



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room - Education Centre

AGENDA

A - 1 **Opening Call to Order**

(a) Roll Call

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

(c) Welcome/Land Acknowledgement

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.

B - 1 **Consent Agenda** (T. Waldschmidt)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Finance Committee accept the February 10, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."

* (a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Special Finance Committee meeting dated January 13, 2025

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

D - 1 **New Business**

* (a) Budget Process 2025-26 (R. Wyszynski) (I)

* (b) Enrolment vs Capacity by School Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)

E - 1 **Other Business**

F - 1 **Adjournment**

"THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned."

G - 1 **Next Meeting Date: March 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.**



Special Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams, Education Centre

MINUTES

Present: Acting Committee Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: S. Gibson, T. Waldschmidt, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas

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

Regrets: Trustee G. Anderson

Guests: N. Hercanuck, J. Pathak, L. Morgulis

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Committee Chair B. Doyle at 6:00 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

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

Acting Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **December 2, 2024**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting dated December 2, 2024, be approved.

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Boundary Review: New Caledonia Elementary School**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the amended school boundaries for Caledonia Centennial Public School, Seneca Central Public School, J.L. Mitchener Public School, and the new school boundary for the new Caledonia school, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2025 be forwarded to the January 27, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.



Special Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams, Education Centre

MINUTES

- (b) **École Dufferin/École Confederation French Immersion Boundary Review**
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: S. Gibson
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board refer the proposed École Dufferin and École Confederation French Immersion Boundary Review to a working group for stakeholder feedback and input.
Carried
- F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil
- G - 1 **Adjournment**
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: S. Gibson
THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.
Carried
- The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.
- H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** February 10, 2025



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary to the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Budget Process 2025-26**
DATE: February 10, 2025

Background

The Finance Committee provides and outlines the budget process and support for the development of the 2025-26 Estimates Budget

Timelines

The fiscal school year for the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is from September 1 to August 31. The Ministry of Education's reporting and accountability requirements identify that 2025-26 budgets must be submitted prior to the end of June 2025. To maintain this timeline, Senior Administration has developed the following schedule:

January 2025

- The internal budget development cycle for staff is initiated. Business Services conducts a thorough review of the 2024-25 Estimates and Revised Budgets, analyzes associated risks and challenges, and initiates the formulation of assumptions regarding the revenue and expense landscape for the forthcoming school year.
- A consultation plan with key stakeholders is initiated to gather input and ensure alignment with strategic priorities. This collaborative approach aims to optimize resource allocation, enhance financial stability, and support the achievement of Grand Erie's goals identified through the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). By integrating a comprehensive data analysis and stakeholder feedback, a balanced budget will be developed to meet system and school communities' needs while mitigating potential financial risks.

February 2025

- Initial budget information is presented to the Finance Committee
- Planning department begins to draft preliminary enrolment

March 2025

- Enrolment projections are re-assessed, and initial enrolment is formulated
- Budget meetings commence
- Review Core Education Funding (CORE) and impacts are assessed
- Review significant Ministry changes, if applicable
- Budget survey is developed and released
- Budget assumptions are developed
- Staffing models are updated based on projected enrolment
- Revenue projections are reviewed
- Ratification of any collective agreements
- Expense projections methodologies are determined
- Utilize plans for the new and continuing Responsive Education Program (REPS)
- Develop initial Core revenue projection
- Review the Multi-Year Strategic Plan for alignment, gaps, risks, and identify priority initiatives

April 2025

- Review enrolment
- Review staffing changes
- Debrief Core Education Funding
- Review budget survey results from stakeholders and trustee input
- Identify budget pressures, risks and challenges
- Highlight major investments/initiatives

May 2025

- Prepare draft budget
- Present additional budget information to Finance Committee

June 2025

- Present draft budget to Finance Committee
- Present budget to the Board of Trustees
- File budget with Ministry of Education before June 30

Key Budget Considerations**Enrolment**

Enrolment in Grand Erie increased steadily over the last number of years. After two consecutive years of enrolment growth of over 800, Grand Erie's enrolment growth has slowed down considerably. The 2024-25 Revised Estimates Budget experienced an increase of approximately 120 students across the system when compared to the 2024-25 Estimates budget. The enrolment numbers for the Board for the past four budget cycles are provided below:

- 2021-22 26,216 ADE
- 2022-23 27,052 ADE (+ 836 or 3.2% increase)
- 2023-24 27,894 ADE (+ 842 or 3.1% increase)
- 2024-25 28,020 ADE (+ 126 or 0.4% increase)

Although enrolment increased in both elementary and secondary, a cautious and conservative approach was critical in rebalancing the 2024-25 Revised Estimates budget. As described in our [Long-Term Accommodation Plan](#), enrolment growth is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future; although at a rate closer to between 0.5% and 1.0% for each panel. The Planning department expects enrolment to increase modestly for 2025-26 for both panels.

Ministry of Education

During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Ministry made significant changes to the school board funding model to support a streamlined funding formula that is simpler to understand and strengthens school board accountability with minimal redistributive funding impacts to school boards. The funding formula review resulted in a significant restructure for the first time in 25 years to include:

- The number of grants from 18 in the previous framework to six (6) funds and from 77 allocations in the previous framework to 28 allocations within the new Core Ed model to make it easier to understand
- Funding elements that are not permanent and ongoing to provide more certainty for school board planning purposes were removed
- The funding model names match its intended purposes and were renamed
- Enveloping structure was revised to bring greater clarity to how funding is to be used to support student achievement and well-being

Currently, there are no previews of what Boards can expect for 2025-26. However, the Ministry did release a [2025-26 Education Funding Consultation Guide](#), which offered a platform for school boards, provincial associations, and trustee associations to provide feedback and input into next year's Core Ed funding.

Budget Pressures

The development of Grand Erie's annual budget will continue to leverage conservative enrolment and revenue estimates as well as restrained expense determination. Concerns noted for the 2025-26 budget include:

- Continued inflationary cost increases
- Absenteeism and associated coverage costs
- Deferred maintenance backlog
- Impact of aging debt and unsupported capital costs
- Rising costs of statutory benefits (CPP and EI costs have undergone significant changes and are not fully funded)
- Rising cost of transportation services and incongruity with transportation allocation
- Aging technology infrastructure and cyber security investments
- Cost and maintenance of temporary accommodations (portables)
- Rising costs of resources required for to support with student literacy, mathematics, and mental health

Outlook

Although enrolment is expected to rise, there are several economic challenges and political uncertainty that school boards will encounter in development of their 2025-26 budgets. The province completed extensive negotiating in 2023-24 which provides labour stability in the sector. However, inflation, the threat of tariffs and persistent challenges in the supply chain continues to result in rising costs.

If the Core Ed funding allocations do not provide for significant increases in non-salary allocations, it will result in further stagnation of revenues against a significant increase in the costs of goods and services that are required across the system. This challenge will require delicate navigation through cost prioritization and the balancing of available allocations within the Core Ed.

Grand Erie's MYSP will continue to guide the formation of the 2025-26 budget. As Grand Erie travels into the fifth year of the MYSP, Senior Administration will develop a budget that will focus on the goals and objectives of the Annual Learning and Operating Plan as well as Ministry initiatives. The objective is to produce a balanced budget by the end of June 2025. Senior Administration will continue to monitor its assumptions and will provide updates and opportunities for feedback/input over the coming months.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Enrolment vs Capacity by School Report**
DATE: February 10, 2025

Background

The current enrolment and utilization of each Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) school provides a snapshot used to support short-term decisions on accommodation strategies including boundary studies and portable distribution.

The Ministry of Education continues to maintain a moratorium on school closures. It remains unknown when the Ministry will provide updated Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG) which will permit boards to initiate future pupil accommodation reviews.

Appendix A identifies school by school classroom space that has been provided for use by community partners and results in net utilization. This chart does not identify space that is leased on a full cost recovery basis.

The table below summarizes the full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolment, school capacity and utilization as of October 31, 2024, with comparative data from October 31, 2023. Elementary utilization has increased 3.1% to 97.2%. However, much of this increase is due to the temporary closure of Elgin Avenue Public School for renovations. Elementary utilization increases to 98.4% when accounting for space provided for community partners.

Secondary utilization has increased minimally from 68.8% to 69.2%.

	Elementary			Secondary			Total		
	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Change*	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Change	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	Change*
Enrolment	19,775	19,961	186	8,238	8,214	- 24	28,013	28,175	162
School Capacity	21,015	20,546	- 469	11,967	11,862	- 105	32,982	32,408	- 574
% in use	94.1%	97.2%	3.1%	68.8%	69.2%	0.4%	84.9%	86.9%	2.0%
Surplus Capacity	1,240	585	- 655	3,729	3,648	- 81	4,969	4,233	- 736

FTE Enrolment depicted in table above is as of October 31, 2024

**Elgin Avenue PS closed for renovations for 2024-25*

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
 Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Enrolment vs Capacity by School: October 31, 2024

Elementary School Building	Total FTE Oct 31/24	Ministry OTG	Capacity % in use	Excess/ Short Capacity	Community Partner Use	Net Utilization	*Portables	Portapaks	RCMs
Agnes G. Hodge Public School	713	492	145%	-221.0		145%	12		1
Banbury Heights School	394	469	84%	75.0	23.0	88%			6
Bellview Public School	344	308	112%	-36.0	23.0	121%	3		1
Bloomsburg Public School	261	268	97%	7.0		97%	2		
Boston Public School	233	233	100%			100%	2		
Branlyn Community School	468	426	110%	-42.0		110%	5		
Brier Park Public School	345	363	95%	18.0		95%	1		
Burford District Elementary School	504	541	93%	37.0		93%			
Caledonia Centennial Public School	421	366	115%	-55.0		115%	7		
Cedarland Public School	265	348	76%	83.0		76%			
Centennial-Grand Woodlands School	179	326	55%	147.0	23.0	59%			
Central Public School	211	190	111%	-21.0	23.0	126%	3		1
Cobblestone Elementary School	595	536	111%	-59.0		111%	6		
Courtland Public School	223	294	76%	71.0		76%			
Delhi Public School	374	412	91%	38.0		91%			5
Echo Place School	188	213	88%	25.0		88%			
École Confédération	423	547	77%	124.0		77%			4
École Dufferin	315	380	83%	65.0		83%			
Edith Monture Elementary School	825	616	134%	-209.0	23.0	139%	8		
Elgin Avenue Public School									
Glen Morris Central Public School	204	222	92%	18.0		92%			2
Graham Bell-Victoria Public School	201	305	66%	104.0		66%			
Grandview Public School	138	334	41%	196.0		41%			
Greenbrier Public School	222	303	73%	81.0		73%			
Hagersville Elementary School	315	338	93%	23.0		93%	2		2
Houghton Public School	286	305	94%	19.0	23.0	101%			4
J. L. Mitchener Public School	455	420	108%	-35.0		108%	3		
James Hillier Public School	294	314	94%	20.0		94%	1		1
Jarvis Public School	369	400	92%	31.0		92%			9
King George School	371	412	90%	41.0	23.0	95%			
Lakewood Elementary School	616	705	87%	89.0	23.0	90%			
Langton School	162	245	66%	83.0		66%			
Lansdowne-Costain Public School	360	328	110%	-32.0		110%	2		4
Lynndale Heights Public School	461	465	99%	4.0		99%	2		9
Major Ballachey Public School	311	377	82%	66.0	23.0	88%			
Mapleview Elementary School	392	421	93%	29.0	23.0	98%			
Mt. Pleasant School	245	236	104%	-9.0		104%	1		
North Ward School	504	504	100%			100%			7
Oakland-Scotland Public School	214	225	95%	11.0		95%	1		
Oneida Central Public School	218	213	102%	-5.0		102%	1		
Onondaga-Brant Public School	238	190	125%	-48.0		125%	2		1
Paris Central Public School	243	259	94%	16.0		94%			
Port Rowan Public School	238	294	81%	56.0		81%			5
Prince Charles Public School	205	300	68%	95.0	23.0	74%			1
Princess Elizabeth Public School	237	294	81%	57.0		81%			

D-1-b Enrolment vs Capacity by School: October 31, 2024

Appendix A

Elementary School Building	Total FTE Oct 31/24	Ministry OTG	Capacity % in use	Excess/ Short Capacity	Community Partner Use	Net Utilization	*Portables	Portapaks	RCMs
Rainham Central School	266	297	90%	31.0		90%	1		3
River Heights School	692	668	104%	-24.0		104%	2		12
Russell Reid Public School	356	377	94%	21.0		94%	1		
Seneca Central Public School	233	164	142%	-69.0		142%	3		
St. George-German Public School	382	479	80%	97.0		80%			5
Teeterville Public School	217	272	80%	55.0		80%			
Thompson Creek Elementary School	533	539	99%	6.0		99%			
Walpole North Elementary School	238	236	101%	-2.0		101%	1		
Walsh Public School	403	421	96%	18.0		96%	1		3
Walter Gretzky Elementary	709	498	142%	-211.0		142%	9		
Waterford Public School	304	285	107%	-19.0		107%	3		
West Lynn Public School	545	337	162%	-208.0		162%	7		7
Woodman-Cainsville School	303	236	128%	-67.0		128%	4		1
Total Elementary:	19,961	20,546	97.2%	585	253	98.4%	96		94

Secondary School Building	Total FTE Oct 31/24	Ministry OTG	Capacity % in use	Excess/ Short Capacity	Community Partner Use	Net Utilization	Portables	Portapaks	RCMs
Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School	1118	1,260	89%	142.0		89%			
Cayuga Secondary School	596	927	64%	331.0		64%			
Delhi District Secondary School	532	546	97%	14.0		97%			
Dunnville Secondary School	319	978	33%	659.0	21.0	33%			
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives	133	168	79%	35.0		79%			
Hagersville Secondary School	363	801	45%	438.0	21.0	47%	1		
McKinnon Park Secondary School	642	558	115%	-84.0	21.0	120%	10		
North Park Collegiate & Vocational School	978	1,386	71%	408.0		71%	1		
Paris District High School	889	948	94%	59.0		94%	4		
Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School	873	1,374	64%	501.0		64%			
Simcoe Composite School	676	1,083	62%	407.0		62%			
Tollgate Technological Skills Centre	238	630	38%	392.0	21.0	39%	1	2	
Valley Heights Secondary School	460	702	66%	242.0		66%			
Waterford District High School	397	501	79%	104.0	21.0	83%			
Total Secondary:	8,214	11,862	69.2%	3648	105	69.9%	17	2	

Note: Waterford PS enrolment includes Grades 7 and 8