



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026
(Monday, January 26, 2026)

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) Mohawk Teaching (C. VanEvery-Albert)
- (f) Call to Order
- (g) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Agenda be approved."
- (h) Memorial
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Award (J. Roberto) (I)
- (j) Student Showcase (J. Roberto, K. Graham) (I)
 - (i) Broken Spoke Program, Dunnville Secondary School
 - (ii) Words Matter, Russell Reid Public School and River Heights Public School
- (k) Delegation

B - 1 Consent Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board accept the February 23, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."

- * (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Annual Board meeting dated November 24, 2025
 - (ii) Regular Board meeting dated November 24, 2025
- * (b) Receive the minutes of:
 - (i) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee dated May 29, 2025
 - (ii) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee dated October 23, 2025
 - (iii) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee dated October 23, 2025
 - (iv) Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 6, 2025
 - (v) Student Senate dated November 20, 2025
 - (vi) Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 4, 2025
 - (vii) Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 8, 2026

Learn

Lead

Inspire



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Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated January 8, 2026](#) (L. Thompson)

Recommended Motion:

"That the Board approve the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween as the representative for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services."

- * (b) [Policy and Program Committee Report dated January 12, 2026](#) (B. Doyle)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the draft School Year Calendars 2026-27."

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the following draft policies:

- (i) *Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05)*
- (ii) *Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04)*
- (iii) *Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07)*
- (iv) *Harassment/Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05)*
- (v) *Health & Safety Policy (HS-01)*
- (vi) *Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11)*
- (vii) *Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04)*
- (viii) *Fundraising Policy (SO-01)."*

- * (c) [Finance Committee Report dated February 9, 2026](#) (S. Gibson)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the establishment of the Grand Erie Learning Foundation as an incorporated entity."

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2026-27 School Year."

- * (d) [Special Policy and Program Committee Report dated February 23, 2026](#) (B. Doyle)

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

E - 1 Report of the Director

- (a) [Director's Report – January 2026](#) (J. Roberto) (I)
- (b) [Director's Report – February 2026](#) (J. Roberto) (I)

F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

- * (a) Student Senate Report (P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson) (I)

G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items

- * (a) Strategic Plan Update 2026-2030 (J. Roberto) (I)

Learn

Lead

Inspire



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Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

- * (b) Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member Report (R. Wyszynski)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the re-appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2029."
 - * (c) Student Trustee Selection 2026-27 (J. Roberto, R. Vanerbroeck) (I)
 - * (d) Trustee Determination & Distribution Report (J. Roberto) (I)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board designate no municipal area as a low population area for the regular election of 2026."
Recommended Motion:
*"THAT the Board approve the number of Trustees to be elected in the regular election of 2026 for each municipality set as:
(i) City of Brantford – 4 Trustees, elected at large;
(ii) Brant County and Norfolk County Wards 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large;
(iii) Haldimand County – 2 Trustees elected at large; and
(iv) Norfolk County less Ward 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large."*
- H - 1 **Appointments to the OPSBA Board of Directors and Identification of (Voting) Delegate**
(B. Doyle)
(a) Appointment of Scrutineers (K. Graham, J. White) (I)
(b) Method of Naming (I)
(c) Nominations for OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate (I)
(d) Motion to Destroy Ballots
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the ballots be destroyed."
- I - 1 **Adjournment**
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."

Learn

Lead

Inspire



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026
 (Monday, January 26, 2026)

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

MARCH

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
02	03	04	05	06
09	10	11	12	13
Policy and Program Committee 6:30 p.m.			Special Education Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m.	
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
			Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee 7:30 p.m.	





Annual Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

zPresent: Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, B. Doyle, L. Passmore, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, E. Thomas, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton, Student Trustees: P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson

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

Regrets: Trustee S. Gibson

A - 1 **Opening Call to Order**
(a) The meeting was called to order by Director Roberto, as Secretary of the Board, at 6:03 p.m.

(b) **Roll Call**
Director Roberto confirmed that roll call had been completed.

(c) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**
Trustee Passmore read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Selection of Slate of Officers for 2026**
(a) **Appointment of the Scrutineers**
R. Vankerbroeck and J. White were appointed Scrutineers.

(b) **Method of Nominating**
Nominations for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the 2026 Board were made by email submission.

(c) **Nominations for Board Chair**
Trustee Waldschmidt nominated Trustee Doyle who accepted the nomination. Trustee Bradford and Trustee Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert
THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Board 2026 be closed.

Carried

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.

Trustee Doyle was declared elected as Chair of the Board 2026.

Chair Doyle assumed the Chair.



Annual Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

(d) **Nominations for Board Vice-Chair**

Trustee Doyle nominated Trustee Gibson who accepted the nomination. Trustee Waldschmidt nominated Trustee Whiton who accepted the nomination. Trustee Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board 2026 be closed.

Carried

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.

The Board vote resulted in a tie between Trustee Gibson and Trustee Whiton.

Ballots were redistributed, collected, and tabulated.

The second vote resulted in a tie. The tie was resolved by drawing straws in accordance with General Working Bylaw 2.3 (o).

Trustee Gibson was declared Vice-Chair of the Board 2026.

(g) **Motion to Destroy the Ballots**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

Carried

C - 1 **Presentation to the 2025 Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

On behalf of the Board, Director Roberto presented Vice-Chair Waldschmidt with a token and words of appreciation for both Chair Gibson and Vice-Chair Waldschmidt.

D - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Annual Board meeting be adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Carried

Chair B. Doyle

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Present: Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton, Student Trustees: P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson

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

Regrets: Vice-Chair: S. Gibson

Guest: M. McNally, Millards

A - 1 **Opening (6:52 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Doyle confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:54 p.m.)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

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

Trustee Passmore read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Thanksgiving Address**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert read a Thanksgiving Address.

(f) **Call to Order**

Chair Doyle called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

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

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(h) **Memorial**

(i) Rob Petrella

The memorial of Rob Petrella was read by Trustee Thomas.

(i) **In-Camera Report**

The In-Camera report was presented when the Board reconvened at 9:35 p.m.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

B-1-a-ii

7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: L. Whiton
THAT Item D-1-c be approved.

Carried

(j) **Learn Lean Inspire Award**

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to two teachers at Onondaga Brant Elementary School. Robin Perry, a core French teacher, was recognized for going beyond the curriculum, fostering an inclusive learning environment, and demonstrating innovative, student-focused teaching. Christopher Bailey, whose visionary leadership in educational technology has revolutionized learning by ensuring students are engaged and equipped with the skills they need for a rapidly evolving world.

(k) **Student Showcase** - Nil

(l) **Delegation** – Nil

(m) **Chair's Address**

Chair Doyle presented his Inaugural address.

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

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

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Regular Board meeting dated October 27, 2025

(b) Receive the minutes of

(i) Student Senate dated May 1, 2025

(ii) Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 4, 2025

(iii) Audit Committee dated September 11, 2025

(iv) Special Education Advisory Committee dated October 2, 2025

(c) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Simcoe County District School Board dated November 17, 2025

(d) Receive the:

(i) Director of Education Highlights

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Governance Committee Meeting Report dated November 10, 2025**

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the amendments to the Borrowing By-Law.

Carried



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

B-1-a-ii

7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

(b) **Finance Committee Report dated November 10, 2025**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for Agnes G. Hodge Public School, Edith Monture Elementary School, Walter Gretzky Elementary School, and the new school boundary for Blanche E. Williams Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2026.

Carried

(c) **Audit Committee Meeting Report dated October 20, 2025**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the 2024-25 Consolidated Financial Statements.

Carried

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025.

Carried

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

(a) **Director's Report – November 2025**

Presented as published.

(b) **Director's Annual Report**

Presented as published.

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

(a) **OSTA-AECO Report**

Presented as printed.

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

(a) **Trustees Expenses Report**

Presented as printed

(b) **Year End Report**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the use of operating reserves in the following manner:

- \$499,900 draw on the IT Reserve to enhance technology and software development
- \$75,029 draw on the Financial Software Reserve to complete the implementation of the platform



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Education Centre Boardroom

B-1-a-ii

7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

- \$209,848 draw on the Accumulated Surplus to support the Banbury Childcare Expansion Project

Carried

(c) **Reporting of Wrongdoing**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Borrowing Authorities**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board authorize the Signing Authorities to obtain loans at any one time up to a maximum of \$35,000,000 to cover current payrolls and general account payments, if required.

Carried

(e) **Trustee Committee Representation 2025-26**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the Committee Representation 2025-26.

Carried

H - 1 **OPSBA Report**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert provided information regarding the following:

- Bill 33 discussion including Community Support offices
- Reduction in OPSBA Board members
- December 18, 2025 Board of Directors meeting

The Board reconvened in-camera at 8:46 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and presented the in-camera report at 9:34 p.m.

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 9:37p.m.

Carried

Chair B. Doyle

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2025

3:30 p.m.

MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Chair:** J.P. Gauthier, Indigenous Education Teacher Consultant
- Trustee:** R. Collver, Trustee
A. Hill, Student Trustee
T. Sault, Trustee
- Grand Erie Staff:** K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
R. Mullings, Elementary Principal
J. Roberto, Director of Education
- Organizations/Agencies:** P. Barber, Director of Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
J. Burnham, Local Association Representative
D. Sowers, Local Association Representative
- Parent/Family Designates:** Nil.
- Regrets:** V. King-Jamieson, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Education Pillar Lead
L. Harris, Local Association Representative
K. Henry, Local Association Representative
D. Montour, System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education (*Acting*)
G. Myke, Local Association Representative
J. Shawana, Local Association Representative
T. Simon, Parent/Family Designate
L. Staats, Parent/Family Designate
- Absent:** D. Bomberry, Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
C. General, Local Association Representative
S. George, Parent/Family Designate
K. Sandy, Local Association Representative
A. Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
L. Silversmith, Local Association Representative
R. Skye, Indigenous Education Advocate
- Guests:** Nil.
- Recording Secretary:** D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) Chair Gauthier shared the video “Words Before All Else” for the opening address.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**
Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- (c) **Introduction of Members & Roll Call**
Introductions and Roll Call were completed.
- (d) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approvals**
The agenda was approved by consensus.
- (e) **Student Showcase**



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2025

MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Indigenous Student Trustee A. Hill shared his thoughts on the following questions below:

How can Indigenous students contribute to their own conscientization in Grand Erie?

- Student diverse voice

How can Indigenous parents and community members become more involved in shaping Indigenous Education in Grand Erie?

- Connecting with parents and caregivers to advocate for their children is important and will contribute to forming a strong community voice
- Offering different subjects as they develop will play a significant role

How can Grand Erie better support local Indigenous communities and their education systems?

- Indigenous education should be distinguished from general education. Educating others about Indigenous culture is complex and best done by traditional teachers. It is challenging for non-Indigenous educators to teach true Indigenous education
- Creating grants for community educators
- Encouraging Indigenous leaders to confidently voice their perspectives
- Increasing community involvement and continuing Indigenous education courses
- Teaching values should be based on respect and philosophical principles when addressing Indigenous teachings

Clarification on support to Indigenous Education across the district was provided based on specific needs within schools.

Indigenous Student Trustee Hill would like to continue to foster dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and educate students about leadership through nature alongside with values, principles, morals, ethics, honesty, and respect.

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT Indigenous Education Advisory Committee accept the May 29, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained herein

Approve the minutes of:

- (i) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee minutes dated March 27, 2025

Carried

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

(a) **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee – Collaborative Brainstorm (From March 27, 2025)**

Committee members were invited to express their preferences regarding further opportunities they wish to see within the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.

- Reviewing budgets and the Board Action Plan beforehand allows for input



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2025

MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- Consider connecting Six Nations and MCFN, and hosting meetings there could be beneficial. Integrate experiences from other sites into IEAC for better approaches.
- Host more IEAC-sponsored events to encourage relaxed community engagement, making members comfortable in sharing.
- Clarify the reasons for requesting participation - whether to support students or parents/guardians.
- Visit MCFN locations to familiarize individuals; attend school and community center, explore integration of MCFN and SN for unified learner support.
- Educate non-Indigenous committee members on effective student education support
- Engage with Brantford's urban community and nearby towns; connect with UISC and student councils to support Indigenous student representation

The feedback and conversation were very productive. The next steps will involve exploring opportunities for engagement and advocacy in the coming year and understanding how this will evolve.

D - 1 **New Business**

- (a) **Updates – Community**
Nil.

E - 1 **Information Items**

- (a) **Indigenous Education Update**

The Indigenous Education team has incorporated Indigenous Knowledge into the classrooms through a variety of initiatives: Indigenous Knowledge Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Program (Lacrosse), Mohawk College's Picture Yourself at College event (offering tours and workshops in healthcare and automotive fields), Grade 7 transition events for on-reserve elementary students, workshops (beading and moccasin making), guest speakers (including Phil Davis, Tanya Jacobs, Melanie Bomberry), field trips (Woodland Cultural Centre, Kayanase, Chiefswood, Camp Kandalore), and the third phase of the Indigenous community garden at CSS.

The elementary team has provided support to 58 elementary schools and managed the Auntie program. They have also offered guidance for all secondary initiatives and overseen student engagement through various programs, including environmental education and the year-end event.

Graduate coaches and counselors support students at Tollgate, BCI, MPSS, PJ, and HSS through academic guidance, homework assistance, post-secondary planning, nutrition advice, event organization, field trips, and monitoring student progress.

Representatives from the Indigenous Student Associations and United Indigenous Student Council (UISC) attended the 4th annual T-Bird Festival at Pauline Johnson CVS in May. The event featured activities such as Bread and Cheese, beading, Kiwanis Field activities, lacrosse workshops, Indigenous trivia, Bone and Toggle, and a mini-Pow Wow with various singers. Trustee A. Hill ceremonially passed the Indigenous Student Trustee medallion to R. Staats.



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2025

MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

(b) **System Update**

System Updates included: Videos that highlighted: Math Learning 2025, Innovation Hub, Hub Program, and Dual Credit. Additional Updates include Ontario Skills Competition, Coding en Francais, Dunnville Secondary School Art Project, Paris District High School Badminton Champ, Muslim Association of Brantford, Iftar Celebration at Walter Gretzky, and Autism Awareness Month.

F - 1 **Next Meeting**

The dates will be sent out to the committee members once the calendar dates are confirmed

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Chair Gauthier adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

H - 1 **Closing Address**

Chair Gauthier shared the video "Words Before All Else" for the closing address.



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

3:30 p.m.

Education Centre and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Chair** S. Hill, Indigenous System Leader
- Trustee** R. Collver, Trustee
T. Waldschmidt, Trustee
R. Staats, Student Trustee
- Grand Erie Staff** J. Roberto, Director of Education
J. White, Superintendent
D. Atanas, Superintendent
M. Turner, Indigenous Secondary Teacher Consultant
- Organizations/ Agencies** A. Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Parent/Family Designates** NIL
- Regrets** K. Sandy, Six Nations Language Commission
P. Barber, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
J. Shawana, NPAAM
- Guest** C. A. Sloat
- Recording Secretary** Stacie Fehrman

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) **Ohen: ton Karihwatehkwen**
S. Hill provided opening greetings.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgment Statement**
Superintendent White 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
- B – 1 **Business Arising from the Minutes and or Previous Minutes**
- (a) **IEAC Terms of Reference**
Chair S. Hill reviewed the updated Terms of Reference for the 2025-26 school year
- C – 1 **Consent Agenda**
- (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee minutes dated May 29, 2025
 Deferred due to lack of quorum
- D – 1 **New Business**
- (a) **Consultation/Board Action Plan (BAP)**
Superintendent White shared the BAP plan consultation.
- (b) **Updates - Community**
NIL



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

3:30 p.m.

Education Centre and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- E-1 **Information Items**
- (a) **System Updates**

(i) Superintendent White shared system updates that included the Director’s monthly report, the Grand River Public school opening, Special Olympics Ontario, the language courses being offered at schools, an overview of the Professional Development Guide that has been shared with Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation staff members, information on a speaker event, a book launch event, and the Nations New Start open house.

(ii) Additional Updates Included:

 - Every Child Matters Football Game
 - Curriculum Writing
 - Grand Pathways Guide
- (b) **Indigenous Education Update**

M. Turner, Indigenous Secondary Teacher Consultant was welcomed and she shared information about her role in Grand Erie.
- (c) **Indigenous Student Trustee Update**

R. Staats shared her experience being part of the United Indigenous Student Council event.
- F-1 **Next Meeting**

February 26, 2026
- G – 1 **Closing Address & Adjournment**

S. Hill gave the closing address
The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.



B-1-b-iii

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 23, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Grand River Hall, JBLC and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair J. Montague, Director: J. Roberto, Trustees: T. Waldschmidt, Superintendents: D. Atanas, R. Vankerrebroeck, Committee Members: K. Frost-Reynolds, T. Hurley, R. Krasevich, P. Kaur, L. McCormick, A. Melady, D. Obeid, R. Ronbeck, G. Stead, N. Waldschmidt

Regrets: L. Passmore, T. Sault

Guests: C.A. Sloat

Recorder: R. Mason

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Superintendent Vankerrebroeck read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and roll call was completed.

B - 1 **GEPIC Slate of Members**

(a) Terms of Reference were reviewed.

C - 1 **Business Arising and/or Approval of Consent Agenda**

THAT the Committee accept the October 23, 2025, Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: R. Ronbeck

Seconded by: K. Frost-Reynolds

(a) Approve the minutes of:

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee minutes dated May 22, 2025

Carried

D - 1 **Financial Report**

(a) GEPIC Budget

(b) PRO Grants for 2025-26

E - 1 **School Highlights**

School Council Chairs and Administrators P. Kaur (Elementary) and G. Stead (Secondary) shared highlights of school events and activities.

F - 1 **System Updates**

(a) Major Initiatives

(b) September Highlights

G - 1 **School Council Chair Updates**

School Council Chairs shared highlights from their respective schools.

H - 1 **New Business – Information and Learning** – presented during the meeting

(a) Summer Learning



B-1-b-iii

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 23, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Grand River Hall, JBLC and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- (b) Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan – GEMAAP
 - (c) Grand Pathways Guide
 - (d) Grade 7/8 Pathway Planning Guide
 - (e) You Belong Here Regional Sessions
- I - 1 Planning for Future Meetings
- (a) Speaker Series – speakers to include Cathy Marks Krpan on January 29, 2026 and Margot Denomme on March 26, 2026
 - (b) An Evening of Storytelling with Gimaa Stacey Laforme on October 29, 2025
 - (c) Future Learning Sessions – suggestions can be brought to future meetings
- J - 1 **2025 – 2026 – Future Meeting Dates**
- Thursday, January 29, 2026
 - Thursday, March 26, 2026 – Parent Event & Meeting – Margot Denomme at BCI
 - Thursday, May 28, 2026
- K - 1 **Closing & Adjournment**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: R. Collver, E. Thomas, Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman

Administration: Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Thompson, Principal Leader J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Trustees: B. Doyle, L. Whiton Community Representatives: K. Kelly Local Organizations: C. Stefanelli, T. West

Absent: Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local Organizations: S. Jennions

Visiting Trustees: Trustee C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Superintendent Thompson called the November 6, 2025 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

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

Moved by: L. DeJong

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the November 6, 2025 agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Student Showcase**

Superintendent Thompson shared a video showcasing two Grand Erie students being presented with the Ignite Award, sponsored by LearnStyle.

(b) **SEAC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections**

L. DeJong was acclaimed as Chair of SEAC for 2025-26. K. Jones was acclaimed as Vice Chair of SEAC for 2025-26.

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

(a) **Virtual Meeting Guidelines**

Superintendent Thompson reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines with SEAC members.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

(b) **SEAC Speaker Event**

The flyer was shared for the SEAC Speaker Event taking place on Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. This flyer will be promoted throughout Grand Erie. SEAC members are encouraged to send questions for the guest speakers to J. Valstar ahead of the event.

D - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: R. Collver

(a) Approve the Minutes of:

(i) SEAC meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2025

(ii) SEAC meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2025

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide**

Superintendent Graham shared Grand Erie's Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide. It was clarified that this is an adaptable guide for the use of grade 7 and 8 students.

(b) **Special Education Plan Review – Standard 10 – Individual Education Plans**

L. Miedema reviewed Standard 10 of the Special Education Plan with SEAC members. There was discussion around eligibility and the process for initiating an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and the communication process with families. An IEP summary Resource Sheet created for use by educators & parents when IEP discussions are to occur was shared.

(c) **Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – 2024-25 Update**

Superintendent Thompson presented an update on Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-25.

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Policies out for comment**

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **System Updates**

Director Roberto shared the October 2025 Director's Report with SEAC members.

(e) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 **Community Updates**

P. Found shared an event called Creative Workforce Solutions Symposium being held Thursday November 27, 2025 at the Norfolk General Hospital.

H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

(a) Role of the System Staff



B-1-b-iv

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
- (d) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (e) Skill Building and Hub Programs

I - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday December 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

J - 1 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Student Senate Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

10:20 a.m.

Hagersville Secondary School

MINUTES

Present: Brantford Collegiate Institute, Cayuga Secondary School, Delhi District Secondary School, GELA, McKinnon Park, Nations New Start, North Park Collegiate, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Simcoe Composite School, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre, Valley Heights Secondary School, Waterford District High School

Regrets: GELA

Student Trustees:
Prabhsidak Singh (Representing North)
Ryleigh Staats (Representing Indigenous)
Harper Thompson (Representing South)

Administration: Superintendent Regan Vankerrebroeck

Recorder: Rebecca Mason

A - 1 **Arrival and Check In**

B - 1 **Opening**

- (a) Superintendent Vankerrebroeck opened the meeting and welcomed Senators.
- (b) Student Trustee Thompson read the Land Acknowledgement.

(c) UISC Student Trustee Staats played the Ohen:ton Kariwatehkwen Opening Address.

(d) Approval of the Agenda
THAT the UISC & Student Senate accept the November 20, 2025, Agenda.
Moved by: D. Tilson
Seconded by: H. Kennedy

Approve the minutes of:
Student Senate minutes dates May 1, 2025

Carried

(e) Description of Working Groups
Student Trustees for the North, South and Indigenous described their working groups.

C - 1 **District Caucus** – Introductions and sharing
Student Trustees for North, South and Indigenous broke into district caucus meetings to discuss topics relevant to their districts.



Student Senate Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

10:20 a.m.

Hagersville Secondary School

MINUTES

D – 1 **Working Groups**

UISC & Student Senators broke into working groups.

E – 1 **Round Table Discussion**

UISC & Student Senators summarized the working group discussion:

Mental Health

Strategies were discussed to reduce exam stress and burnout, including Mental Health Week activities like snacks, music, and creating safe spaces for support. The need for teacher flexibility on deadlines was empathized and encouraged better use of student support and flex days to promote well-being.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

The group explored the meaning of equity, diversity, and inclusion, emphasizing inclusive holiday celebrations, diverse clubs, and school-wide events to ensure everyone feels included. Feedback was provided on the menstrual equity project for the Ministry.

Student Voice

Schools highlighted their efforts and successes in amplifying Student Voice and discussed strategies to further expand and strengthen student participation across all schools.

F – 1 **Lunch**

G – 1 **Keynote Speaker – Stacey Laforme**

(a) Introduction – Stacey Laforme was introduced by UISC Student Trustee Staats

(b) UISC & Student Senators had the opportunity to hear former Gimaa Stacey Laforme share his personal reflection and a call for greater understanding and connection through the lens of Indigenous wisdom and storytelling from his book *Beneath The Surface Poems and Their Stories*.

(c) Stacey Laforme was thanked by Student Trustee Signh

H - 1 **Closing**

The meeting ended with the closing address by J. Gibson.

Departure of Students back to Secondary Schools.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:15pm



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, L. Passmore, Local Organizations: L. Campbell, C. Gilman

Administration: Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Trustee: T. Sault Community Representatives: K. Kelly, L. Nydam Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found

Absent: Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto Local Organizations: S. Jennions, C. Stefanelli, T. West

Visiting Trustees: Trustee C.A. Sloat

A - 1 Opening

(a) Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement

Chair L. DeJong called the December 4, 2025 meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

(c) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval - Nil

B - 1 Timed Items

(a) Secondary Program Review

Superintendent Munro gave an update of the Secondary Program Review.

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

(a) SEAC Speaker Event

Chari DeJong reminded SEAC members about the virtual Speaker Event being held this evening, Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

(b) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

Superintendent Thompson gave an overview of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education and their purpose.

D - 1 Consent Agenda – Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting

THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

(a) Approve the Minutes of:

i. SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025

(b) Receive the correspondence from:

i. Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Appointment to SEAC**

“That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC and the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children’s Centre be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.”

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting

(b) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board’s General Model for Special Education**

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting.

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Policies out for comment**

- (i) [Community Planning and Facility Partnership \(FA-11\)](#)
- (ii) [Community Use of Schools \(FA-04\)](#)
- (iii) [Conflict of Interest Related to hiring Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees \(HR-07\)](#)
- (iv) [Emergency Planning \(SO-05\)](#)
- (v) [Fundraising \(SO-01\)](#)
- (vi) [Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour \(HR-05\)](#)
- (vii) [Health and Safety \(HS-01\)](#)
- (viii) [Student Expulsions \(SO-07\)](#)
- (ix) [Student Suspension \(SO-06\)](#)
- (x) [Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media \(IT-04\)](#)

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **System Updates**

Superintendent Graham shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan Final report 2024-25. Superintendent Thompson shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2025-26

(e) **Director’s Update**

(f) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 **Community Updates**

Chair DeJong shared two updates from the Rick Hansen Foundation.

H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

- (a) Role of the System Staff
- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (d) Skill Building and Hub Programs



B-1-b-vi

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

- I - 1 **Next Meeting**
Thursday January 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.
- J - 1 **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, T. Sault Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman, N. Schween, T. West Community Representatives:

Administration: Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, System Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Superintendent L. Thompson

Absent: Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local Organizations: S. Jennions,

Visiting Trustees: Trustee C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Chair L. DeJong called the January 8, 2026 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

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

Move: E-1 (a) to E-1 (b)

Add: E-1 (a): Departure of SEAC member

G-1 (b): Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the January 8, 2026 agenda be approved as amended

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Wellness Kits**

Superintendent Atanas presented Grand Erie's new Wellness Kits for schools.

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

(a) **SEAC Speaker Event 2025**

Chair DeJong gave an overview of the SEAC Speaker Event that took place December 4, 2025.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

- (b) **SEAC Speaker Event 2026**
Chair DeJong asked SEAC members to start thinking about the 2026 Speaker Event, which will take place in December 2026. The topic and presenter must be finalized by March 2026. SEAC members are encouraged to send suggestions to J. Valstar. Superintendent Graham advised members to think about the message in addition to the presenter and topic.
- (c) **SEAC Orientation Handbook**
The SEAC Orientation Handbook was reviewed with members. Chair DeJong encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the Handbook. Any comments or suggestions can be sent to J. Valstar.
- D - 1 **Consent Agenda**
“THAT SEAC accept the January 8, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.”
Moved by: T. Sault
Seconded by: L. Campbell
 - (a) Approve the Minutes of:
 - i. SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025
 - ii. SEAC meeting Minutes dated December 4 2025
 - (b) Receive the correspondence from:
 - i. Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025
- E - 1 **New Business**
 - (a) **Departure of SEAC Members**
Chair DeJong announced the departure from SEAC of members Katie Kelly and Cathy Stefanelli.
 - (b) **Appointment to SEAC**
“That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children’s Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.”
Moved by: K. Jones
Seconded by: C. Gillman
 - (c) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board’s General Model for Special Education**
System Leader J. Senior shared the updates to Standard 2 from the Special Education Plan. SEAC members were encouraged to send comments and suggestions to J. Valstar.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

F - 1 Information Items

(a) **Policies out for comment** - Nil

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **Director's Update**

Director Roberto presented the Director's Update to SEAC members.

(e) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 Community Updates

(a) **Creative Workforce Symposium – Norfolk**

P. Found and System Leader J. Senior shared an update and a video on the Creative Work Symposium in Norfolk.

(b) **Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities**

L. Campbell shared information about a free virtual session being held on January 23, 2026 by Contact Brant.

H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) Role of the System Staff

(b) Student and Family Support Offices

(c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator

(d) Skill Building and Hub Programs

(e) Behaviour Support and Safety Plans

(f) The Right to Read – Early Literacy Intervention

I - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

J - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Carried



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

REPORT

Present: Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, T. Sault Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman, N. Schween, T. West Community Representatives:

Administration: Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, System Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Superintendent L. Thompson

Absent: Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local Organizations: S. Jennions,

Visiting Trustees: Trustee C.A. Sloat

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Chair L. DeJong called the January 8, 2026 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

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

Move: E-1 (a) to E-1 (b)

Add: E-1 (a): Departure of SEAC member

G-1 (b): Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the January 8, 2026 agenda be approved as amended

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Wellness Kits**

Superintendent Atanas presented Grand Erie's new Wellness Kits for schools.

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

(a) **SEAC Speaker Event 2025**

Chair DeJong gave an overview of the SEAC Speaker Event that took place December 4, 2025.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

REPORT

- (b) **SEAC Speaker Event 2026**
Chair DeJong asked SEAC members to start thinking about the 2026 Speaker Event, which will take place in December 2026. The topic and presenter must be finalized by March 2026. SEAC members are encouraged to send suggestions to J. Valstar. Superintendent Graham advised members to think about the message in addition to the presenter and topic.
- (c) **SEAC Orientation Handbook**
The SEAC Orientation Handbook was reviewed with members. Chair DeJong encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the Handbook. Any comments or suggestions can be sent to J. Valstar.
- D - 1 **Consent Agenda**
"THAT SEAC accept the January 8, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."
Moved by: T. Sault
Seconded by: L. Campbell
- (a) Approve the Minutes of:
- SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025
 - SEAC meeting Minutes dated December 4 2025
- (b) Receive the correspondence from:
- Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025
- E - 1 **New Business**
- (a) **Departure of SEAC Members**
Chair DeJong announced the departure from SEAC of members Katie Kelly and Cathy Stefanelli.
- (b) **Appointment to SEAC**
"That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween as the representative for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval."
Moved by: K. Jones
Seconded by: C. Gilman
Carried
- (c) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board's General Model for Special Education**
System Leader J. Senior shared the updates to Standard 2 from the Special Education Plan. SEAC members were encouraged to send comments and suggestions to J. Valstar.



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

REPORT

F - 1 Information Items

(a) **Policies out for comment** - Nil

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **Director's Update**

Director Roberto presented the Director's Update to SEAC members.

(e) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 Community Updates

(a) **Creative Workforce Symposium – Norfolk**

P. Found and System Leader J. Senior shared an update and a video on the Creative Work Symposium in Norfolk.

(b) **Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities**

L. Campbell shared information about a free virtual session being held on January 23, 2026 by Contact Brant.

H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) Role of the System Staff

(b) Student and Family Support Offices

(c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator

(d) Skill Building and Hub Programs

(e) Behaviour Support and Safety Plans

(f) The Right to Read – Early Literacy Intervention

I - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

J - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Carried



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

REPORT

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

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

Guest: Chloe Bedard, Manager of System Research

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Doyle at 6:32 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

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

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept January 12, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated October 20, 2025

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

(a) **Annual Learning and Operating Plan (ALOP) Research Goal**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Annual Learning and Operating Plan (ALOP) 4-Year Summary**

A five-year summary will be presented in the fall 2026.

(c) **Education, Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Results 2024-25 and Graduation Data**

Presented as printed.



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

REPORT

- (d) **Curriculum Updates Report**
Presented as printed.
Trustees will have an opportunity to review the financial literacy modules once released by the Ministry of Education.
- (e) **Innovation Hub 2024-25 Evaluation Results**
Presented as printed.
- (f) **Technology and Innovation Hub Update**
Presented as printed.
- (g) **Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) 2024-25**
Presented as printed.
- (h) **Safe and Accepting Schools Report 2024-25 - Suspensions, Expulsions and Exclusions**
Presented as printed.
- (i) **Health and Safety Annual Report 2024-25**
Presented as printed.
- (j) **Draft School Year Calendars 2026-27**
Moved by: S. Gibson
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt
THAT the draft School Year Calendars 2026-27 be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.
Carried
- F - 1 **New Business – Policy**
- (a) **Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05)**
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: S. Gibson
THAT the Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.
Carried
- (b) **Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04)**
Moved by: S. Gibson
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert
THAT the Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.
Carried
- (c) **Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07)**
Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

REPORT

THAT the Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

- (d) Harassment/Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05)

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Harassment/Objectionable Policy (HR-05) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

- (e) Health & Safety Policy (HS-01)

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Health & Safety Policy (HS-01) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

- (f) Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11)

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

- (g) Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04)

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

- (h) Fundraising Policy (SO-01)

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Fundraising Policy (SO-01) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** March 9, 2026



POLICY

SO-05

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education, Safe and Inclusive Schools	Initial Effective Date: 2019/10/28
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2026/06/30

Objective:

To provide a safe and secure environment for all students, employees, and visitors through an emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plan.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools and facilities must conduct practice drills related to emergency preparedness for Lockdown, Hold and Secure, Shelter in Place, evacuation and/or fire safety. School and facility emergency planning is an essential part of a commitment to safety.

Reference(s):

- Emergency Planning Procedure (SO-005)



POLICY

IT-04

USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education, Information Technology Services	Initial Effective Date: 2018/05/28
Last Updated: 2022/10/17	Next Review Date: 2025/11/25

Objective:

To support appropriate, safe and secure two-way communication between Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools and departments and their communities (employee(s), students, parent(s)/caregiver(s), by providing guidelines for effective electronic communication to support building a culture of learning, well-being and belonging.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie encourages schools and departments to communicate information and activities by developing and maintaining appropriate communications channels and tools in consultation with all departments.

Grand Erie recognizes the changing nature of technology and continues to work to remain current while providing employee(s) with increased opportunities to develop and implement new technologies and applications.

Reference(s):

- Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media Procedure (IT-004)
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (IT-01)
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Procedure (IT-001)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- Ontario College of Teachers – Professional Advisory: Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media
- Website Requirements Procedure (IT-005)



POLICY

HR-07

CONFLICT OF INTEREST RELATED TO HIRING, SELECTION, PROMOTION AND EVALUATION OF EMPLOYEES

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Human Resources	Initial Effective Date: 2021/06/01
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2026/12/01

Objective:

To define and provide clear guidelines to address potential, apparent, and actual conflicts of interest when fulfilling hiring, selection, promotion, and evaluation of an employee(s).

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to advancement in qualifications, merit, and principles of equity. This is intended to facilitate an employee's ability to maintain the highest business and ethical standards, and to facilitate the protection of the integrity of an employee(s) in the course of their hiring and supervision responsibilities to Grand Erie.

Reference(s):

- Conflict of Interest related to Hiring Selection Promotion Procedure (HR-007)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Procedure (SO-014)
- Ministry of Education School board teacher hiring practices policy (PPM 165)
- Progressive Discipline Procedure (HR-018)



POLICY

HR-05

HARASSMENT AND OBJECTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Human Resources	Initial Effective Date: 2020/01/27
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2026/06/30

Objective:

To ensure and maintain respectful working and learning environments that are free from workplace harassment and objectionable behaviour.

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to providing a working and learning environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Beyond the provisions of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, every individual has an equal right to learn and work in an environment that is free from harassment and objectionable behaviour.

Grand Erie will not tolerate harassment or objectionable behaviour from any person in the workplace. All incidents and complaints of workplace harassment or objectionable behaviour must be reported by employee(s) and will be dealt with.

Reference(s):

- Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour Procedure (HR-005)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (SO-10)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Procedure (SO-010)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1](#)
- Progressive Discipline Procedure (HR-018)
- Workplace Violence Policy (HS-02)
- Workplace Violence Procedure (HS-002)



POLICY

HS-01

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Human Resources	Initial Effective Date: 2020/01/27
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2026/12/01

Objective:

To ensure a safe, healthy, and accident-free working and learning environment, all employees, students, and non-board personnel must comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, relevant codes, safety standards, and practices.

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and healthy workplace and learning environment for all employees, students, volunteers, visitors, and contractors. Grand Erie is committed to preventing occupational illness and injury in the workplace, continually improving health and safety practices and performance in compliance with the *OHSA*, relevant codes, safety standards and practices.

Grand Erie will make every reasonable effort to provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environment. Grand Erie's employee(s) must all be committed to reducing the risk of injury in the workplace.

In accordance with the *OHSA*, this policy shall be reviewed annually by the employer, in conjunction with the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) of Grand Erie.

Reference(s):

- Health and Safety Procedure (HS-001)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- Terms of Reference for the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee



POLICY

FA-11

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND FACILITY PARTNERSHIP

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2011/01/31
Last Updated: 2023/04/24	Next Review Date: 2027/02/23

Objective:

To support and provide direction to achieve the board's overall accommodation and partnership strategies while considering Grand Erie District Schools Board's (Grand Erie) mission, vision and Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie supports and encourages cooperative and collaborative partnerships for shared use of facilities. Grand Erie is committed to engaging community partners in planning to share facilities to the benefit of the board, students, and community, and to optimize the public use of assets owned by Grand Erie.

- 1.0 Facilities that have space considered suitable for a partnership opportunity will be identified and an annual report shall be made to the Board of Trustees to approve the facilities for potential partnerships, if required.
- 2.0 If identified space is both suitable for facility partnerships and is available for the long-term, Board of Trustees will declare the space surplus and circulate the space for lease through *Ontario Reg. 374/23*.

Reference(s):

- Community Planning and Facility Partnership Procedure (FA-011)
- [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Ontario Regulation 374/23



POLICY

FA-04

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	Initial Effective Date: 2006/05/29
Last Updated: 2023/04/24	Next Review Date: 2027/02/23

Objective:

To ensure that the public has access to Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) facilities and spaces, where possible, outside instructional times for non-school sponsored events.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie is committed to supporting its communities by making board facilities available to the public and supports a Community Use of Schools Program that fosters partnerships and community relationships.

Reference(s):

- Community Use of Schools Procedure (FA-004)
- Community Use of Schools Handbook (FA-04-R)
- Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Policy (SO-33)
- Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Procedure (SO-033)
- [Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019](#)
- [Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017](#)



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)



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Board Room, Education Centre

REPORT

Present: Chair: S. Gibson Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, B. Doyle
E. Thomas, L. Whiton

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

Visiting Trustee: C.A. Sloat

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 to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

The Land Acknowledgment Statement was read by Chair Doyle.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Finance Committee accept the February 9, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Finance Committee meeting dated November 10, 2025

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Major Construction Project Report**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Enrolment vs Capacity by School Report**

Presented as printed.

The board continues to focus on secondary student retention through learning hubs, program expansions, and website enhancements, which are supported by ongoing



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Board Room, Education Centre

REPORT

principal outreach encouraging students to attend their designated secondary home schools.

(c) **Quarterly Budget Report**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Budget Process 2026-27**

Presented as printed.

(e) **Grand Erie Learning Foundation**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the establishment of the Grand Erie Learning Foundation as an incorporated entity be forwarded to the February 23, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

The Grand Erie Learning Foundation will be established based on a small-scale framework tailored to the needs of the district. At this stage, the model is locally focused, manageable, and designed to evolve over time as appropriate.

(f) **Board Approved Transportation Review**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2026-27 School Year be forwarded to the February 23, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** May 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.



Special Policy and Program Committee

Monday, February 23, 2026

6:15 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

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

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

Visiting Trustees: J. Bradford, E. Thomas, L. Whiton

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Doyle at 6:15 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

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

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Special Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept February 23, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated January 23, 2026

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

(a) **Alternative Education Programming Updates**

Presented as printed.

F - 1 **New Business – Policy**



C-1-d

Special Policy and Program Committee

Monday, February 23, 2026

6:15 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** March 9, 2026



Grand Erie District School Board

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

FROM: P. Singh - Student Trustee – North
R. Staats – Student Trustee – Indigenous
H. Thompson– Student Trustee – South

RE: **Student Senate Report**

DATE: February 23, 2026
(January 26, 2026)

Background

The Student Trustees held their inaugural senate meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at Hagersville Secondary School. The event brought together Student Senators from across Grand Erie to engage in meaningful dialogue, collaborate in working groups, and elevate student voice on key issues affecting schools throughout the board. The meeting emphasized equity, inclusion, and student engagement, while providing space for students to share experiences from their respective school communities.

The day began with student arrival and check-in, followed by opening remarks and a Land Acknowledgement delivered by Student Trustee Thompson. Student Trustees then welcomed all participants, reviewed the agenda, approved the minutes from the May 1, 2025, meeting, and provided an overview of the working groups. The meeting transitioned into district caucus sessions, where Student Trustees facilitated introductions and guided discussion to ensure student perspectives were meaningfully shared.

Student Trustee Singh led the north region caucus (Brant – Brantford), where students discussed priorities for the board for the upcoming year. During this session, students were presented with a slide deck outlining current board initiatives, updates, and future plans. The caucus focused on sharing challenges experienced at each school and proposing possible solutions, allowing students to openly contribute their perspectives and ensure their voices can be reflected in board-level discussions later on.

Student Trustee Singh also led the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group. The session began with introductions and a discussion on what equity, diversity, and inclusion mean to senators. The group explored the importance of recognizing diversity, ensuring equitable access to opportunities, and fostering inclusive environments where all students feel valued and respected. Senators then broke into groups to discuss what is currently happening, and what is not happening, in their schools related to EDI.

Participants shared examples of positive initiatives, including Indigenous student associations, Pride clubs, wellness-focused student groups, inclusive athletic programming, caring cupboards, cultural clubs, and school-wide events that promote awareness and support. Students also identified gaps, such as the need for more inclusive holiday celebrations, increased representation of diverse cultures and religions, expanded extracurricular opportunities focused on equity, and greater awareness of EDI initiatives within schools.

The working group reconvened to discuss possible solutions, including increasing inclusive programming, improving communication around available supports, addressing issues such

as bathroom vandalism and vaping through more effective prevention strategies, and ensuring that equity-focused policies are applied consistently.

Student Trustee Staats led the United Indigenous Students Council. The meeting began with introductions, where students shared their names, schools, and Nations to acknowledge identity and community.

After introductions, members discussed various initiatives and activities that their Indigenous Students' Association are doing at their schools have been involved in, highlighting efforts to support Indigenous culture, awareness, and student leadership. The meeting created a respectful space for connection, collaboration, and sharing ideas across schools.

Student Trustee Staats then facilitated the Student Senate Working Group on Student Voice, where senators engaged in detailed discussions regarding the meaning of student voice and how it is currently reflected within their schools. Senators described student voice as the ability for students to share their ideas, concerns, and perspectives in meaningful ways, and to feel heard and respected by peers, staff, and administration. Students emphasized that student voice plays a key role in fostering inclusive, safe, and healthy school environments and supports a stronger sense of belonging within school communities.

During the working group discussion, senators shared examples of how schools are currently supporting student voice. These included the work of Student Councils in representing student interests, the use of suggestion boxes and QR code feedback systems to collect student input, and student-led advocacy efforts that have resulted in tangible outcomes. Equity and cultural representation were also discussed, with specific reference to the presence of Every Child Matters flags at certain schools as visible symbols of inclusion and advocacy, as well as ongoing efforts to introduce similar representation at additional schools.

Senators also discussed outreach and engagement initiatives that extend student voice beyond secondary schools. This included student-led workshops with elementary students, which were identified as valuable opportunities to encourage early engagement, leadership development, and awareness of student voice from a younger age. These initiatives were seen as effective in building connections across school communities and fostering a culture of participation.

Communication was identified as a key area for improvement, with students expressing a desire for more consistent use of emails, meetings, and formal consultation opportunities to share information and gather feedback. Senators also discussed the importance of consistent and fair application of progressive discipline when discrimination occurs, noting that timely and transparent responses are essential to maintaining trust and safety within schools.

Throughout the discussion, the creation of inclusive and supportive spaces was emphasized. Senators shared that students are more likely to engage when they feel seen, heard, and valued, particularly students from historically marginalized communities. From an Indigenous student trustee perspective, Trustee Staats emphasized the importance of culturally safe approaches to student voice that respect Indigenous identity, lived experiences, and ways of knowing, and that ensure Indigenous students have meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

Student Trustee Thompson ran the learning caucus for the south region, (Haldimand-Norfolk). In this session, she introduced a presentation sent by the health unit which examined the survey being sent out to all grade ten students in early December. Another PowerPoint on the initiatives and goals for the coming year in Grand Erie was presented. Senators were given the opportunity to discuss improvement areas specific to their schools. Student Trustee Thompson led the discussion on potential solutions and composed a document which summarized the key points and emailed it out to all members of this Learning Caucus.

Student Trustee Thompson also had a mental health and well-being working group separate from the Learning Caucus. It began by reflecting on what the senators consciously do for their mental wellness every day. An infographic containing support resources for mental health in all regions across Grand Erie as well as specific situations such as support in school or support for victims of assault or gender-based violence, was distributed to the senators. Many planned to use this resource by adding it to the main information board by their school office or by copying it and having it put up in homerooms. The conversation shifted to how to avoid burnout as a student, all senators suggested points that worked for them personally, and Student Trustee Thompson had other strategies prepared from information she received at the OSTA AECO Fall General Meeting. The last topic of discussion in the working group was what the senators wanted to focus on in terms of mental health and well-being for the school year. Improvement areas were identified alongside potential solutions.

Following the working groups, students participated in a roundtable discussion and lunch before attending the keynote address by Stacey Laforme. The presentation offered meaningful reflection and learning, reinforcing the importance of identity, community, and student voice within education. The event concluded with closing remarks and student departure back to their home schools.

The Student Senate meeting was a productive and engaging opportunity for students to share experiences, identify challenges, and collaborate on solutions that promote equity, inclusion, and well-being across Grand Erie. The feedback and connections established throughout the day will continue to inform the work of the Student Trustees and Student Senate moving forward.

In addition, the Student Trustees collaborated with board administration on a gift basket initiative to support a family in need. Each Student Trustee worked with their school principal to identify a family who could benefit and assisted in planning the purchase of items based on family needs. This initiative reflected the Student Trustees' commitment to equity, care, and community support.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Singh - Student Trustee – North
R. Staats – Student Trustee – Indigenous
H. Thompson– Student Trustee – South



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board
FROM: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board
RE: **Strategic Plan Update 2026-2030**
DATE: February 23, 2026
(January 26, 2026)

Update:

Further to the October report, the Grand Erie District School Board's Strategic Plan Special Ad Hoc Committee has been comprised of the following trustees:

- Chair Doyle
- Vice-Chair Gibson
- Trustee Passmore
- Trustee Sault
- Trustee Thomas
- Trustee VanEvery-Albert
- Trustee Waldschmidt

The committee will work in-between and share updates to the Board of Trustees.

Purpose

The scope of the Strategic Planning work is focused on a refresh of **Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging** as the core pillars, while modernizing language with an emphasis to reflect future-ready learning, innovation, and evolving societal contexts.

Guiding Principles

- The launch of the renewed Strategic Plan will ensure that everyone's thoughts are considered in the spirit of collaboration.
- System engagement is valued and accessible.

Phase 1: Focus Group Engagement

Overview

- Mixed-format focus group approach
- A district-wide survey
- Approximately **100** participants
- Multiple session options in **March- April**:
 - During the school day
 - After school / evening
 - Optional virtual session if required for access
 - The invite will include participation dates and times

Phase 2: District-Wide Survey

Purpose:

- Broaden participation in **March-April**

Timing:

Released immediately following focus groups to ensure alignment and momentum.

Phase 3: Synthesis of Data

Actions:

- Focus group and survey findings are synthesized together
- A summary report is shared to all focus group participants and the Board of Trustees

Phase 4: Draft Plan Development

Process:

- Synthesize findings into a draft plan
 - Confirm Mission and Vision
 - Review priorities, define values, and graduate profile
 - Clear line of sight to reflect future-ready learning

Phase 5: Participant & Board of Trustee Review

Participant Validation:

- Draft shared with focus group participants
- Invitation for final input

Trustee Review:

- Draft presented to Trustees **April 27- May 25**

Phase 6: Finalization & Celebration

- Acknowledge the contributions and commitment to equipping learners with the skills, confidence, and adaptability needed to navigate opportunity and contribute meaningfully to an evolving world, while honouring the foundation already in place while intentionally building toward what comes next.
- Final Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Trustees **June 22**
- Culminating unveiling and celebration of the Strategic Plan - “everyone has a piece of our future”

The launch of the renewed Strategic Plan will ensure that everyone’s thoughts are considered in the spirit of collaboration.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

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

Respectfully submitted,

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



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member**
DATE: February 23, 2026
(January 26, 2026)

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the re-appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2029.

Background

Ontario Regulation 361/10 made under the *Education Act* requires every board to establish an Audit Committee.

Under *Ontario Regulation 361/10*, the term of office of a member of the audit committee who is not a board member shall be determined by the Board but shall not exceed three years. Non-board members may be reappointed no more than two terms.

The current non-board member term of Ed Hodgins expired January 31, 2026 and the member wishes to continue for an additional three-year term as permitted by the regulation.

Mr. Hodgins' reappointment as a non-board audit committee member for the upcoming three-year term, ending January 31, 2029, would provide strong continuity and represent a sound and strategic decision for the Audit Committee.

The other non-board committee member, Atit Thakker, is in the final year of their first term on the Audit Committee which expires September 30, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

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

RE: **Student Trustee Selection 2026-27**

DATE: February 23, 2026

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 (Northern Region – Brant/Brantford) for Grand Erie for 2026-27. Six responses were received from the invitation.

Elections were held, and Ruby Sanghera, a student at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School was elected as Student Trustee for the North. Harper Thompson, a student at Simcoe Composite School and Ryleigh Staats, a student at Delhi District Secondary School will serve a second term, representing their areas of the district as per General Governance Policy, 10.1(c).

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
Dina Atanas, Superintendent of Education
Regan Vankerrebroeck, Superintendent of Education



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: Trustee Determination and Distribution Report
DATE: February 23, 2026

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board designate no municipal area as a low population area for the regular election of 2026.

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the number of Trustees to be elected in the regular election of 2026 for each municipality set as:

- (i) City of Brantford – 4 Trustees, elected at large;
- (ii) Brant County and Norfolk County Wards 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large;
- (iii) Haldimand County – 2 Trustees elected at large; and
- (iv) Norfolk County less Ward 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large.

Background

Before each general election, every Board of trustees determines the number of trustee positions on their Board and distributes these positions across the board's area of jurisdiction. This process is known as trustee determination and distribution (D&D).

On December 15, 2009 the Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009 came into force. The bill removes the administrative burden for boards to calculate the number of trustees every election. As a result of the amendments to the Education Act, the number of trustees in each board is now set at the number determined for the 2006 regular election. This number applies for the 2010 election and all subsequent regular elections. A board may, by resolution, reduce the number of elected trustees or a board that has experienced demographic growth or change if the size of its geographic area of jurisdiction can use the determination formula in O. Reg. 412/00 to determine whether or not the geographic or demographic changes are sufficient to affect the allowable number of trustee positions.

Trustee Distribution

Using up to date Population of Electoral Groups (PEG) as provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), boards are responsible for determining the geographical allocation of its members.

Prior to the 2006 regular election, Grand Erie trustees were allocated geographically by municipality. In 2006, the Board made the decision to alter the geographic distribution in two areas of the board to even out the electoral population represented by each trustee. The attached table (Appendix A) sets out the proposed trustee distribution using the same geographic areas defined for the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022 regular elections.

The Board may designate one or more municipal area(s) as low population municipalities. This designation would allow the Board to provide greater representation to rural or other

municipalities that they consider require greater representation than would be accorded by a strict population-by-population approach. No such designation was made for prior elections.

A copy of the Trustee Determination and Distribution calculation output from the Ministry web-based calculation tool as well as the MPAC data is attached.

Next Steps

By March 31 of an election year, school boards are required to complete a Determination and Distribution Report showing their D&D calculations, and, by April 4 in the election year, to submit it to:

- the Ministry of Education;
- the election clerks for all municipalities within the board's jurisdiction;
- the secretary of every other board that is wholly or partially within the board's area of jurisdiction

The Determination and Distribution Report must include:

- the Determination and Distribution results;
- if applicable, the identification of any lead municipality;
- a copy of the data and calculations by which
 - the D&D results were reached
 - any lead municipality was identified;
- copies of all relevant board resolutions.

The deadline for the Determination and Distribution reports for this election year is April 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Proposed Trustee Distribution - 2026 Regular Election

Appendix A

	A	B	C	D	E
Geographic Area	English Public Electoral Population	Total Number of Trustees	Total EPEG Population	Electoral Quotient (AxB)/C	Number of Trustees
City of Brantford	72979	10	191013	3.82	4
	[70186]		[184563]	[3.80]	
County of Brant (plus Norfolk Wards 3 & 7)	42703	10	191013	2.24	2
	[41327]		[184563]	[2.24]	
Haldimand County	40277	10	191013	2.11	2
	[38336]		[184563]	[2.08]	
Norfolk County (less Wards 3 & 7)	35054	10	191013	1.84	2
	[34714]		[184563]	[1.88]	
Total Grand Erie - EPEG	191013	10	191013	10	10
	[184563]		[184563]	[10]	

F	G
Electoral Population per Trustee	% of Elect. Pop. per Trustee
18244.75	9.55%
[17546.5]	
21351.5	11.18%
[20663.5]	
20138.5	10.54%
[19168]	
17527	9.18%
[17357]	
19101.3	10.00%
[18456.3]	

Area in sq. km	4067
Density EPEG/km	46.97
	[45.38]

Note : [Bracketed] values represent 2022 comparative data

Population of Electoral Groups Report

School Board ID: 23 - GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

County/Mun: 2810 - HALDIMAND COUNTY

Ward	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other
01	6,405	0	0	0	0	0
02	5,113	0	0	0	0	0
03	6,294	0	0	0	0	0
04	6,286	0	0	0	0	0
05	4,436	0	0	0	0	0
06	5,795	0	0	0	0	0
07	5,948	0	0	0	0	0
2810 - Total:	40,277	0	0	0	0	0

County/Mun: 2906 - BRANTFORD CITY

Ward	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other
01	15,333	0	0	0	0	0
02	14,220	0	0	0	0	0
03	14,757	0	0	0	0	0
04	14,688	0	0	0	0	0
05	13,981	0	0	0	0	0
2906 - Total:	72,979	0	0	0	0	0

County/Mun: 2920 - COUNTY OF BRANT

Ward	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other
01	5,835	0	0	0	0	0
02	5,824	0	0	0	0	0
03	6,634	0	0	0	0	0
04	5,252	0	0	0	0	0
05	5,698	0	0	0	0	0
2920 - Total:	29,243	0	0	0	0	0

County/Mun: 3310 - NORFOLK COUNTY

Ward	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other
01	5,195	0	0	0	0	0
02	5,354	0	0	0	0	0

Population of Electoral Groups Report

School Board ID: 23 - GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

03	5,685	0	0	0	0	0
04	4,450	0	0	0	0	0
05	12,521	0	0	0	0	0
06	7,534	0	0	0	0	0
07	7,775	0	0	0	0	0
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3310 - Total:	48,514	0	0	0	0	0
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Population of Electoral Groups Report

School Board ID: 23 - GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Summary Total

County/Mun	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other	Total
2810	40,277	0	0	0	0	0	40,277
2906	72,979	0	0	0	0	0	72,979
2920	29,243	0	0	0	0	0	29,243
3310	48,514	0	0	0	0	0	48,514
Total	191,013	0	0	0	0	0	191,013

Population of Electoral Groups Report

School Board ID: 23 - GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Summary Total

School Board - Grand Totals

School Board ID	English Public	French Public	English Separate	French Separate	Prot-Sep	Other	Total
23	191,013	0	0	0	0	0	191,013
Total	191,013	0	0	0	0	0	191,013