



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

Inaugural Board Meeting | December 9, 2019

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/33XmF58>

Chair's Inaugural Address

In his inaugural address as Board Chair, Trustee Greg Anderson focused on the year ahead saying: "I believe that 2020 is going to be a challenging year in the field of education as we are facing uncertainty with labour negotiations. There is considerable Provincial unrest currently that may impact our students and staff in the upcoming year. Strong leadership will be necessary at the Board level to overcome whatever challenges need to be faced."



Given this uncertainty, Anderson said he was pleased to have the experience of former chairs in leadership roles: "I am glad to have past Board Chair, Rita Collver, as our Vice-Chair. Rita brings a wealth of experience to the table that is always helpful. Susan Gibson will be stepping into the role of Committee of the Whole Chair and I am confident that she will fill this role admirably. Having former Board Chair Carol Ann Sloat as Committee of the Whole Vice-Chair give us a knowledgeable and capable resource. Finally, we have a very seasoned past Board Chair, Don Werden, serving as our OPSBA representative. This will come in handy in 2020 as we navigate the coming issues. We are very fortunate to have a cohesive group of Trustees who work together for the common good."

Anderson put a spotlight on the work of the Board over the past year: "I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great work that the Board has done in the past year. A blending of Trustees occurred in 2019 following the 2018 municipal election. We have been fortunate to have a high level of energy, commitment, and focus from our Trustees. We are also very fortunate to have an outstanding Director of Education and an excellent team of Superintendents. With this team approach between Senior Administration and Trustees, we have: opened Maplevue Elementary School in Dunnville; increased our focus on Child Care at Hagersville Secondary School and Central Public School; added elevators at Major Ballachey Public School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School; focused on Equity and Indigenous Education; passed a balanced budget; and, provided leadership through out Multi-Year Plan."

He also highlighted the following items during his address:

- "This is an important time for Grand Erie with Future Grade 9 Student and Parent Information Nights underway at the secondary level and Kindergarten Registration kicking off in our elementary schools in January. This is the time when we attract students to our Board."
- "This will be the final year of our Multi-Year Plan, Success for Every Student, and I look forward to starting the process in the fall of creating a new Multi-Year Plan for our Board."

Anderson also noted his reasons for being a school board Trustee and thanked his colleagues for their continued faith in him: "I want to thank the support of Trustees as I embark on a third term as Board Chair. I was fortunate to have been both an elementary and secondary teacher, a vice-principal, principal and school superintendent in an education career that spanned 37 years. Yet, I am most happy being a school board Trustee as it affords me the opportunity to stay involved in education and continue to do what I always enjoyed doing: helping our youngsters learn and develop skills that will lead them into the future. As Trustees, it is our mandate to look out for our students and help them become the best they can be."

Anderson said the Board was ready to face any challenges and highlighted the importance of the Multi-Year Plan in moving forward: "While we may see some changes in 2020, I feel confident that we have a group of Trustees and Senior Administration that can meet any challenges squarely and effectively. Our Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*, summarizes what we stand for at Grand Erie. By focusing on students and staff in a culture of high expectations, we can achieve success. The six indicators that support our vision, include: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community."

Before closing, Anderson thanked staff: "On behalf of all Trustees, I would like to extend our thanks to all of our employees. Thank you for the support that you provide to our students and system in so many ways. May you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends."

Anderson, in his third year as Board Chair, was acclaimed for the second straight time during last week's Nomination Meeting. Find his complete Inaugural Address here: <https://bit.ly/2RB3Geb>.

Draft Director's Annual Report 2018-19

On Monday, Director of Education Brenda Blancher presented her draft Annual Director's Report for the 2018-19 school year. The report, which is required by the Education Act, provides an overview of how Grand Erie is performing based on its Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. The report provides an overview of the activities during the past school year through each of the six indicators in the Multi-Year Plan: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being. The online report, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2OlrpwK>, also showcases the goals, outcomes and stories of the Multi-Year Plan. Additionally, the annual report responds to the Ministry of Education's request for all school boards to report on a number of items, including: the Board's Improvement Plan, pathway planning and supports, as well as schools and classrooms that support all students.

ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2018-19

Home Achievement Well-Being Equity Environment Technology Community Ministry Requirements

Click the links above to jump to a section.

A Message from the Director of Education, Brenda Blancher

I'm pleased to present the 2018-19 Annual Director's Report for the Grand Erie District School Board. Each year, the Annual Director's Report provides us with an opportunity to share and celebrate with our community the many accomplishments, events, activities and initiatives that took place throughout the board over the past 12 months.

The 2018-19 school year marked the third year of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan. Launched in 2016, this strategic plan guides the work that our school board is doing. At the centre of this plan is the goal of *Success for Every Student*. We are focused on achieving this goal in a culture of high expectations, with a focus on students and staff. The six indicators that support our Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

During the 2018-19 school year, we focused our work on the Equity indicator in the Multi-Year Plan. One of the most important ways we did this was through the 'Celebrating Diversity' video series from our Safe and Inclusive Schools team. The four-part series told the stories of four Grand Erie students who overcame adversity and challenges to achieve success.

Find the four videos here:

- Matt
- Nour and Kaled
- Maria
- Brent

I'm incredibly proud of the work our students and staff completed in 2018-19 and I'm pleased to share with you some of our stories from the past year within the framework of our Multi-Year Plan in the links above.

Finally, the Ministry of Education required all school boards in Ontario to provide an update on a variety of important topics in 2019-20. You can find these in the Ministry Update link above.

Sincerely,
Brenda Blancher

Reading of the Trustee Code of Ethics

As is the practice each Inaugural Board Meeting, all Trustees stood and read the Code of Ethics together. The Trustee Code of Ethics can be found on page 3 here: <https://bit.ly/33XmF58>.

Additional Items

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the November 25, 2019 (Regular Board), December 2, 2019 (Nominations), and December 2, 2019 (Organizational) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Director's Report
- Striking Committee – December 2, 2019
- Audit Committee Annual Report
- Borrowing Authority
- Signing Officers
- Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Regular Review Scheduled
- Revised Budget Estimates
- Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Members
- Mileage Remuneration
- Hagersville Child Care Renovation Tender
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – November 21, 2019
- OPSBA Report

The following Policy will be sent out for comment:

- SO33 Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals

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

- It's Ready, Set, Kindergarten as Grand Erie Gears Up for Registration Month
 - <https://bit.ly/2YmHzcN>
- Trustee Greg Anderson Acclaimed as Grand Erie District School Board Chair for the 2019-20 School Year
 - <https://bit.ly/33TmR59>

SUCCESS for Every Student