



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

A - 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) In-Camera Session **(6:30 pm)**
 - (i) Personnel
 - (ii) Legal
 - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement
The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.
- (e) Call to Order
- (f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Agenda be approved."
- (g) Memorials
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Awards (J. Roberto)
- (j) Student Showcase (J. Roberto, R. Vankerrebroeck)
 - (i) [OSSTF/FEESO Student Achievement Provincial Winners](#)
 - (ii) Brantford Bulldogs Hockey
- (k) Delegation

B - 1 Consent Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board accept the March 24, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."

- * (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Regular Board meeting dated February 24, 2025
- * (b) Receive the minutes of:
 - (i) Audit Committee dated November 7, 2024
 - (ii) Six Nations Advisory Committee dated December 12, 2024
- * (c) Receive the correspondence from:
 - (i) Bluewater District School Board dated February 25, 2025
- (d) [Director of Education Highlights](#)

C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Special Finance Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 3, 2025 (S. Gibson)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for École Confédération Elementary School and École Dufferin Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2025."



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AGENDA

- * (b) [Policy and Program Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 3, 2025 (S. Gibson)
- * (i) Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02)."
- * (ii) Major Construction Policy (FA-01)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Major Construction Policy (FA-01)."
- * (iii) Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08)."
- * (iv) Fundraising Policy (SO-01)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Fundraising Policy (SO-01)."
- * (v) Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)."
- * (vi) Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34)
Recommended Motion
"THAT the Board approve the Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34)."
- * (vii) Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10)."
- * (viii) Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18)."
- * (c) [Audit Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 6, 2025
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the appointment of Millard Rouse & Rosebrugh LLP as external auditors for the 2024-25 financial year."

D - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

E - 1 Report of the Director

F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

- * (a) OSTA-AECO Report (A. Hill, O. Prince, C. Shields) (I)
- * (b) Student Senate Report (A. Hill, O. Prince, C. Shields) (I)

G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items

- * (a) Major Construction Project Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)
- * (b) Board Approved Transportation Review (R. Wyszynski)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2025-26 School Year."



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AGENDA

- * (c) Renaming of Elgin Avenue Public School (R. Van Kerrebroeck)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the request for the naming of Elgin Avenue Public School in Simcoe and that a Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee be struck in the 2024-25 school year as per the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy (FA-03)."

- * (d) Student Trustee Selection 2025-26 (J. Roberto, R. Van Kerrebroeck) (I)

H - 1 **OPSBA Report** (Claudine VanEvery-Albert) (I)

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	01	02	03	04
07	08	09	10	11
14 Policy and Program Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17 Six Nations Advisory Committee Meeting 1:00 p.m. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	18
21	22	23	24	25
28 Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.	29	30		



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: T. Waldschmidt, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, L. Whiton, Student Trustees: A. Hill, O. Prince, C. Shields

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Manager: R. Strang, Senior Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

Regrets: Trustees: B. Doyle, T. Sault

A - 1 **Opening (6:30 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:31 p.m.)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

(d) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Student Trustee Prince read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

(f) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **Memorial**

(i) **Braun Gagnon**

The memorial of Braun Gagnon was read by Trustee Collver.

(ii) **Isaac Legate**

The memorial of Isaac Legate was read by Trustee Bradford.

(iii) **John Guthro**

The memorial of John Guthro was read by Trustee Anderson.

(h) **In-Camera Report** - Nil



Regular Board Meeting

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MINUTES

(i) **Learn Lean Inspire Awards**

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to John Macdonald, a teacher and coach at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School who demonstrates his commitment to learning and achievement by setting high expectations for his students and athletes, motivating them to reach their full potential and always leading by example.

(j) **Showcase**

(i) **Walter Gretzky Elementary School African-Caribbean Cultural Club Choir**

Director Roberto introduced the staff and students of the Walter Gretzky African Caribbean Cultural Club Choir who performed a musical interlude.

(ii) **Distributive Education Clubs of American (DECA) Award Winners**

Director Roberto introduced the Distributive Education Clubs of American (DECA) Award Winners from McKinnon Park Secondary School.

(k) **Delegation – Nil**

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT the Board accept the February 24, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: J. Bradford

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Regular Board meeting dated January 27, 2025

(b) Receive the minutes of:

(i) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated October 24, 2024

(c) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Algoma District School Board dated January 21, 2025

(ii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 27, 2025

(iii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 30, 2025

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Finance Committee Meeting Report dated February 10, 2025**

Presented as printed.

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings – Nil**

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

The following highlights were included in the Director's Report:

- North Park Collegiate Institute Music Program
- McKinnon Park Secondary School Student Art Exhibition
- OSSTF Awards
- 100 Days of School Milestone



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MINUTES

- Tech is Grand
- Building Resilient Classrooms
- Hagersville Secondary School Wrestling
- Football Scholarship – C. McKie – Delhi District Secondary School
- Days of Significance

(a) **Director of Education Fall Highlights 2024**

Presented as published.

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report** – Nil

G - 1 **New Business - Action / Information Items**

(a) **Approval to Tender Construction at Cobblestone Elementary School**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the release of the tender documents for the new childcare addition and the eight-classroom addition at Cobblestone Elementary School.

Carried

H - 1 **OPSBA Report**

Trustee Van Every-Albert noted the following:

- Central-West Regional Meeting – April 5, 2025
- 2025 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium – May 1-2, 2025
- Annual General Meeting – June 14, 2025
- Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education of the Canadian School Boards Association – July 2-5, 2025

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Audit Committee

Thursday, November 7, 2024

4:30 PM

Board Room, Education Centre /MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Members: Chair - T. Waldschmidt (Trustee), J. Bradford (Trustee), R. Collver (Trustee), E. Hodgins (Volunteer), A. Thakker (Volunteer)

Management: J. Roberto (Director), R. Wyszynski (Superintendent of Business), C. Smith (Senior Manager of Business Services), A. Van Doorn (Manager, Budget and Grants)

KPMG (Internal Auditors): S. Bedi

Millards (External Auditors): M. McNally, J. Gilbert

Recording Secretary: L. Howells, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Business

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Waldschmidt at 4:29 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and Trustee Sloat was present as a guest.

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

(c) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

(d) **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)**

Presented as printed. Trustee Bradford requested the addition of F-1-b Safety and Security Audit consideration.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the Audit Committee agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the Audit Committee accepts the November 7, 2024, Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein:

(a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated September 12, 2024 be approved.

(b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence Report as information.

Carried

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings - Nil**

D - 1 **Internal Audit**

(a) **Absenteeism Risk and Cost Mitigation Assessment – Scope Refinement**

S. Bedi, KPMG provided an update on the scope for 2024-25 internal audit and provided the benefits and rationale for the refinement which would consist of a horizontal assessment with two other boards and will align with PPM 171 issued by the Ministry in June 2024.



Audit Committee

Thursday, November 7, 2024

4:30 PM

Board Room, Education Centre /MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

In response to question, S. Bedi provided clarification on how the findings would be implemented, noting a gap assessment would be completed first and provide recommendations to address gaps.

E - 1 External Audit

(a) 2023-24 Consolidated Financial Statements (August 31, 2024)

M. McNally, Millards, provided a high-level overview of the Consolidated Financial Statements ending August 31, 2024.

Moved by: E. Hodgins

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the 2023-24 Consolidated Financial Statements be forwarded to the November 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 Other Business - Nil

(a) 2024 Audit Committee Annual Report

Superintendent Wyszynski stated this Annual Report is a requirement under The Regulation and noted the report has been updated for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the Audit Committee Annual Report 2024 be forwarded to the November 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

(b) Safety and Security Audit

Trustee Bradford asked if there would be consideration to have an audit completed for the safety and security of students. In response, it was suggested that this be considered during the next risk assessment stage for a future internal audit. Superintendent Wyszynski added that Grand Erie is only funded to complete one internal audit for the 2024-25 school year.

G - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: A. Thakker

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Carried

H - 1 Next Meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. (Virtual)



Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 12, 2024

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Chair:** C. VanEvery-Albert, Trustee
- Community Representative(s):** S. Graham, Six Nations Federal Schools Representative
- Trustee:**
 - A. Hill Indigenous Student Trustee
 - E. Thomas, Trustee
- Grand Erie Staff:**
 - K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
 - D. Montour, System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education (*Acting*)
 - D. Powless, Indigenous Education Counsellor
 - J. Roberto, Director of Education
 - D. VanEvery, Six Nations Advisor
 - Carey Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor
 - Carly Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor
 - A. Williams, Community Liaison Worker
- Grand Erie Staff (Resources):**
 - J. Hooper, Principal Leader – School Culture and Well-Being
 - J. Boyer, Mental Health Lead
- Regrets:**
 - T. Anderson, Indigenous Services Canada Director of Education responsible for Six Nations Federal Schools
- Absent**
 - C. VanEvery-Albert, Everlasting Tree School
 - A. Powless-Bomberry, Six Nations Elected Council Representative
 - A. General, Kawenní:io/Gawení: yo Private School
- Guest**
 - Nil.
- Recording Secretary:** D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) **Ohen: ton Karihwaterhkwen**
Six Nations Indigenous Advisor VanEvery provided opening greetings.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgment Statement**
Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgment statement.
- (c) **Introduction & Roll Call**
Introductions and Roll Call were completed.
- (d) **Approval of Agenda**
The agenda was approved by consensus.
- (e) **Student Showcase**
Indigenous Student Trustee A. Hill shared that his role provides him the opportunity to attend the following meetings to share in student voice: United Indigenous Student Council (UISC), Board meetings, Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC), Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and Indigenous Student Association (ISA).

Highlights from the UISC included the request for more board policies/procedures/protocols regarding Indigenous Student Association (ISA) and activity days, increased communication between staff and students, and improved representation of the ISA flags at schools.

B - 1 ESA Staff Roundtable





Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 12, 2024

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(a) **Introductions and Updates from each school**

Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School: Homework Help, Wellness workshops, Fanshawe tour, and Mid winter workshop.

Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School: Treaty Week, Workshops, Wilfred Laurier University Tour, Geography class tour of old/new construction in TO and Queen's Parliament building.

Hagersville Secondary School/NewStart Program (NNS): Support with increased intakes and timetabling for NNS, Re-entry meetings, Native Club monthly meetings, Girls Empowerment Group-partnered with Children's Mental Health, Grade 8 days/events, Bex Doxtator information session, support in University/College applications.

McKinnon Park Secondary School: Girls Empowerment Group-partnered with Children's Mental Health, Tom Porter Event, Grade 8 days/events, visit from Syracuse University – Haudenosaunee Grant, Information booths at Federal schools and Fanshaw College Tour.

Community Liaison Worker: Partnership with Indigenous Child/Youth Mental Health, LEADS Gathering, IndSpire conference, creation of Resource Guide with inclusion of Mental Health supports, GEDSB Programs, and Co-Operative options.

Six Nations Advisor: Transition and Regional Sessions/Meetings, High Risk committee, Grade 8 information nights, ESA Report to Six Nations Band Council, Adult Education in Ohsweken and STAY Awards applications.

System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education (Acting): Embedding Indigenous perspectives throughout the Board through curriculum departments, Jordan Principle supports, Land-Based learning partnerships, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee partnerships, Nations/NewStart Review and consulting with the Community.

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Nations/NewStart Program Review (From September 26, 2024)**

There is currently a review occurring, expectation to be completed in June 2025.

D - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2024**

Trustee Thomas moved THAT the minutes of the Six Nations Advisory Committee held on September 26, 2024, be approved.

Carried

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Attendance Review (2023-24)**

The Six Nations Attendance and Credit Accumulation Report 2023-24 was presented.

(b) **Communication with Six Nations Elected Council**

Recommending that information is shared regularly with the Six Nations Elected Council to support the Education Service Agreement.

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Truth and Reconciliation Across the District**



Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 12, 2024

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Future meetings will provide an opportunity for committee members to share information in their work to support Truth and Reconciliation.

(b) **System Updates**

System updates included: The Toronto Holocaust Museum (January 23, 2025), Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education (PROSE), Innovation Hub, You Belong Here Video Campaign, Grand Erie's Artificial Intelligence in Education, Revised Estimates, School Naming, Educational Assistant Professional Development, and Project Search.

Jackie Boyer and Jessie Hooper (School Culture and Well-Being) reviewed the Mental Health 3-year Strategy that will support the board from 2025-2028:

- Purpose - provide an understanding of key topics for the 3-year Mental Health Strategy
- Gather feedback and Information on what is important for you to see reflected in this plan
- Mental Health Strategy 2025-2028: Every Student Every Day: Pillars Include: Identity Affirming, Leading space in Healthy Schools, Collaboration, and partnerships

(c) **Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates scheduled for 2025:

- February 27, 2025
- April 17, 2025
- May 15, 2025 (Annual General Meeting)
- June 12, 2025

G - 1 **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, February 27, 2025, location to be determined.

H - 1 **Closing Address & Adjournment**

Chair VanEvery-Albert gave the closing address and adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.



Bluewater District School Board

351 1st Avenue North
Chesley ON N0G 1L0
Telephone: 519-363-2014 Fax: 519-370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

February 25, 2025

Minister of Education
438 University Ave, 22nd Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

sent via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Re: Special Education Funding and Educational Assistant Shortage

Dear Minister of Education,

In alignment with a letter sent by Ottawa Catholic District School Board SEAC Chair Traci Clarke, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the challenges faced by special education students in Ontario. Specifically, we are concerned about the funding for special education programs and the shortage of Educational Assistants (EAs).

Funding Challenges:

- **Special Education Grant:** The current funding does not meet the needs of exceptional students, forcing school boards to reallocate resources from other areas.
- **Transportation Funding:** The costs for transporting students with special needs exceed the funding provided, placing additional burdens on school boards and families.

Educational Assistant Shortages:

- **Staffing Gaps:** There is a shortage of qualified EAs, which affects the support provided to students with special needs. This shortage can lead to safety risks and disrupt the learning environment.
- **Student Access:** A lack of appropriate staff can result in students being asked to stay home, which impacts their right to education.

Urgent Need for Action:

We urge the Ministry to increase the special education grant and implement strategies to attract and retain staff in special education.

Possible strategies include:

- **Free Tuition for EA Programs:** Offering free tuition for students in EA programs.
- **Retention Bonuses:** Providing financial incentives for EAs to remain in the sector.
- **Living Wage and Benefits:** Ensuring EAs receive a living wage and benefits.
- **Professional Development:** Investing in ongoing professional development for EAs.
- **Improved Working Conditions:** Addressing workload concerns and providing necessary resources.
- **Stable Employment:** Offering full-time stable positions to retain EAs.

We believe these steps are essential to ensure that all students in Ontario, including those with special needs, have access to equitable and high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Tracy Lynn Schaus-Atkinson
Special Education Advisory Committee Chair
Bluewater District School Board

c. Huron-Bruce Member of Provincial Parliament
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Member of Provincial Parliament
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Special Education Advisory Committee Chairs



Special Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:15 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

Present: Acting Committee Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: T. Waldschmidt, G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, E. Thomas

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken, Senior Executive Assistant: C. Dero

Absent: L. Passmore

Visiting Trustee: C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Committee Chair S. Gibson at 6:15 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

(c) **Welcome/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Acting Committee Chair S. Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Finance Committee accept the March 3, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Finance Committee meeting dated February 10, 2025

Carried

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** – Nil

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Boundary Review: Brantford French Immersion**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the amended school boundaries for École Confédération Elementary School and École Dufferin Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2025 be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

In response to a question, it was confirmed there are no additional transportation costs, as no new bus routes are needed at this time.

F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil



Special Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:15 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** May 12, 2025



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: B. Doyle, T. Waldschmidt, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, L. Whiton

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Senior Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

Guests: J. Bell, General Legal Counsel

Visiting Trustee: R. Collver

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair S. Gibson at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

(c) **Welcome /Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair S. Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

December 2, 2024

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept the March 3, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated January 13, 2025

Carried

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** - Nil

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

(a) **Equity Action Plan Final Report 2023-24**

Presented as published.

(b) **Information Technology Services Annual Update**

Presented as printed.

(c) **Curriculum Updates**

Presented as printed.



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

(d) **Graduation Coach to Support Black Students**

Presented as printed.

(e) **Kick-Start to Kindergarten**

Presented as printed.

(f) **Right to Read Inquiry Report**

Presented as printed.

F - 1 **New Business – Policy**

(a) **Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(b) **Major Construction Policy (FA-01)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Major Construction Policy (FA-01) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(c) **Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(d) **Fundraising Policy (SO-01)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Fundraising Policy (SO-01) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(e) **Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(f) **Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: B. Doyle



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

THAT the Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34) was presented and recommended to waive the 30 day public consultation process due to minor revisions.

(g) **Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(h) **Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18) be forwarded to the March 24, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** April 14, 2025



POLICY

BU-02

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2006/02/27
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To provide guidance to Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) employees with respect to the development of Grand Erie's Annual Estimates Budget.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie shall allocate its resources to reflect Grand Erie's multi-year strategic plan in an effective and efficient manner through the application of an annual budget development process.

- 1.0 Grand Erie's approved Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the Annual Learning and Operating Plans will inform the budget development process.
- 2.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall prepare preliminary elementary and secondary enrolment projections that will include trend analysis and historical comparators. Consultation with School Administrators regarding enrolment projections will occur.
- 3.0 The Board of Trustees will provide direction to Senior Administration regarding items to be considered for inclusion or for reduction during the development of the pro-forma budget. The Finance Committee will facilitate preliminary budget discussions.
- 4.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall use the Core Education Funding (CORE) from the Ministry of Education and develop an estimated grant revenue forecast using the established enrolment projections and by providing planning assumptions.
- 5.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall prepare a draft budget for Senior Administration.
- 6.0 Senior Administration shall develop a pro forma budget for Grand Erie consideration by May of each year. The pro forma budget shall also include a five-year enrolment forecast.
- 7.0 Significant budget modifications made to the initial draft budget presented to Senior Administration will be formally documented to ensure that the final budget can be reconciled to the draft budget.
- 8.0 The Board of Trustees shall review/modify the pro forma budget during public meetings (May/June). Any notes of the meeting prepared by or on behalf of the Superintendent of Business and Treasurer may be used for future deliberations.
- 9.0 The Board of Trustees shall approve the final budget ensuring compliance with Ministry regulations. Senior Administration will provide information confirming that the budget is compliant with the funding regulation as part of the budget development and approval process.

- 10.0 The approved budget book shall be posted on the Grand Erie website.
- 11.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall provide quarterly reports to the Board of Trustees on the status of the current budget through the Finance Committee where possible. The Revised Budget will only be presented for approval in the event an in-year deficit is presented or considered.

Reference(s):

- Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Annual Learning and Operating Plans
- Annual Budget Report Book

Draft



POLICY

FA-01

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2008/10/24
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To outline the reporting and approval requirements for capital projects undertaken by Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie).

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie shall approve and monitor all major construction projects to ensure, to the extent possible, that they are completed on schedule and within approved budget.

- 1.0 The Board of Trustees shall be provided with information for approval regarding the preliminary scope of major construction projects. Elements of the information provided shall include size (FTE or square footage) and program (grades and/or specialized programs, and partnership opportunities).
- 2.0 The Board of Trustees shall approve the final selection of a Construction Manager, Architect or Professional Services.
- 3.0 The Board of Trustees shall receive a report from the Superintendent of Business and Treasurer, which shall include recommendations regarding:
 - 3.1 The scope of the base construction project (with costs based on preliminary scope).
 - 3.2 Additional elements with appropriate costs.
 - 3.3 Funding strategy including a breakdown of both internal and external funding sources, as well as a snapshot of the current balances of:
 - Proceeds of Disposition; or
 - Capital Reserves such as School Renewal and School Condition Improvement; or
 - Unsupported Capital; or
 - Accumulated Surplus
- 4.0 The Board of Trustees shall approve the final scope of the major construction project, including size, preliminary budget, timelines and release of tender documents.
- 5.0 The final project budget and scope and recommended tender/contract award will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval as the final project contract amount. This amount will be the basis for a Stipulated Sum Contract, or a Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract as may be appropriate.
- 6.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall provide a progress report to the Finance Committee for the duration of the project. The report shall include budgeted and actual costs to date, details of project progress and schedule for completion. This report will also describe the funding strategy that will be applied should the forecasted expenditures for a project exceed the budget established.

- 7.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall report to the Finance Committee upon substantial completion of the project, which shall include a budgeted and actual cost comparison and a summary of any green school initiatives.
- 8.0 The Superintendent of Business and Treasurer shall provide a report to the Finance Committee in November of each year summarizing the scope, cost and status all other capital projects for the prior fiscal year which were not subject to this policy.

Reference(s):

- Major Construction Procedure (FA-001)
- Capital Related Fundraising Policy (BU-03)
- Capital Related Fundraising Procedure (BU-003)
- Green Construction Policy (FA-10)
- Green Construction Procedure (FA-010)
- Green School Resource Guide
- New Construction Policy (FA-02)
- New Construction Procedure (FA-002)
- Ontario Building Code
- Transition Committees Policy (FA-09)
- Transition Committee Procedure (FA-009)



POLICY

FA-08

BOUNDARY REVIEWS

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2014/10/20
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective

To provide guidelines in delivering equitable and effective program offerings in environments across its jurisdiction that enhance learning opportunities and well-being for students. The board conducts boundary reviews in an effort to optimize utilization of schools in circumstances of increasing and/or declining enrolment.

Policy Statement

Grand Erie is committed to a transparent boundary review process which incorporates consultation for decision-making so that affected communities have a clear understanding of the process and the type of consultation that will occur. Boundary reviews are conducted by the board to review the projected enrolment for a school or a family of schools due to changes in student enrolment, program demands, new school construction, new housing development or other factors. The Board of Trustees will approve the commencement of a boundary review process and final recommendations resulting from the review.

The boundary review process can be initiated by either the Board of Trustees or Senior Administration.

Reference(s)

- Boundary Reviews Procedure (FA-008)
- [Education Act 171\(1\), s.7](#)



POLICY

SO-01

FUNDRAISING

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2006/11/27
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To support Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools with guidelines for fundraising activities that support student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being, belonging, and experiences.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie endorses fundraising opportunities and outcomes that provide educational value for students, and are approved, supervised, and at the discretion of the Administrator(s). All fundraising activities must align with the principles of public education including diversity, accessibility, equity, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity.

Reference(s):

- Fundraising Procedure (SO-001)
- Capital Related Fundraising Policy (BU-03)
- Capital Related Fundraising Procedure (BU-003)
- Community Use of School Facilities Policy (FA-04)
- Community Use of School Facilities Procedure (FA-004)
- Community Use of School Facilities Handbook (FA-04-R)
- Disposal of Surplus, Damaged or Obsolete Furnishings and Equipment Procedure (FA-021)
- Purchasing Policy (BU-06)
- Purchasing Procedure (BU-006)
- School Councils Policy (SO-02)



POLICY

SO-14

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION	
Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Curriculum & Student Achievement	Initial Effective Date: 2021/05/31
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To ensure equity and inclusive education by raising awareness, actively addressing barriers and discriminatory practices, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) recognizes that equity of access to the full range of programs, services, and resources is critical to positive learning, well-being and belonging outcomes for those served by the school system. Grand Erie is committed to fostering an anti-oppressive, anti-racist, and inclusive culture.

Grand Erie is committed to listening, responding and engaging with communities to ensure all voices are heard and are included in the process. To that end, Grand Erie confirms and upholds the principles enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the *Constitution Act*, of 1982, the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Ontario Education Equity Action Plan to ensure a culturally responsive environment and a culturally safe space to work and learn.

Reference(s):

- Equity and Inclusive Education Procedure (SO-014)
- Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario (2014)
- Building a Foundation for Change: Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028
- Legislative and Policy Framework
- Ontario Education Equity Action Plan (2017)
- [Ontario Human Rights Code](#)
- [The Accepting Schools Act \(2012\)](#)
- [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2](#)
- [The Constitutions Act](#), Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119, "Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools" (June 24, 2009)



POLICY

SO-34

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS	
Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education, Specialized Services	Initial Effective Date: 2022/02/28
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To build strong and collaborative working relationships with Community partners.

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) believes that building strong and collaborative working relationships with community partners can enhance the opportunities available to our students. Community partnerships must comply with Grand Erie policies, the *Education Act*, Collective Agreements, other contracts and all legal requirements. All partnerships shall be based on the principles of equity, inclusiveness, and anti-oppression.

Reference(s):

- Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together Procedure (SO-034)
- [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2](#)



POLICY

HS-10

STUDENT CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY	
Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Human Resources	Initial Effective Date: 2019/06/24
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To affirm the Grand Erie District School Board’s (Grand Erie) commitment to student safety, injury prevention, and well-being by supporting concussion awareness, prevention, identification, management, tracking and training in schools.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of students, recognizing that children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk of concussion and/or head injury. Grand Erie is committed in building awareness, prevention, identification, and management of concussions and/or head injuries to reduce increased risk.

Reference(s):

- Student Concussion and Head Injury Procedure (HS-010)
- Student Concussion and Head Injury Resource Package
- Ministry of Education School Board Policies on Concussion (PPM 158)
- Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE)



POLICY

SO-18

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2014/05/26
Last Updated: 2025/03/24	Next Review Date: 2029/03/26

Objective:

To support environmental and climate change learning and stewardship across all Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools and departments.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie encourages and supports environmental and climate change education and stewardship in our schools, facilities, and administrative departments.

Grand Erie is committed to continuing to undertake practices to reduce our environmental impact while engaging students, employees, and school communities. Grand Erie will develop education resources and curriculum connections related to the environment and climate change to create on-going opportunities for learning and engagement.

Reference(s):

- Environmental and Climate Change Education Stewardship Procedure (SO-018)
- Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance Procedure (FA-014)
- Green Construction Policy (FA-10)
- Green Construction Procedure (FA-010)
- *Ministry of Education Curriculum Grades 1-8: Environmental Education*
- *Ministry of Education Curriculum Grades 9-12: Environmental Education*
- *O. Reg. 25/23: Broader Public Sector: Energy Reporting and Conservation and Demand Management Plans*
- *O. Reg. 102/94: Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans O. Reg. 230/11: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Source Separation Programs*
- *O. Reg. 391/21: Blue Box*
- *O. Reg. 243/07: Schools, Private Schools and Child Care Centres*
- *O. Reg. 170/03: Drinking Water Systems*
- Purchasing Policy (BU-06)
- Purchasing Procedure (BU-006)
- United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals
- United Nations' Paris Agreement



Audit Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025

5:00 PM

MS Teams

REPORT

Present: T. Waldschmidt, J. Bradford, E. Whiton, E. Hodgins, A. Thakker

Administration: J. Roberto, R. Wyszynski, C. Smith

KPMG (Internal Auditors): B. Sisson

Recording Secretary: L. Howells

Visiting Trustees: R. Collver, C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Waldschmidt at 5:02 p.m. Roll Call was completed.

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

(c) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

(d) **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)**

Presented as printed

Moved by: A. Thakker

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Audit Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed

Moved by: E. Hodgins

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the Audit Committee accepts the March 6, 2025, Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein:

(a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated November 7, 2024 be approved.

(b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence report.

(c) Receive the Revised Budget Estimates 2024-25.

Carried

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings - Nil**

D - 1 **Internal Audit**

(a) **Absenteeism Risk and Cost Mitigation Assessment - Status Update**

B. Sisson, from KPMG, provided a brief update on the status on the Absenteeism Risk and Cost Mitigation Assessment. Final report will be presented at the June 12, 2025 Audit Committee meeting.

(b) **2025-26 Internal Audit Plan**

B. Sisson, from KPMG, provided a brief overview of the risk refresh timeline which launched on March 3, 2025. The risk refresh will support the development of the risk



Audit Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025

5:00 PM

MS Teams

REPORT

landscape for school boards in Ontario. This assessment of risks will help guide next fiscal year's Internal Audit Plan. The 2025-26 Internal Audit Plan will be presented at the June 12, 2025 Audit Committee meeting.

E - 1 **External Audit**

(a) **Appointment of the External Auditor**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the appointment of Millard, Rouse & Rosebrugh LLP as external auditors for the 2024-25 financial year be forwarded to the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Budget Overview 2025-26**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided an overview of the 2025-26 Budget process and timelines.

In response to a question, an overview was provided of the enrolment planning and projection process in relation to the budget. Cyber Security risks will be presented to the Audit Committee in June as part of the Internal Audit Plan report.

(b) **Audit Reports – Recommendations Tracking**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided a brief overview of a new internal process which will catalogue recommendations from historical audits containing action plans and timelines. A summary and update report will be brought to the Audit Committee every June.

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: E. Whiton

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. (in person)



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North

RE: **OSTA-AECO Report**

DATE: March 24, 2025

Student Trustees Hill, Prince, and Shields attended the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) Education Action Conference in Ottawa. The focus of this conference was to learn skills useful to being a Student Trustee, and to continue work in their Advocacy Interest Groups (AIGs) and Education Interest Groups (EIGs). The Grand Erie team made use of their time by attending different information sessions, workshops, and meetings to further their work with OSTA-AECO.

The Student Trustees had an opportunity to hear from speaker Emma Morrison, who was Miss World Canada in 2022. The leadership team implemented a new conference concept called OSTA Talks, where the Grand Erie team had the opportunity to hear other Student Trustees share the initiatives and motions that they have implemented in their boards. The leadership team also presented the new draft of their vision document and took advice and insights from Student Trustees.

Alison Osborne from the Ontario Principal's Council (OPC) gathered student voice and asked how students would solve problems across the province. The Student Trustees also worked with the Public Cabinet where they learned how to build engagement with students of the board through social media. The Student Trustees attended an OSTA-AECO alumni info session as well as an information session with Pino Buffone, the Director of Education for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board who gave a presentation on what it means to be a leader.

Student Trustee Hill is a member of both the Truth and Reconciliation public interest group (TRC) and Indigenous Student Trustees Council (ISTC) within OSTA-AECO. The time that was spent during these sessions was meaningful, and productive. In the TRC, Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike got together and discussed what students want to understand about Indigenous life/history and how to have more engagement with not just Indigenous education but extra-curricular events/activities as well. They also discussed how to further build mutual understanding and have proper education along with representation for all Indigenous peoples all throughout the school districts. The ISTC had conversations regarding what is going well in each role for all the Indigenous Student Trustees along with urgent improvements that will further benefit everyone in the bigger picture. Both breakout groups had a successful time in creating conversation and mutual understanding. The Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation was expanded upon during these sessions as the time spent was purposeful, even profound as unique perspectives were heard, and common ground was understood.

Student Trustee Prince attended the Student Wellbeing (SW) AIG to continue her work from the last conference. The group worked on creating and collecting data on the purpose of "Flex Days" which work like a "Study Only" school day. The working group split off into two group

one to creating ways to format the information and the other to research on how flex days have made positive impact on other schools. Student Trustee Prince worked in the research group where we spent most our time researching how to implement these days, how it impacts student mental health, and created a group chat to send any additional information that the group can find.

Student Trustee Shields attended the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) AIG breakouts throughout the conference. The EDI AIG shifted their focus to creating a Resource Hub for future student trustees to gain knowledge on how to implement EDI practices within their boards. The EDI AIG members discussed issues within their own boards and different methods that are being used to combat these issues. The EDI AIG had guest speaker Irfan Toor from OPC come in to discuss the importance of equity and to challenge critical thinking by presenting with issues that he has come across with his career as the Social Justice and Anti-Oppression Advisor.

The Education Action Conference was successful in guiding the Grand Erie team through their next steps as student trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North

RE: **Student Senate Report**

DATE: March 24, 2025

On Thursday, February 27th, the Student Trustees hosted their second senate meeting at Cayuga Secondary School. This meeting featured engaging discussions on plans and initiatives and included the election of the next Student Trustees for the 2025-2026 term.

The day began with the Student Senate splitting up into their respective regions for elections with Student Trustee Prince for the South, Student Trustee Shields for the North and Student Trustee Hill for the Indigenous Student Trustee. Student Trustee Hill had the opportunity to meet the Indigenous Student Trustee candidates earlier this month at Delhi District Secondary School and Tollgate Technological Secondary School. The candidates delivered impressive speeches and presented innovative ideas to align schools with our "Learn, Lead, and Inspire" board initiatives. This experience was invaluable for the Student Trustees, as it provided a deeper understanding of student expectations and preferences.

Following the elections, student senators transitioned into their working groups: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Student Mental Health and Well-being, and Student Voice. These meetings focused on refining ideas, improving communication, and outlining the necessary steps to be taken before the end of this school year.

The Student Voice working group still got together to discuss their ideas and initiatives. The group shared many thoughts on how to build student voice and involvement within their schools. These included ways to support incoming high school students and build a stronger connection with elementary schools, getting more engagement from grade nine students, and more student events. The group then honed in on how they can execute these concepts within their schools. The group has not yet decided on their initiative, but they are discussing which of their ideas may be implemented at a board level.

Student Trustee Prince led the Mental Health and Well-being working group, ensuring that all members had effective communication channels despite some initial platform issues. She also discussed alternative initiatives due to concerns about the feasibility of her original initiative. The group also proposed several ideas, including increased support for clubs by encouraging greater teacher involvement. As a whole, the group believed that the school community could create a safe space for many students struggling with mental health. The group also proposed the idea of "Flex Days," specific school days dedicated to catching up on work, where no new assignments are given. This would function similarly to learning support days, but all students would still attend school on these days, allowing them to seek clarification from their teachers. Additionally, the group discussed preparations for "Mental Health Week," which is scheduled for May.

Student Trustee Shields led the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion working group. The group decided to streamline their focus and select an initiative to focus on. The group brought up many excellent ideas including ESL supports, online inclusion clubs, and ways to promote diverse events. There was also discussion on some environmental initiatives, as the working group was environment-focused in previous years. While the group is still researching the concepts discussed at senate, there was a general lean towards making amenities within schools more accessible to those using mobility devices. The group is taking into consideration budget, timeframe, and other potential barriers while formulating a plan. A student within the group has also expressed interest in taking the initiative to lead a board-wide virtual inclusion event.

All working groups will continue to collaborate online and implement their initiatives within their schools.

The day concluded with a round table summary of the working groups and the announcement of the elected Student Trustees for the 2025-2026 term.

The next senate meeting is scheduled for March 27th, 2025, where the Student Trustees look forward to continuing their efforts in engaging student voice and nurturing an inclusive and healthy school environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Major Construction Project Report**
DATE: March 24, 2025

Background

As per Grand Erie District School Board's Major Construction Policy (FA-01), the status of each active capital project will be provided in a bi-monthly report. As per policy, this report shall include budgeted and actual costs to date, details of project progress and schedule for completion. A funding strategy will be recommended should forecasted expenditures for a project exceed the budget established.

Status

Paris Elementary School

The project has received Ministry funding for a new elementary school in Paris, Ontario to support accommodation pressure in the community. The project's scope includes space for 536 students, a gymnasium and library, special education rooms, resource rooms, and four childcare rooms for 64 children.

Caledonia Elementary School

The project status is currently on schedule. Approximately 90% of the building has been enclosed and construction teams are working diligently for a September 2025 opening.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report is connected to all priorities: Learning, Well-being, and Belonging.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A

Project	Type	Phase	Ministry Approval	Target Opening Date	Architect	Site Acquisition	Site Plan Approval (SPA)	Tender Awarded	General Contractor	Budget	Actual	Cost Forecast
Elgin Avenue Public School	Addition / Renovation	Tendering	Aug 04, 2017	Mar 31, 2026	Salter Pilon Architecture	N/A	Conditional Approval.	No	TBD	\$ 18,695,928	\$ 1,475,638	\$ 18,695,928
South-West Brantford Elementary School	New School	Construction in Progress	Oct 20, 2020	Sep 01, 2026	ZAS Architects	In Progress	Approved.	Yes	Aquicon	\$ 37,276,746	\$ 6,152,165	\$ 37,276,746
Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School	New School	Construction in Progress	Nov 23, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Svedas Architects	Completed	Approved.	Yes	Tambro	\$ 18,935,580	\$ 6,319,651	\$ 18,935,580
Cobblestone Elementary School Child Care	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 25, 2021	Sep 01, 2026	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	Approved.	No	TBD	\$ 3,045,153	\$ 197,855	\$ 3,045,153
Banbury Heights School Child Care	Addition	Construction in Progress	Mar 25, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	Approved.	Yes	TRP Construction	\$ 3,109,266	\$ 1,456,696	\$ 3,109,266
Cobblestone Elementary School Addition	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 27, 2024	Sep 01, 2026	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	Approved.	No	TBD	\$ 4,098,600	\$ 173,212	\$ 4,098,600
New Paris Elementary School	New School	Pre-Design	Jan 27, 2025	Sep 01, 2027	To be determined	In Progress	Not Initiated	No	TBD	\$ 26,518,283	\$ -	\$ 26,518,283



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Board Approved Transportation Review**
DATE: March 24, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
 THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2025-26 School Year.

1.0 Background

Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) is in the process of developing parameters and reviewing current bus information for the purposes of planning bus routes for the upcoming 2025-26 school year. STSBHN performs a comprehensive review of scenarios that fall outside of [STSBHN Procedure 002 Transportation Eligibility](#) as a regular part of the planning cycle. In previous years, STSBHN has brought information forward to the Board of Trustees with the objective of approving which students, who are otherwise ineligible for services under the transportation policies and procedures, should be provided exceptions for the upcoming school year.

The student groupings listed below do not meet the defined transportation eligibility requirements and have had exception boundaries approved by the Board of Trustees in previous years. STBSHN continues to use exception boundaries as the preferred means of operationalizing approved exceptions. This approach allows families to check their eligibility online to see if they qualify for services. STSBHN requires approval from the Board of Trustees to implement these exception boundaries.

2.0 Out-of-Boundary Students

2.1 Norfolk Secondary

There are several Norfolk secondary students who have registered at a secondary school which is not their home school. Many of these students, totaling approximately 110, have been provided transportation in the current school year.

To accurately and consistently plan and apply transportation services to secondary students of Norfolk County, the following assumptions have been considered:

- i) All Grade 9 and 10 students, as program delivery is similar at each secondary school, must request courtesy transportation if they reside out of their school's catchment.
- ii) Students in Grades 11 and 12 will be provided with flexible learning opportunities in situations where their home school does not have the course selection that the student needs. These students will be offered board approved transportation to the closest secondary location offering the course where established routes exist. For all other cases, courtesy transportation options will be explored to support student access to the programs they need.

By providing this transportation option, the incremental cost for 2025-26 is anticipated to be: \$14,940.

2.2 Oakland-Scotland Public School to Waterford District High School Express Route

Secondary students who reside in the Oakland-Scotland Public School catchment have historically been approved to receive transportation services to Waterford District High School even though they fall within the Paris District High School's catchment.

This transportation option is expected to provide savings of \$2,710 for the upcoming school year.

2.3 Caledonia to Cayuga Secondary School

Secondary students are transported from the catchment of McKinnon Park Secondary School to Cayuga Secondary School. This solution was established to offer students an alternate option with the goal of reducing accommodation pressures at McKinnon Park Secondary School.

This transportation option is expected to cost \$20,020 for the upcoming school year.

2.4 Students attending River Heights School

The current River Heights School English stream boundary does not encompass all of the urban area in Caledonia, south of the Grand River. There is a section of a subdivision on the south end of the town which falls within the catchment of Oneida Central Public School.

As some students in the area in question reside beyond 1.6km to either school, the cost to continue to transport students to River Heights School is marginally less as River Heights School is closer to that section of Caledonia than Oneida Central Public School.

This transportation option is expected to provide savings of \$2,260 for the upcoming school year.

2.5 Out of Boundary Students attending Houghton Public School

Due to the proximity of Houghton Public School to other elementary transfer locations, assisting families who reside out of the school's catchment can be a challenge. Houghton Public School currently has 100 students registered at their school who reside out of the school's boundary, all of whom are being provided transportation services. To facilitate the provision of economical and efficient services, these students have historically been required to transfer at points well outside of their home catchment.

This current exception does not result in any additional costs.

3.0 Out of District Students**3.1 Norwich/Otterville/Burgessville students attending Delhi District Secondary School**

When the local secondary school in Norwich was closed, the Board of Trustees agreed to provide transportation services to students from the area who were interested in attending Delhi District Secondary School. Currently there are 154 students being provided transportation services.

This transportation investment is expected to cost \$171,960 for the upcoming school year.

3.2 Princeton/Drumbo/Wolverton students attending Paris District High School

Historically students from Princeton, Drumbo, Wolverton and the surrounding rural areas, have been provided transportation services to and from Paris District High

School. To ensure a reasonable length of time on the bus, two routes are used to provide services to approximately 45 students.

This transportation investment is expected to cost \$71,320 for the upcoming school year.

3.3 Tillsonburg students travelling through Courtland Public School transfer

Historically there has been a demand from students residing in the town of Tillsonburg to attend Grand Erie schools. Although the location has changed throughout the years, transportation has been arranged from a central location on the east side of Tillsonburg to bring approximately 36 students into the Courtland Public School transfer.

This transportation option is expected to cost \$860 for the upcoming school year.

4.0 Specialized Programs

4.1 Education and Community Partnership Program Students – Woodview Program

STSBHN currently provides students with transportation who attend classes through the Woodview program at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocation School. These students are accommodated through the use of existing routes. Where an existing route is not available, STSBHN will utilize taxi services, however no taxi services are currently in place.

This transportation option is expected to cost \$560 for the upcoming school year.

Additional information

Due to the high reliance on transfers within our district, the exceptions listed above often result in longer ride times for students. The above information is intended to summarize exceptions to the normal routing and transportation practices of STSBHN. By clarifying and building these expectations into the route planning software, STSBHN can provide clarity to schools, parents/caregivers, and students as to the services that will be made available in the coming school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Regan Vankerbroeck, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Renaming of Elgin Avenue Public School**
DATE: March 24, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
 THAT the Board approve the request for the renaming of Elgin Avenue Public School and that a Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee be struck in the 2024-25 school year as per the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy (FA-03).

Background

The renovation and expansion of Elgin Avenue Public School is proceeding and the students from West Lynn Public School and Elgin Avenue Public School currently attending West Lynn Public School. The students and staff are scheduled to move into the facility in late winter/early spring of 2026. With the combining of the two schools into one, a survey was sent to students (Grades 3-8), staff, and families who are currently at West Lynn Public School asking if Elgin Avenue Public School should be renamed. A majority of respondents wished to rename the school.

Additional Information

When the renaming of a school is required, the Board of Trustees shall strike a Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee to engage the community in selecting a name for the school. The Family of Schools Superintendent will assume responsibility for the implementation of the naming process.

Next Steps

Once approved, a Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee will be established, as per Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy (FA-03).

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the belonging indicator of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we will build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Regan Vankerbroeck
 Superintendent of Education



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
Regan Vankerrebroeck, Superintendent of Education

RE: **Student Trustee Selection 2025-26**

DATE: March 24, 2025

Background

In accordance with General Governance Policy Section 10, correspondence was forwarded to secondary school Principals in December, inviting applications for the position of Student Trustee for the Grand Erie District School Board for 2025-26. Eleven responses were received from the invitation, four from the North (Brantford and Brant County), five from the South (Haldimand and Norfolk) and two from the Indigenous student population of the Board.

Elections were held, and Prabhsidak Singh, a student at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School was elected as Student Trustee for the North, Harper Thompson, a student at Simcoe Composite School was elected as Student Trustee for the South, and Ryleigh Staats, a student at Delhi District Secondary School was declared, through consensus, as the Indigenous Student Trustee.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the mission of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan; Together we build a culture of Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D.
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board

Regan Vankerrebroeck
Superintendent of Education