



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

REGULAR BOARD MEETING | APRIL 23, 2018

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

Student Recognition Awards

The recognition program is Grand Erie District School Board's way of honouring and celebrating students who have excelled in academics, arts, athletics or community involvement. Monday evening, Aleria McKay was presented with a certificate from Trustee Alex Felsky and Director of Education Brenda Blancher. The Student Recognition Awards program supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and Success for Every Student through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff."



Aleria McKay – Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School – Arts:

In her final year as a Grand Erie student, Aleria McKay has made impressive contributions to arts, culture, and community involvement – all with an important message behind them. Earlier this year, she was crowned Miss Teenage Ontario. She is the first Indigenous winner in the competition's history. This summer, she will move on to compete for the title of Miss Teenage Canada. Aleria's commitment to raising awareness and erasing the stigma surrounding teen suicide set her apart in the competition, as she demonstrated impressive leadership and courage. This spring, she continued her efforts through a different vehicle: the theatrical production of *And She Split the Sky in Two*,

which she wrote and directed. The play, which deals with Indigenous issues and teen suicide, was the winner of the district drama festival, and has advanced to the upcoming regional competition. Aleria was recently accepted to York University's theatre program, and hopes to enter the teaching profession as a drama teacher after that.



Enrolment Update

Trustees received the final Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) numbers. ADE is reported twice a year to the Ministry of Education, on October 31 and March 31. At the Elementary level, Grand Erie's enrolment continues to grow. Original budget projections for 2017-18 estimated enrolment at

17,477 students. Actual enrolment on October 31 was 17,829, an increase of 352 from budget projections. That number increased once again on March 31, to 17,879 (+50). This resulted in an overall increase of 402 students from the original budget projections. At the Secondary level, Grand Erie enrolment continues to decline – matching a five-year trend. The 2017-18 budget projected 8,479.75 students. On October 31, the actual number was 8,320.37 (-159.38). That number dipped again on March 31 to 8,289.91 for an overall decrease of 189.84. To review the report, see pages 51-53 here: <https://bit.ly/2JbXqlq>.



Central Public School staff part of team that wins Brantford's 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award
On Sunday, April 22, the City of Brantford hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Day. At the ceremony, nine individuals or groups were recognized for their work. One group – the Downtown Central Neighbourhood Association – was named 2017 Volunteer of the Year. The Downtown Central Neighbourhood Association includes the following Central Public School staff:

Joe Atanas (Principal), Brittany Deakin (Teacher), Stephanie Stemmler (Teacher) and Barb Guest (Administrative Assistant). It also includes Central Public School parents Tammy Price and Laura Christie as well as community partners that range from local businesses to Wilfrid Laurier University. Some of the work the Downtown Central Neighbourhood Association was recognized for includes: the creation of a community garden to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the community during the spring and summer months; awarded \$400,000 to establish Central School as the first Child and Youth Neighbourhood Hub in Brantford; ran youth dances throughout the year to provide an opportunity to build relationships and have a safe space after school; and, created new awards and sponsorships for Central Public School graduates to help them transition to secondary school. Principal Joe Atanas said the Downtown Central Neighbourhood Association was “extremely humbled and motivated by the recognition from the City of Brantford.”

Quarterly Budget Report

Trustees received the Quarterly Budget Report as information. The report provides an overview of Grand Erie's budget for the first six months of the current school year, ending February 28, 2018. The overall result, to date, is an expected surplus on the year. To review the report, see pages 45-49 here: <https://bit.ly/2JbXqlq>.

Upcoming Events and Activities

A number of upcoming events and activities were highlighted:

- Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – Career Day at Thompson Creek Elementary School
- Wednesday, April 25, 2018 – Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Information Panel – The Impact of the Legalization of Marijuana on Families, hosted at Waterford District High School

- Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Student Senate
- Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Rainbow Ball at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School
- Thursday, May 3, 2018 – Annual Education Week Gala – Sanderson Centre
- May 7-11 – Education Week and Mental Health Week

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Memorial Statements: A memorial statement was read to honour Karen Walker, a Custodian from Waterford District High School, as well as Carrie Mannsfeldt, a teacher from Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School.

Delegation: Three delegations were received related to French Immersion and/or population growth at Caledonia Centennial Public School. Delegations were presented by: Darlene Losier, Marcia Stinson and Sheri Gay.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the March 26, 2018 (Regular Board), the April 9, 2018 (Committee of the Whole) and April 9, 2018 (Special Board) meetings.

Trustees received the following as information:

- Committee of the Whole Report – April 9, 2018
- Workforce Report
- Quarterly Budget Report (Q2) (F2)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership
- Summary of Accounts – March 2018
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – March 22, 2018
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes (Draft) – March 22, 2018
- Audit Committee Minutes (Draft) – March 27, 2018
- Compensatory Education Committee Minutes (Draft) – March 29, 2018

The following Bylaw was approved:

- Bylaw 35 Use of Board Resources During an Election Campaign