



The
Blackboard

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

Regular Board Meeting | September 28, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3mWiLEe>

Annual Operating Plans

Grand Erie's Senior Administration team presented its Annual Operating Plans to the Board on Monday evening. These plans will guide the team's work and the system's focus in 2020-21. 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 2020-21 visit the following pages of the Agenda package here: <https://bit.ly/3mWiLEe>.

- Community (Page 41-42)
- Environment (Pages 43-44)
- Equity (Pages 45-46)
- Technology (Pages 47-50)
- Well-Being (Pages 51-54)

Director's Report

JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education, shared the following items and information with Trustees on Monday night during her report to the Board:

- With COVID-19 cases on the rise, and out of an abundance of caution for students, staff and communities, as well as in consultation with public health, secondary school graduation ceremonies scheduled for this fall and Grade 8 graduations that were postponed in June, will be held virtually. Schools will prepare these ceremonies with their school-based teams to honour and recognize students for their outstanding accomplishments. Although the ceremonies will be held virtually, they will continue to be unique to each school community with special traditions and practices.

- Grand Erie’s Virtual Academy currently has 4,398 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. This includes 3,234 elementary students in 134 classes, and 1,164 secondary students in 92 sections.
- Rowan’s Law Day: Rowan Stringer was a 17-year-old student who died after sustaining multiple undiagnosed concussions playing Rugby. Following an inquiry, legislation was passed in Ontario aimed at improving concussion education and injury prevention. Part of that legislation includes the observance of Rowan's Law Day.
- National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day is Friday, October 2. This is a day where we recognize the great work completed by our Grand Erie custodians and caretakers daily. Their efforts play a crucial role in combatting COVID-19 in our school. They’re also key members of our school teams and vital members of our school communities.
- World Teachers’ Day is Monday, October 5. The theme this year is: “leading in crisis, reimagining the future.” This is a day where we can all take stock of achievements, and draw attention to teachers whose contributions to providing remote learning, supporting vulnerable populations, re-opening schools, and ensuring learning gaps and student well-being are addressed is important as we reimagine the future of education amid COVID-19.

Orange Shirt Day – Wednesday, 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 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 this Wednesday. To learn more about Phyllis’ story and the origins of Orange Shirt Day, visit: <https://bit.ly/2clMbC5>.



Major Construction Projects – Final Report

Trustees were given a status update on the major construction projects underway in Grand Erie. These projects include: the child care renovation at Hagersville Secondary School and the child care addition at Central Public School in Brantford. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan. To review the report, see pages 65-68 here: <https://bit.ly/3mWiLEe>.

2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan – Year 4 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 4, see pages 55-64 here: <https://bit.ly/3mWiLEe>.

Additional Items

Memorial: A memorial statement was read to honour Hunter Tobicoe (NewStart/Hagersville Secondary). Hunter will be remembered as a young man with a quick smile. He had come into his own at NewStart where he demonstrated motivation to complete his school work and enter his Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation community as a confident young man. He was friendly with his fellow students, and respectful to teachers, showing a sense of humour and quick wit.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- August 31, 2020 – Regular Board
- September 14, 2020 – Committee of the Whole
- September 14, 2020 – Special Board

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Director's Report
- Student Trustees' Report
- Committee of the Whole – September 14, 2020
- Contract Extension – Multi-Function Devices
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership Application
- Summary of Accounts – August 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes #1 – June 18, 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes #2 – June 18, 2020
- Correspondence: Haldimand County Letter – Kinsmen Park (September 4, 2020)

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.

Environment

- Students to gain better air quality
 - <https://bit.ly/30afxmP>

SUCCESS for Every Student