



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

Committee of the Whole Meeting | January 13, 2020

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



Brenda Blancher, Grand Erie's Director of Education, Announces Retirement

After nearly 35 years in education, Grand Erie District School Board's Director, Brenda Blancher, is retiring.

"I will forever be grateful for the confidence Trustees placed in me and for their ongoing support," said Blancher, who was selected by the Board of Trustees as Director in 2015, becoming the first female director in Grand Erie's history. "The opportunity to lead as Director of Education with Grand Erie has truly been the highlight of my career. Working with the Board's students, parents, trustees, staff, unions and community partners has furthered my commitment to public education and proven to

me that when we all work together, great things can happen for our students."

Blancher will formally retire on July 31, 2020. To learn more about her illustrious career in education, visit: <https://bit.ly/2QOjyZY>.

"Brenda's dedication and commitment to our students, our staff, our parents, and our communities has been evident since she started as Director," said Greg Anderson, Chair of the Board, who offered a public thank you to Blancher during Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. "Brenda has always been an excellent listener who seeks information from all sources, then works collaboratively in the best interests of our students and our families."

A search for Grand Erie's next Director of Education will begin shortly. The Board expects to have a new director named before the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Educational Services Agreement – Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Trustees were presented with Grand Erie's report with respect to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The 2018-19 report features the results of secondary school endeavours by Mississaugas of the Credit students. The report also includes highlights of student activities in 2018-19, and a range of data on the success of Mississaugas of the Credit students. This report supports the Achievement indicator of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#) and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." To review the report, see pages 9-22 here: <https://bit.ly/2TaLyIL>.

GELA Annual Report

Each year, the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) program provides Trustees with an update on how it's implementing Ministry of Education initiatives and how it's supporting and engaging all students as they strive to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or further their individual educational needs. GELA supports a wide range of programs for students both under and over the age of 21 as well as other Ministry initiatives and programs offered to the communities within the Board.



Some of GELA's programs for students under the age of 21 include: Day School, School Within a College (SWAC), Continuing Education, Summer School, eLearning, Heritage Languages Elementary Program, After-School Help, Passion Courses and Dual Credit. Some of the GELA programs that support students over the age of 21 include: Mature Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (MPLAR) program, Adult Dual Credit, eLearning, Independent Study, Family Literacy Program and the Personal Support Worker Program. GELA also offers Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, Bridges to Success and CareerLink.

Highlights from GELA's 2018-19 Annual Report include:

- 143 credits earned out of 143 attempted (100 per cent success) by students in the Personal Support Worker Certificate program
- 74 credits successfully earned out of 93 attempted (80 per cent) by students in SWAC
- 11 of 11 credits attempted (100 per cent success) by students under the age of 21 in the Dual Credit program
- 3,057 total credits earned by GELA students in 2018-19, an increase of 68 or two per cent
- 2019 Summer School Highlights
 - 545 in-class credits earned out of 565 attempted (96.5 per cent)
 - 1,682 overall credits earned out of 1,842 attempted (91.3 per cent)
 - 1,092 eLearning credits earned out of 1,231 attempted (88.7 per cent)

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, [*Success for Every Student*](#), through the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." It also supports the Equity indicator and the following statement: "We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included." To review the report, see pages 33-44 here: <https://bit.ly/2TaLyll>.

Vision 20/20 STEAM Conference

The Vision 20/20 STEAM Conference is a joint venture with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, scheduled to take place on February 20 at the Sanderson Centre and Laurier Brantford. Secondary school students from across Grand Erie will be invited to the event.

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Response to Transportation Safety Concerns Delegation
- Document Management System Scope
- Joint Use of Facility Agreement: Next Steps
- Director's Report

- Mileage Remuneration
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership
- Category III Trips
- Enrolment vs. Capacity by School Report
- Request from the Children's Safety Village of Brant

The following Policies were recommended for approval:

- HR4 Health and Safety
- HR5 Harassment/Objectionable Behaviour
- SO13 Access to School Premises
- SO28 Student Concussion and Head Injury
- SO32 Exclusion of Students

The following Policies and Procedures will be sent out for comment:

- SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education
- SO15 Out of Classroom Field Trips and Excursions
- SO22 Fees for Learning Materials and Activities
- SO26 Events Planning and Organizing Policy
- SO30 Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions in Schools
- SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together
- SO111 Fire Safety and Fire Safety Plans

The following Procedures were shared as information:

- P101 Request for Core French Exemption
- SO120 Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents

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

- Kindergarten Registration Now Open as Grand Erie Gets Ready to Welcome New Class of Young Learners
 - <https://bit.ly/35zneCN>

Community

- Intergenerational Holiday Dinner Celebrates Community at Paris District High School
 - <https://bit.ly/2sUkRNU>
- Warmth of Tollgate Technological Skills Centre Kitchen Extends to Community
 - <https://bit.ly/2QEnEDO>
- Here Comes Santa Claus... and Mt. Pleasant School's Parade Float
 - <https://bit.ly/2t14Ghy>

Equity

- Unique Cross-Cultural Program Builds Hagersville Secondary School Students' Leadership Capacity
 - <https://bit.ly/36HcK5Y>
- On the Job with... Matthew Malcolm, Head of Guidance and Special Education, Delhi District Secondary School
 - <https://bit.ly/2Nr5nYP>

Success for Every Student