



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting of the Board

October 28, 2024

All reports for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Naming of New Elementary Schools

With new elementary schools currently under construction in southwest Brantford (scheduled for completion in 2026) and Caledonia (anticipated opening in September 2025), Grand Erie will seek input from each community into the naming of these schools. This process of community consultation is an important way to engage students, families and community members in ultimately choosing a name that reflects aspects of the geography, history, environment, culture or traditions of the place each school will call home, considering inclusion and belonging in arriving at a meaningful moniker. Submitted names will be accompanied by a rationale making those connections. A naming committee made up of Grand Erie students, staff, trustees, principals and parents/caregivers from that school community will shortlist possible names. The future Caledonia school is first up; look for more information soon about how you can submit your suggestion.

Next Steps for Elgin Ave Public School

Grand Erie received approval Monday evening to proceed to tender construction on the redevelopment of Elgin Ave Public School in Simcoe. In 2016, Grand Erie conducted an accommodation review which concluded with a solution to close West Lynn Public School and improve Elgin Avenue Public School through additions to the existing building. At the Finance Committee meeting this past February, an overview of the project scope and other design features included in the revised cost estimates, was provided. In April, Grand Erie received confirmation that the floor and site plan for a childcare centre license had been reviewed and approved in principle by the Ministry of Education. Earlier this month, the Ministry of Education provided Grand Erie with an Approval to Proceed (ATP) to tender the project, which included an additional \$12,515,783 allocated to the project to bring the total funding to \$18,695,928. For more details, please see [pages 20 – 24 here](#).





The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Director's Report Highlights

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30 was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, with schools across Grand Erie recognizing its importance in a variety of ways. In addition to the curriculum-focused learning, there were several special events. To cap off Truth and Reconciliation Week, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School hosted its annual Every Child Matters football game, once again providing a learning spotlight for the school community to honour and recommit to ongoing efforts building understanding while raising funds for community initiatives. As part of a separate event, the school also hosted three residential school survivors, joined by five PJ students, in a circle discussion in the learning commons, streamed across the country through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in partnership with Grand Erie and the Survivors' Secretariat. Over in Norfolk County, Teeterville Public School took part in ReconciliAction, creating a medicine wheel and adding words and drawings reflecting on what school experiences should be like for children.



Above: PDHS Students at the annual Every Child Matters football game.

You Belong Here

Starting secondary school is a big step and important milestone in any learner's journey. This year, Grand Erie offers regional information nights for Future Grade 9 students and their families, covering all the need-to-know information to make it a successful transition. Information sessions, held this week and last, are taking place in Brantford/Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk and Six Nations/Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to connect students with the programs, services and opportunities to positively impact their futures. Accompanying these events, Grand Erie is also sharing new material and videos developed to support and promote transitions to Grand Erie Secondary schools.



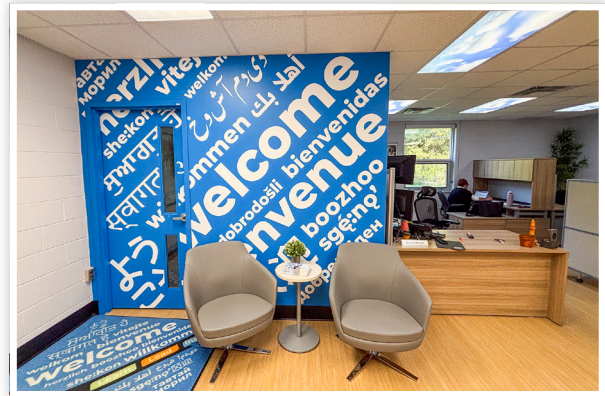


The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A Grand Welcome: New Space Supports Families

On October 21, Grand Erie staff, students and families officially opened the doors to the new Grand Welcome Centre. Located just inside the Joseph Brant Learning Centre (347 Erie Ave. in Brantford), the newly renovated space is designed to support new families to Grand Erie and the diversity of the communities the board serves. The space includes an updated reception area, workstations, meeting rooms, student art and much more to support multilingual learners and their families. Grand Erie provides culturally responsive services and programs to improve the school experiences and success for all students.



Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2021, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the school board's work. At the centre of this multi-year plan is the vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire, and a mission to build a culture of 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

- Learning and Leadership on Truth and Reconciliation

Belonging

- Grand Welcome Centre Opens Doors
- Taking Truth to Action During Truth and Reconciliation Week