



Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Board Room

Regular Board Meeting | September 23, 2019

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2kv5hUE>

Patti McCleister Memorial Award

Melanie Kraemer, Teacher at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, is this year's recipient of the Patti McCleister Memorial Award. Kraemer was presented with the award on Monday night by Board Chair Greg Anderson, Director of Education Brenda Blancher and McCleister's husband, Ted McCleister.



About the Recipient:

The Kiwanis Field at Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford might still be a field of dreams if it weren't for Kraemer, who co-chaired the Kiwanis Field committee and activated the community connections necessary to bring the \$3.5 million project to fruition. The result of Kraemer's leadership and dedication was the opening of the facility in 2016. The project also wouldn't have been possible without the more than 100 community partners who were inspired to contribute to it.

Since the field's opening, Kraemer has continued to provide leadership and support to the project through the organization of annual fundraisers for equipment, and the hosting of events which utilize the field for feeder schools and community members. Additionally, as Pauline Johnson's staff advisor to the school's Students' Council and the lead on several school events, Kraemer is inspiring and developing leadership capacity within her students as well.



About the Award

The Patti McCleister Memorial Award is given annually to a Grand Erie employee who exemplifies outstanding leadership, inspires others, and is a driving force in realizing the Board's goal of *Success for Every Student*. Patti McCleister (pictured left) was Grand Erie's Training and Development Officer, a valuable team member and an inspiration to many. She passed away in 2013 after a battle with cancer. Her memorial award is the highest honour given to Grand Erie employees and embodies McCleister's legacy of passion, creativity and commitment to leadership.

Annual Operating Plans

Grand Erie's Senior Administration team presented its Annual Operating Plans to the Board on Monday. These plans will guide the team's work and the system's focus in 2019-20. Each plan addresses a component of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. While the Annual Operating Plans do not represent all of the work being done in Grand Erie, they do set out a clear direction in the areas of Community, Environment, Equity, Technology, and Well-Being. Grand Erie's Achievement Plan, which will be presented to the Board later this fall, covers the Achievement indicator.



Each Annual Operating Plan focuses on the indicator statements, goals and anticipated outcomes included in the Multi-Year Plan. The plans also feature specific actions and means by which the Board can assess Grand Erie's progress. To review the Annual Operating Plans for 2019-20, visit the following pages of the Agenda package here: <https://bit.ly/2kv5hUE>.

- Community (Page 51)
- Environment (Pages 53-56)
- Equity (Pages 58-59)
- Technology (Pages 60-62)
- Well-Being (Pages 64-67)

Update to Grand Erie's Capital Priorities Project Funding Submission

This summer, the Ministry of Education launched its Capital Priorities Program, calling on school boards across Ontario to submit business cases for urgent pupil accommodation needs. Business cases are to be submitted by September 30, with projects completed no later than the 2023-24 school year. At the September 9 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees were presented with two priorities based on Grand Erie's Long Term Accommodation Plan. The first priority is a new school for the Southwest Brantford area. The second priority is a new joint elementary school for Caledonia. Both priorities were recommended for approval at the September 9 meeting.

After the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Grand Erie heard back from the Ministry of Education regarding clarity over the board's Elgin Avenue Public School consolidation project. Clarity was required as the cost to rebuild Elgin Avenue came in at \$14.7 million, while Grand Erie only has \$8.7 million for the project, including \$6.2 million in funding from the Province.

The Ministry is now recommending Grand Erie submit Elgin Avenue to the Capital Priorities Program. As a result, Trustees approved a third priority on Monday night: to build a new elementary school in Simcoe. The new school would consolidate enrolment at Elgin Avenue and West Lynn Public School and be built at the existing Elgin Avenue site. To review the revised Capital Priorities Project Funding Submission report, see pages 46-47 here: <https://bit.ly/2kv5hUE>. This report supports Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the Environment indicator and the following goal: "Make the best use of the space in schools."

2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan – Year 3 Update

In 2017, Grand Erie approved its 2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan. Created by the Strategic Communications Ad Hoc Committee, the plan aligns with the Board's 2016-20 Multi-Year Plan. Four streams are identified in the plan: Leadership, Internal Communications, Marketing and Branding, and Public Relations. Within each stream are a number of objectives as well as a list of activities, timelines and outcomes. Each fall, the plan is updated. Each spring, it is evaluated. To review the update for Year 3, see pages 68-82 here: <https://bit.ly/2kv5hUE>.

Orange Shirt Day – Monday, September 30

Orange Shirt Day is the legacy of the 2013 St. Joseph Mission Residential School commemoration event in British Columbia. It grew out of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken from her on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for Grand Erie to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for the future. The date for Orange Shirt Day was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies in the school year ahead. Grand Erie students and staff will honour Orange Shirt Day next Monday (September 30). To learn more about Phyllis' story and the origins of Orange Shirt Day, visit: <https://bit.ly/2cIMbC5>.



Student Recognition Nominations

Do you know an outstanding student? Nominations are now open for Grand Erie's Student Recognition awards program. Students are honoured for outstanding achievement in one of four areas: arts, athletics, academics or community leadership. Selected students are recognized during Grand Erie Board meetings, and their story is shared on the website and through social media. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2jYyy9k>.

Additional Items

Memorial: A memorial statement was read to honour Robert Kroeker, a long-time staff member at Cobblestone Elementary School. Kroeker worked in the school's Special Education classes and was responsible for prep coverage where he interacted with a wide range of students and staff. Kroeker also coached a number of teams at the school.

Delegations: A delegation was received from Martin McCaffrey in relation to busing at Paris District High School.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the August 26, 2019 (Regular Board), September 9, 2019 (Committee of the Whole), and September 9, 2019 (Special Board) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Director's Report
- Student Trustees' Report
- Committee of the Whole – September 9, 2019
- Major Construction Projects
- The Child Protection Protocol
- Summary of Accounts – August 2019
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – June 20, 2019
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – Safety Audit Tracking Report – Summer 2019

Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

Achievement

- On the Job with... Jeff Benner, Principal, Hagersville Secondary School
 - <https://bit.ly/2lWR03w>

Environment

- Major Milestone as Grand Erie Elementary School Turns 100
 - <https://bit.ly/2mt3zUx>

Equity

- Grand Erie Encourages Meaningful Discussion Around Resident Schools' Legacy as Part of Orange Shirt Day Plans
 - <https://bit.ly/2m9WtUL>
- Results from Grand Erie's First Student Census Will Inform the Board's Next Steps for Planning and Supports for Students
 - <https://bit.ly/2kVql5c>

SUCCESS for Every Student