Erie's mission and vision in action as dedicated staff members have worked towards ambitious goals related to learning, well-being and belonging, and made strides in collective priorities around success in math and literacy, and increasing engagement and achievement for all learners. The full report can be found [here](#), and video highlights are featured [here](#).





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GrEAT Conference Focuses on Diversity and Inclusion

Last week saw administrators and system leaders gather to share two days of learning and professional development as part of the annual GrEAT Conference. This year focused on belonging and inclusivity with sessions on human rights, anti-racist pedagogy, and building cross-cultural relationships, led by facilitators Michael Jacques, Leroy Hibbert, Dr. Andrew Campbell and Njeri Damali Sojourner-Campbell.



In Memoriam

Memorial statements were read to honour the memories of Grand Erie staff member Leonard Plant and student Dominik Short-Empey. Our deepest condolences to the friends and families of Leonard and Dominik.

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.

Belonging

- **Learn Lead Inspire Awards Recognize Chiefs' Positive Impacts**
- **Student Senate Adds Learners' Voices to Board Planning**
- **Inclusion by Design: Communication Boards Help Learners be Understood**