



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021

Board Room, Education Centre / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair – R. Collver, Committee Vice-Chair – T. Waldschmidt, G. Anderson, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, S. Gibson, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, D. Werden, C. Kitchen (Student Trustee), R. Mitchell (Student Trustee via MS Teams)

Administration: Director – J. Roberto, Superintendents: W. Baker, K. Graham, L. Munro, A. Smith, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary- G. Santos Gould

Regrets:

Trustees: S. Green (Student Trustee)

Administration: Nil

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 6:30 p.m.

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

Nil

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

(d) **Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 7:18 p.m.

R. Collver acknowledged and commended all teachers, support staff and principals for their inspirational work and leadership and asked that they be recognized on World Teacher Day, October 5, 2021. She extended her gratitude, appreciation and well wishes to all the Teachers of Grand Erie District School Board.

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

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Agenda be approved.

Carried

R. Collver highlighted an item from the Chairs' Committee Minutes. In accordance with the Agenda Schedule – Committee of the Whole Board and Regular Board Meeting



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passed in August, P2 Honoring District Indigenous Cultures and Traditions was to be included in the October agenda. This item requires consultation from Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and Native Advisory Committee (NAC) and will be moved to the Committee of the Whole meeting in November.

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil

(g) **Student Showcase**

Superintendent, L. Thompson introduced Principal, S. Bonbled of École Dufferin who presented a project that was undertaken by her school to commemorate the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Principal, S. Bonbled shared information about their Orange Heart Project as well as a video that captured the activities the students participated in to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This project was undertaken to give students a deeper understanding of the significance of the day, and to better understand the importance of Orange Shirt Day. Every student was given a voice to express what this day means to them, and to speak to the importance of commemorating the children who lost their lives and those who suffered while in the Residential Schools. Principal Bonbled thanked the Brantford Collegiate Institute (BCI) Craft classes for creating the hearts.

(h) **Delegations**

(i) **R. Hunter – Masking for Students**

R. Hunter presented their delegation regarding masking for students.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Delegation as information.

Carried

(ii) **D. Feltmate – COVID Protocols**

D. Feltmate presented their delegation regarding COVID-19 Protocols.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Delegation as information.

Carried

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

Nil

C - 1 **Director's Report**



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(a) Director's highlights

- J. Roberto highlighted a tree planting initiative that was led by K. Hashimoto, Supervisor of Energy & Environmental Conservation of the Grand Erie District School Board. The tree planting initiative was recognized by the Minister of Education's Office. 18 schools participated in planting 100 native species trees which will help provide shade for the school community. J. Roberto commended the tree planting initiative and added that she was very proud of the team.
- J. Roberto recognized World Teacher Day, which is held annually on October 5, 2021, and celebrates teachers around the globe. She read a joint statement from UNESCO, UNICEF and added on behalf of Grand Erie District School Board, she further extended her recognition to all teachers for their efforts and for being outstanding leaders in the district. The theme for 2021-21 was 'Teachers at the Heart of Education and Recovery'.
- L. Thompson introduced a video of a talented student from Banbury Heights. Bella T. is a Grade 6 student and a competitive dancer, who showcased her talent for the school on September 30th.
- K. Graham shared a recent Hamilton Spectator newspaper article called, 'Of orange shirts, beautiful night sky and work to be done', along with a video. The interview by the Spectator included Indigenous Studies Educator Jennifer Lucas, Grand Erie Student Trustee Sierra Green, and Ms. Teen Six Nations Kosha General in their Indigenous Studies classroom at McKinnon Park Secondary School.

(b) Leading and Learning in a Pandemic

- The Ministry of Education has issued updates to the school screening tool for the 2021-2022 school year, which include changes to testing, symptom reporting, vaccination/immunization, personal health information, and international travel. These changes will be reflected on the website.
- The next set of vaccination clinics will begin on October 12, 2021.
- Masking protocols have been updated in conjunction with the PHUs. This includes appropriate types of masks to be worn, additional information on non-medical cloth masks, how to wear them, and what qualifies as a proper mask.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report Leading and Learning as information.

Carried

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Boundary Review – Banbury Heights School/Branlyn Community School.

R. Wyszynski presented the proposed Boundary Review – Banbury Heights School/Branlyn Community School report.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat



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THAT the Grand Erie District School Board strike a working group as per policy FT8 Boundary Reviews for the proposed Banbury Heights School/Branlyn Community School Boundary review for stakeholder feedback and input.

Carried

D - 2 **New Business – Information Items**

(a) **Safe School Report**

W. Baker presented the Safe Schools Report. The Background, Additional Information on Suspensions, Expulsions, Exclusions, Next Steps and Multi -Year Plan were presented

C.A. Sloat referenced SO32, Exclusion Policy and requested information about how many students are on modified day. Superintendent, W. Baker noted that modified day reporting is outside of the scope of Safe School Report.

C.A. Sloat asked about the 2023 requirement for race data to be added when it comes to suspensions and expulsions, and would it be prudent for the Board to start sooner than later? Superintendent, W. Baker noted that the data used to be presented and it was decided it was no longer needed. However, the information has evolved and is required by the province for marginalized groups. This will be reported at the next census.

R. Collver asked for clarification with respect to Regulation 440/20 which states that students in JK to Grade 3 are not to be suspended. Superintendent, W. Baker explained that the students' suspensions were in place prior to the regulation becoming effective.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Safe Schools Report as information.

Carried

(b) **Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification**

K. Graham provided a summary of the Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification report.

J. Roberto provided additional information about opportunities for self-identification and noted that participation is voluntary. Strategies to increase awareness during registration were presented and J. Roberto noted K. Graham and the Indigenous Team are developing a plan this year as it relates to our Annual Learning and Operating goals.



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Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Report as information.

Carried

(c) **Staff and Student Recognition - Learn, Lead, Inspire**

L. Munro provided a summary of the Learn, Lead, Inspire Staff and Student Recognition program and highlighted the process and the connection to the Multi Year Plan.

C.A. Sloat asked would it not mean more if the person who nominated the recipient read their nomination and that the Chair had been very generous in sharing the presentation duties with all Trustees and could this tradition be continued. Instead, as noted in the information report the Director would share these highlights. L. Munro noted comments by C.A. Sloat.

R. Collver reiterated the requests by C.A. Sloat be considered.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Staff and Student Recognition process for Learn Lead Inspire report as information.

Carried

(d) **Grand Erie Workforce Census**

W. Baker provided a summary of the Workforce Census Report.

W. Baker called on Safe and Inclusive Schools Lead, C. Bibby, to present the results of Grand Erie's first Staff Census. The data was collected as part of the Equity plan. Staff were surveyed on what their experience is in Grand Erie that relates to their identity. Questions were specific to the individual's identity whether it is perceived as a 'Barrier' or a 'Strength' and priorities to Learning, Well-Being and Belonging formed the basis to this survey.

The next Professional Development Day in October 2021 will focus on the results of the Staff and Student Data collection as it relates to the theme, 'Centering the Voices of our Students and Staff'.



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J. Tozer provided additional information on the goals, strategies and hiring practices that Human Resources has undertaken in support of the data collected. Recruitment efforts are driving more diverse applicants to apply. This information is helpful in developing point of hire questionnaire.

R. Collver made a recommendation to have a conversation with the groups with the lowest response rates. She further stated that all staff should be given a voice and that their voice does matter. The Board is hopeful that the underrepresented groups would say that it is worth participating in the survey and have their voices be heard.

C. Kitchen asked what the Human Resources department is doing to address the mental health of staff as it directly correlates to student experience. J. Tozer noted that revisions were made to the Employee Assistance Program. Increased funding to the EAP program will provide additional support to staff, and Community Hub was launched connecting staff to health and wellness services, are grassroots initiatives being coordinated and communicated.

J. Tozer noted Senior Team is looking into adding more strategies to increase survey responses in the future to make sure underrepresented staff will participate.

Moved by: S. Gibson,

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Grand Erie Workforce Census as information.

Carried

E - 1 **Bylaw/Policy Consideration – Action/Decision Items**

(a) **F4 Trustee Honoraria**

Superintendent, R. Wyszynski presented F4 Trustee Honoraria and provided background information and next steps.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward, Policy F4 Trustee Honoraria to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 24, 2021.

Carried

E – 2 **Procedure Consideration – Information Items**

(a) **HR118 Occasional Teacher Evaluation**

J. Tozer noted HR118 Occasional Teacher Evaluation has been identified for review, minor revisions were made and will be going out for stake holder's comments.

Moved by: E. Dixon



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Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board to forward Procedure HR118 Occasional Teacher Evaluation to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 24, 2021.

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

(a) OPSBA Report

C.A. Sloat presented a high-level overview of the OPSBA Report, which included information about PPE stock and reporting requirements an extension to Federal spending guidelines. The Trustee Provincial Code of Conduct consultation, and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) – Non-Profit - Education Stream were presented.

Moved By: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA Report as information.

Carried

G - 1 Correspondence

Nil

H - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, R. Collver