



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

Regular Board Meeting | October 26, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/37NeBJF>

Enrolment Update

While official enrolment numbers are presented to the Ministry of Education on October 31 each year, Trustees received an update on enrolment for the 2020-21 school year on Monday night. The Enrolment Update report features details on original enrolment projections, as seen in the 2020-21 budget, as well as actual enrolment as of September 30, 2020. It also includes a look at Grand Erie's previous enrolment history.



For the 2020-21 school year, overall enrolment at Grand Erie is down from projected enrolment numbers at both the elementary and secondary levels. Elementary enrolment is down 243 from original projections, while secondary enrolment is down 196. In total, as of September 30, 2020, Grand Erie has 17,960 elementary students and 7,352 secondary students. To review the report, see pages 41-43 here: <https://bit.ly/37NeBJF>.



Trustee Replacement Process

At the October Committee of the Whole meeting, Trustees recommended that the Board appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacant trustee position (Brant County and Norfolk County, Wards 3 and 7). The Director, in her capacity as Secretary of the Board, was asked to prepare a report to include a sample advertisement, application form and critical dates for the process to move forward. Director

JoAnna Roberto presented this report to Trustees on Monday. She also confirmed that both Brant County and Norfolk County need five working days to verify that a candidate is qualified. Following discussion of the report, Trustees approved the process as outlined by Director Roberto. The process includes a deadline of November 10, 2020 for interested candidates, with the goal of having the new Trustee in place by December. To read the full report, see pages 33-37 here: <https://bit.ly/37NeBJF>.

Director's Report

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

- Kathryn Giannini assumed the role of Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, effective today (October 26). Giannini takes over for Lisa Howells who has moved to another Executive Assistant role within Grand Erie.
- Managing the pandemic continues to be at the forefront of Grand Erie's work as the board navigates through COVID-19 cases. Grand Erie has a responsive team that continues to work closely with school administrators, central staff and both local health units.
- Superintendents have worked with principals to provide guidance for Halloween celebrations, which includes:
 - Physical distancing
 - Masks mandatory for students in Grades 4-12 as well as Grade 3 students in Grade 3/4 splits
 - Masks strongly encouraged for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3
 - No outside food brought into schools for sharing or distributing
 - Celebrations limited to classroom and assigned cohort
- Grand Erie has received 1,500 new devices for the elementary school refresh. These will be delivered to schools beginning this week.
- Further to discussions about pedestrian safety on Bobby Street West in Paris, Grand Erie has confirmed that Brant County will be maintaining the sidewalk/multi-use path on Laurel Street, through the Mechanic Street footbridge on a year-round basis.



Grand Erie's 2020-21 Student Achievement and Well-Being Plan: *Success for Every Student* Goals

Grand Erie's Annual Operating Plan for Achievement and Well-Being was presented to Trustees on Monday. The plan focuses on the goals outlined in the board's Multi-Year Plan and the Ministry of Education's Mathematics strategy. The plan is designed to include all students and is reflective of their journey from Kindergarten through Grade 12. It also identifies the links between what the board does, and how it does it. Finally, the plan demonstrates the cyclical nature of school improvement and aligns with the board's focus on a multidisciplinary system and a school-based teams approach.

Grand Erie's Student Achievement Plan is considered a living document and changes can be made throughout the school year based on identifying, reflecting and responding to system needs to ensure a focused, intentional improvement plan. To review the plan, see pages 57-58 here: <https://bit.ly/37NeBJF>.

Grand Erie's 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan: *Success for Every Student* Outcomes

Grand Erie's 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan was first presented to the Board of Trustees last fall (October 28, 2019). A mid-year report was offered in the spring (March 30, 2020) based on monitoring and the evidence of impact to date. As EQAO assessments were not administered during the 2019-20 school year, no results are available.

On Monday, Elementary, Secondary and Special Education program staff provided Trustees with a summary of the outcomes from the 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan for Grand Erie students. The report includes data on both student and staff learning in 2019-20. It also covers outcomes related to language (i.e., reading, writing) and mathematics. The report features a number of next steps. To review the report, see pages 47-56 here: <https://bit.ly/37NeBJF>.

Treaties Recognition Week: November 2-6

In 2016, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation declared the first week of November Treaties Recognition Week. The intention is to raise awareness and promote public education of treaties and treaty relationships. The week gives educators the opportunity to set aside time for curriculum-

related activities to share with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, families and staff to support the ongoing efforts to build a deeper cultural understanding, stronger relationships, and a broader awareness for all. Grand Erie's Indigenous Education team will provide materials to schools to use as part of Treaties Recognition Week.



Additional Items

Memorial: A memorial statement was read to honour Vernon Henhawk (Hagersville Secondary School and McKinnon Park Secondary School) who died October 15. Vernon had a wonderful sense of humor and was liked by so many of his classmates. He was respectful to the staff who were fortunate to work with him. Vernon was a talented lacrosse player and an active member of the Six Nations Minor Lacrosse community. He had tremendous support from his family, especially his mother.

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

- September 28, 2020 – Regular Board
- October 2, 2020 – Special Board
- October 5, 2020 – Committee of the Whole
- October 5, 2020 – Special Board

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Student Trustees' Report
- Committee of the Whole – October 5, 2020
- Elementary Class Size Report
- Summary of Accounts – September 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – September 17, 2020
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – September 17, 2020
- Audit Committee Minutes (Draft) – September 22, 2020
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – October 6, 2020
- Correspondence: Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk (October 19, 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 activities related to the Multi-Year Plan.

Achievement

- Changes Coming to Final Evaluations for Secondary Students Amid COVID-19 Pandemic
 - <https://bit.ly/2FSkhqa>

Environment

- Province Provides Funding for New Elementary School, Library and Community Centre in Southwest Brantford
 - <https://bit.ly/35qHw3n>

Technology

- 'Incubating' Success and Embedding Technology into all Levels of Learning at St. George-German Public School
 - <https://bit.ly/3jINnMx>
- Grand Erie Honours Orange Shirt Day and Marks First Year of English Course Focused on Indigenous-Authored Works
 - <https://bit.ly/3l0f5iT>

SUCCESS for Every Student