



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, August 30, 2021

Microsoft Team Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

**Present:** Board Chair, G. Anderson, Board Vice-Chair, S. Gibson, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, D. Werden, S. Green (Student Trustee), R. Mitchell (Student Trustee), C. Kitchen (Student Trustee)

**Administration:** Director – J. Roberto, Superintendents: W. Baker, K. Graham, L. Munro, A. Smith, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski Recording Secretary- L. Howells

**Regrets:**

**Trustees:** Nil  
**Administration:** Nil

**A - 1 Opening**

**(a) Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

**(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil

**(c) In Camera Session**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session at 6:30 p.m.

**Carried**

**(d) Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 7:15 p.m.

**(e) Memorials**

Nil

**(f) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Agenda be approved.

**Carried**

**(g) In Camera Report**

Nil

**(h) Presentations**

Nil



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#### B - 1 Approval of Minutes

##### (a) Regular Board Meeting – June 28, 2021

Presented as printed.

C.A. Sloat recommended some revisions and requested that Committee Whole Report portion of the minutes contain the motions from the meeting.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held June 28, 2021 be approved, as amended.

**Carried**

##### (b) Special Board Meeting – July 9, 2021

Presented as printed. R. Collver requested to be added to in attendance.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, held July 9, 2021 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

##### (c) Special Board Meeting – July 28, 2021

Presented as printed. R. Collver requested to be added to in attendance. D. Werden requested it be noted that he joined late.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, held July 28, 2021 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

#### C - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

Nil

#### D - 1 Director's Report

##### (a) Director's highlights:

- Welcomed everyone back and very excited for the start of a new school year and the implementation of year one of the Multi-Year strategic Plan
- Welcomed new Superintendents J. Tozer and K. Graham and Manager of Communication D. Smouter and Manager of Human Resources, D. De Vos
- Thanked the Sr. Team for their outstanding start up efforts and ongoing leadership
- Welcomed three new Student Trustees and look forward to their contributions through-out the year



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- Secondary school registration and orientation begin this week and all schools have ensured safety protocols are in place
- August 11 held an Indigenous Round Table discussion with Chief L. Hill, Chief M. Hill, Chief Davis, Indigenous team members, Safe School team members and was led by R. Staats, Principal Lead,
- On September 2 schools will hold their first professional day which will focus on health and safety, reopening protocol, math curriculum and focus on well-being
- Summer Learning – a high level overview of the elementary, secondary, and special education summer learning
- Ontario College of Teacher announced on Aug 16 is seeking qualified and dedicated individual to govern the teaching profession in the public interest. This is a part of the College's legislated transition to a new governance structure that will streamline its operations, enabling it to operate more effectively and efficiently.
- PPM 151 Professional Activity Days devoted to provincial education priorities was revised and is currently being reviewed by Superintendents
- The Welcome Video was presented

#### (b) **Leading and Learning in the Pandemic**

- Reopening presentation was presented and each Superintendent reviewed specific areas
- L. Latreille, Division Manager, Operations & Health Safety was invited to meeting to review the COVID-19 information.

C.A. Sloat asked what the definition of essential visitor is. W. Baker responded that food program will be priority and until we understand the attestation process no parents will be allowed into schools. It is recommended if Trustees feel that your visit to a school is essential then they should speak with the Superintendent.

C.A. Sloat commented that she had received a call from a family to change learning to virtual and this may be first of many, how we will be handling this? L. Munro responded that survey went out in late May and declaration back in June, at this time we not promoting switching between learning models. However, we do recognize there are some significant circumstances and asking families to work with their Principal and Family of School Superintendents and those names will be added to a waitlist and we will assess our next steps in the near future. W. Baker that the compelling reason cases will be priority if space available.

D. Dean and C. VanEvery-Albert requested that the slide presentation be shared with Trustees. J. Roberto responded that it will be shared.

S. Gibson asked about the attestation and if that could be adapted so Trustees can complete them. J. Roberto responded that we ensure there is a component to include Trustees, but we are still in the development phase.



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Student Trustee R. Mitchell asked if there is definition of rational reasoning to switch learning models? W. Baker responded that is a subjective term but there are some that will obviously more compelling than others. Our and Administrators are solid in judging the difference in importance of some of the request that we may get.

R. Collver stated that she has received a number of questions on ventilation and we have to publicly report, and asked will that be ready for the start of school? R. Wyszynski responded that will be posted on the website by this Friday to allow the parents to select the school and will reveal the update and ventilation improvements at that school.

C.A. Sloat asked a follow up question on the switching learning model as we would accommodate if they showed up in person, can we not have the same flexibility for those requesting to move to virtual learning to avoid losing families to home schooling? W. Baker responded that you have identified someone new to the system and they would have to be placed and would have request virtual learning in their old board, and we have talked about granting them priority. W. Baker further stated that he will be meeting with Principals who preside over schools where paper packages were a significant issue and was an onerous task. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss where we can support those families to greatest degree, not move to homeschool but also not weigh down our staff. We have a lot of considerations, but we need to wait until count date.

Student Trustee Kitchen asked will all of these new updates be posted on the website and highlighted the opening the third-party cafeteria services as many secondary students rely on this service?

D. Werden shared is concerned regarding the two-week period and believes that some kids will not be schools for the first two weeks. W. Baker responded that at the end of day we make exceptions and if the Principal is comfortable with the risk then they could be considered. L. Munro commented that what we are working on is unprecedented times and we need to be very thoughtful and very intentional with the decisions we make going forward to support our students. L. Munro further stated that there was no additional funding for virtual learning.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of August 30, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

#### (c) **Learning and Governance Caucus Session**

J. Roberto reviewed the Learning and Governance Caucus Session report. G. Anderson noted that the session in October, November and February would occur an hour before a Committee of the Whole Board Meeting. The remaining sessions would be separate sessions.



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R. Collver appreciate this coming to us for discussion and asked if there is any burning mattering the learning focuses could change or be enhanced. R. Collver asked if there any thought about including these in the Committee of the Whole instead of before the meeting as some Trustees may be not be able to participate. J. Roberto responded if that is the will of the Board, we could consider this. R. Collver stated we are learning organization and should be part of the meetings.

C.A. Sloat supports R. Collver recommendation that the Learning Focus be part of the meetings. C.A. Sloat stated the November 22 date is a Board meeting and requested we consider moving to another date. C.A. Sloat asked about the cost of the Governance Focus topics? J. Roberto responded that we still have some PD Governance from last spring that we can carry forward and will be bring the cost of the speakers back to the Board.

B. Doyle would support these learning be part of the meetings.

D. Werden asked if we will have blended meetings, but if in person the early start would not work for all.

C. VanEvery-Albert asked why we don't sit together and figure out what the best dates and is concerned that if included into meetings, they may go long.

R. Collver provided clarity that the Learning Focus is incorporated into meetings, but the Governance Caucus would be a standalone session.

S. Gibson recommended doing a poll to determine best dates.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the 2021-22 Learning and Governance Caucus Session Reports as information.

**Carried**

#### E - 1 **New Business – Action Items**

##### (a) **2021-22 Committee of the Whole Board and Regular Board Agenda Schedule**

J. Roberto referred to the report providing a high-level overview and provided some rationale for the changes/revisions to the report agenda schedule.

C.A. Sloat thanked J. Roberto for the rationale behind the changes but there are few that concern her and believes we may lose touch of our community. It was mentioned that some of the Special Education reports are included the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) package, however all Trustees don't see the full package. We also try hard not to bring new information to a Board meeting. C.A. Sloat asked about Self-Contained Classroom and how that would be handled? L. Thompson responded that the Self-Contained Classroom Report outlines the number of self-contained classrooms that will be happening for the upcoming year and also provides operational information. The information is shared at the January SEAC Meeting and contained in



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the January SEAC Minutes. The number of self-contained teachers is also provided in the annual budget report and those dictate the number of classrooms. J. Roberto added that all the SEAC meetings are online.

R. Collver stated that this was not unexpected but does have concerns and understand some of the rationale but does not see her voice being heard on this. R. Collver believes we need a fulsome conversation. R. Collver also stated that she can approve in principle as it is a learning journey but is apprehensive and would like to have caucus session on the thinking. R. Collver further commented that Trustees on Committees should be more responsible reporting back to Boards. J. Roberto responded that Senior Administration spent a great amount of time discussing this and that some of the reports will be intentionally included in our Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) including the Board Improvement Plan Student Achievement (BIPSA). J. Roberto stated that Senior Administration is prepared to provide rationale tonight so that Trustees have fulsome understanding of the thinking of the team, which are compelling and thoughtful.

A. Smith offered a few reflections from a learning organization and learning agenda perspective and noted some of her reflection was around the timing, coherence and the alignment of the reports and provided some examples.

L. Munro shared an example of the intentionality behind this direction around Learning Plan Leveraging Digital report with the utilization of technology is reflected in our Information Technology Services (ITS) Annual Report and the support for priorities effectiveness of use of technology as it supports student learning that be reflected in the AOPs/BIPSA report.

W. Baker stated that 10% of the reduction of reports comes from consolidation of 3 reports of his that come into one. W. Baker referred to the Safe School Report which will now include the Suspension, Expulsion and Exclusion reports.

B, Doyle appreciates the discussion and supports the direction of the Senior Administration and we to take this into consideration.

D. Werden agrees with the direction of the timeliness and combining of reports, however the challenge and struggle he has as it was noted that it had a Trustee voice, but we are being told what reports we are going get and there was no Trustee voice.

C.A. Sloat asked when we be getting an enrolment update? R. Wyszynski responded the enrolment numbers are part of the Quarterly Budget reports and what we were finding with the early reports we were issue with accuracy, was not vetted, and contained errors. R. Wyszynski further stated that Enrolment numbers are shared multiple time throughout the year in other reports like the Primary Class Size Report, Revised Estimates and Estimate Budget Process and in the Enrolment vs Capacity Report. C.A. Sloat stated that she is concerned with this direction.



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C.A. Sloat further stated that we have some Board policies that state annual reports required and we need to honour our policies.

J. Roberto stated that at no time would the Senior Administration team not honour Trustees request if information is missing and the really important piece is to ensure staff and workload is respected was set aside.

T. Waldschmidt thanked everyone for the discussion and appreciate all the information that was given to the board for our review. T. Waldschmidt and never understood why we are creating work for our Senior Administration Team when they are busy enough. T. Waldschmidt stated that he is fine that if we need to know something right now consider action item or discussion we need to speak about and provide information that we can use right now. We need to support our Senior Administration team through this.

C. VanEvery-Albert thanked the Senior Administration Team to go through this list of reports and noted that Trustees need work through this system yet and if we need to make changes then we can and will. If we want information, then we every right to request the information and we are beyond the need for further discussion.

D. Werden stated that changes are needed and would have been prime opportunity for a caucus session on how to structure meetings and what we need to know. Individual Trustee should not request information the Board should request information and would have liked to be part of the discussion.

J. Roberto stated that this scheduled is presented annually and many of these reports are for information only. G. Anderson supports approving this in principle and recognizes the Trustees comments about being told and supports C. VanEvery-Albert suggestions.

R. Collver thanked everyone for their comments and the additional rationale provided by the Superintendents.

J. Roberto reviewed the Bylaws, Policies and Procedure schedule and noted an additional policy around Human Trafficking will be added. Senior Administration provided rationale around some items that were moved to different months. C.A. Sloat requested SO25 Visual Identity Manual be added.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Proposed Schedule for the 2021-22 Committee of the Whole Board and Regular Board Meetings.

**Carried**



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(b) **OPSBA Membership Fee for 2021-22**

R. Wyszynski referred to the OPSBA Membership Fee for 2021-22 Report.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2021-22 OPSBA Membership Fee of \$63,228.02 (\$55,954 plus HST) for payment.

**Carried**

(c) **SO17 – Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks**

L. Thompson referred to the SO17 Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks which has been updated to align with Ministry directives

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board suspend Bylaw 5, s. 14 to reconsider Policy SO17 Guidelines for Student Accommodation, up to and Including Exemption, from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks.

**Carried**

R. Collver do we need that specific in this policy as this could come back regularly, can we have a general public statement that Grand Erie District School will follow all public health and/or ministry direction? L. Thompson agrees and if this is the wish of the Board, we can look at that. J. Roberts it should be procedure and we need be flexible.

C.A. Sloat stated that we do have motion that all students wear masks but understands R. Collver.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT Bylaw 9 – Process for Development of Bylaws, Policies and Procedures be waived with respect to circulating Policy SO17 Guidelines for Student, up to and including Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks to all appropriate stakeholders for comments.

**Carried**

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO17 Guidelines for Student up to including Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks.

**Carried**



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#### F - 1 New Business – Information Items

##### (a) Major Construction Project Report

R. Wyszynski referred to the Major Construction Project Report.

C.A. Sloat asked for an update on the new school in South-West Brantford and the outdoor classroom portables. R. Wyszynski responded that we are continued discussions with our partners and waiting for Letter of Intent from our partners and with regards to the portables, we have not been able to procure.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Project Report as information.

**Carried**

##### (b) School Council Report

J. Roberto referred to the 2020-21 School Council Report.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the 2020-21 School Council Report as information.

**Carried**

#### G - 1 New Business – Information Items

##### (a) Summary of Accounts – June 2021

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of June 2021 in the amount of \$17,251,249.48 as information.

**Carried**

##### (b) Summary of Accounts – July 2021

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of July 2021 in the amount of \$22,357,061.74 as information.

**Carried**



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(c) **Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – June 17, 2021**

Presented as printed.

D. Werden asked if we will be doing annual inspections on all sites? R. Wyszynski believes that not all sites require annual inspections, he will confirm with the team and provide a response.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes for the June 17, 2021 meeting as information.

**Carried**

(d) **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 17, 2021**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) for the June 17, 2021 meeting as information.

**Carried**

H - 1 **Correspondence**

Nil

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Carried**

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Board Chair, G. Anderson