



AGENDA

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) Roll Call
 - (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
 - (c) In Camera Session (6:30 p.m.)
 - (i) Personnel Matters
 - (ii) Legal Matters
 - (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - (e) In Camera Report
- B - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**
- * (a) School Re-Opening Plans Progress Report J. Roberto
 - * (b) Return to In Person Board Meeting Plan & Protocols J. Roberto
 - * (c) Revised School Year Calendars 2020-21 W. Baker
 - (d) Discussion with local MPPs regarding Capital Priorities Funding R. Collver
- C - 1 **New Business**
- * (a) 2020-21 Board Budget Approval R. Wyszynski
- D - 1 **Adjournment**



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Trustees of the Grand District School Board
FROM: JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education & Secretary
RE: **School Re-Opening Working Plans**
DATE: August 17, 2020

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the School Re-Opening Working Plans as information.

Background

On July 28th, a School Re-Opening Progress Report was presented for information to the Board of Trustees. At the time, the plan highlighted three possible models:

- Normal school day routine with enhanced public health protocols
- Modified school day routine based on smaller class sizes, cohorting and an alternative day or week delivery, and
- At-home learning with ongoing enhanced remote delivery

Following the presentation, senior team participated in a meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister Yael Ginsler and her team to review the models for re-opening.

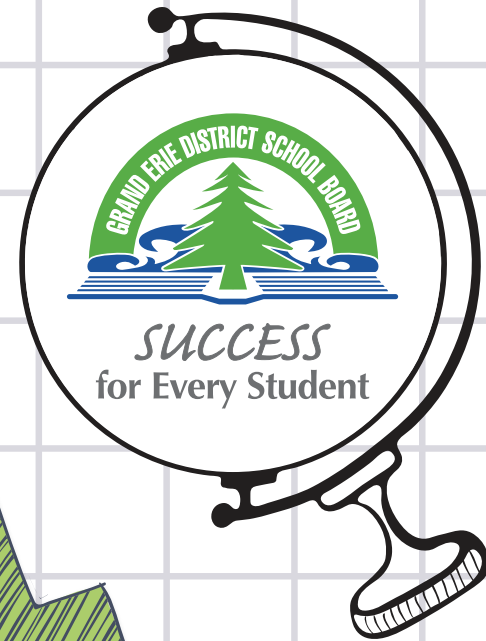
On July 30th the provincial government announced their return to school plans for students in September. The plan outlined the reopening of elementary schools and allowing most secondary schools in low risk communities to reopen five days a week as well as providing families with choice for in-class or online learning.

The updated PowerPoint slides include important information for students, staff and families in the following areas: learning models for elementary and secondary students, a focus and priority on health and safety, special education, technology, transportation and registration information. This PowerPoint is a living document with provincial updates and public health guidelines, our plan will continue to evolve, and additional information will be shared.

We recognize this year will look different and to support our families in transitioning their students back to school, an online FAQ is available on our website and it will continue to be revised to reflect parent/guardian, staff and community questions and concerns. In the coming weeks a guide will be developed based on our PowerPoint and shared with staff, and parents/guardians to help support them in the back to school process. Senior staff will continue to liaise with local unions leaders, the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Student Transportations Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk, local Medical Officers of Health and community partners as we move forward together to ensure a safe return to school.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto
Director of Education & Secretary



Return to School - Working Plans

AUGUST 2020



Elementary Conventional Learning Model

Kindergarten – Grade 8

› Option 1 - Full-Day Return

- › Students will return to a full day conventional model (Inclusive of French Immersion and Special Education)
- › 5 days a week/300 minutes of instruction per day
- › The full range of elementary curriculum will be provided, including the new Grades 1 - 8 Mathematics curriculum
- › Students will be cohorted with their classmates
- › Cohort movement will be limited and subject specific teachers for classes such as Core French, the arts and physical education will deliver programs to cohorts in classrooms



Elementary Remote Learning Model

Kindergarten – Grade 8

› Option 2 - Learn from Home

- › Parents/Guardians can opt out of Full-Day Return Option 1 to have their child(ren) learn from home (Option 2)
- › Learn from Home will be offered 5 days a week
- › Students will be enrolled in a virtual Grand Erie School
- › Teachers will deliver grade specific online learning that will include a focus on curriculum, assessment and evaluation with specific synchronous and a-synchronous time



Elementary Remote Learning Model

Kindergarten – Grade 8

› Option 2 - Learn from Home

- › Elementary Balanced School Day Timetable /300 minutes of synchronous and a-synchronous instruction
- › Large group, small group and individual supports
- › Daily attendance will be taken
- › Homeroom teacher will be assigned with rotary staff

Block 1 – 9:00 – 10:40 (100 minutes)

Break – 10:40 – 11:20 (40 minutes)

Block 2 – 11:20 – 1:00 (100 minutes)

Break – 1:00 – 1:40 (40 minutes)

Block 3 – 1:40 – 3:20 (100 minutes)





Online to Conventional Learning Timelines

Kindergarten – Grade 8

› Elementary Registration Opportunities

Parents/Guardians can transition in and out of Remote to Full-Day Return

- › Tuesday, October 13, 2020
- › Monday, January 4, 2021
- › Monday, March 22, 2021





Secondary Conventional Learning Model

› Option 1 – Full Day Return › Quadmester Model

School Timetable

Quad 1: Period 1 and 2 classes (5 days/week) – Sample schedule:

- › Period 1A 9:00 – 10:10
- › **Break 10:10 -10:20**
- › Period 1B 10:20- 11:30
- › **Lunch 11:30 -12:30**
- › Period 2A 12:30 – 1:40
- › **Break 1:40 - 1:50**
- › Period 2B 1:50-3:00

Students with spares – can access the cafeteria/library – following physical distancing/health and safety protocol, with supervision



Secondary Conventional Learning Model

› Option 1 – Full Day Return › Quadmester Model

Quadmester Dates/Schedule

- › Quad 1 – September 1- November 11 (49 days)
- › Quad 2 – November 12- February 1 (48 days)
- › Quad 3 – February 2- April 20 (48 days)
- › Quad 4 – April 21 – June 29 (49 days)

NOTE: Secondary Report Card Timelines for 2020-21 will need to be revised as well as calendars in PowerSchool will need to be updated accordingly



Secondary Remote Learning Model

› Option 2 – Online Learning from Home

Quadmester Dates/Schedule

- › Parents/Guardians can opt out of Full-Day Return, Option 1, and students will learn online from home, Option 2
- › Online learning will be offered 5 days a week
- › Students will be enrolled in a virtual Grand Erie School
- › Attendance done daily based upon online student contact
- › Students require devices and internet
- › Teachers will deliver specific online learning that will include a focus on curriculum, assessment and evaluation with specific synchronous and asynchronous time



Secondary Registration Process

› August Registration

- › The process will begin with a survey of parents/guardians and adult students
- › Schools will follow up with families who have not responded to the online survey when school administrative staff return to schools in late August



Online to Conventional Learning Timelines

› Secondary Registration Opportunities

- › Students attending the same school as last year do not need to re-register
- › Registration has been advertised through a multi-faceted campaign since the end of June - August 13 was the deadline registration to guarantee students will begin school on September 8 due to the extra planning required by board and school teams this year
- › Parents/guardians must inform the board two weeks, in advance, if their child(ren) are switching between mode of choice for online or in-person learning:

Quadmester Start Date

Notification to Switch Delivery Mode

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| › Sept. 1, 2020 | › Aug. 23, 2020 |
| › Nov. 12, 2020 | › Oct. 29, 2020 |
| › Feb. 2, 2021 | › Jan. 19, 2021 |
| › Apr. 21, 2021 | › April 7, 2021 |
- › Switching is not permitted during the quadmester



Special Education

IPRCs and IEPs

- › Meeting for IPRCs, IEP consults, parent meetings and consultations with itinerant staff will continue to occur virtually in place of face to face meetings at school
- › IEPs will be reviewed and revised where appropriate to reflect the changes in learning environment

Resource Team Meetings/Case Conferences/Partners

- › Resource Team meetings and Case Conferences will continue to occur virtually in place of face-to-face meetings at school
- › We will continue to work closely with our Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) partners to plan for the provision of nursing to support the safe return to school for students who need nursing support.



Supporting the Mental Health and Well-being of Students and Staff

Using a tiered approach to achieve a mentally healthy return to school ensures planning occurs for students, families and staff across a continuum of needs

- › TIER 1 (For ALL - Universal Supports) - all students and staff will need a chance to debrief, to build relationships, to feel a sense of belonging, and to re-engage with school life
- › TIER 2 (For SOME - Additional Supports for those more impacted by COVID-19) - Some students, families and staff will need an extra chance to settle in and to re-establish school relationship
- › TIER 3 (For FEW - Specialized Supports for those with significant needs and who have been the most vulnerable or affected by the COVID-19 crisis) – Service pathways will need to be available for those requiring more intensive mental health support during the transition back to school



Technology

› Online Learning Supports

- › Students will require devices and/or internet to participate in online learning
- › An online application is being used to efficiently survey families and provide school-level data so tech needs can be readily assessed and quickly addressed through school administration in collaboration with Information Technology Systems
- › Digital tools that will enhance the learning will be considered during planning (Microsoft teams; use of document cameras; teleconferences, etc.)
- › Training/resources will continue to be made available to support synchronous and asynchronous learning using technology for students and parents/guardians



Technology

› Online Learning Supports

- › Program content will be delivered through the Brightspace platform with synchronous learning facilitation through Brightspace or Microsoft Teams
- › Intervention or enhancement software programs such as Lexia, Knowledgehook/Zorbits, myBlueprint, and Britannica will be considered as part of program planning and supports



Technology

› Device Deployment

- › Returning students who already received laptops prior to June 2020 have maintained laptops for the fall
- › Deployment of laptops will be required for students new to Grand Erie or those with emerging needs
- › Leased iPads were collected during the summer, except for students needing connectivity for summer learning. These devices will quickly be redeployed in September, as required by those students who have opted for online learning and require connectivity
- › Android devices were maintained by on-Reserve students who required connectivity. Devices for students participating in online learning will be reactivated on September 1, 2020



Transportation

› Transportation Overview

Buses will:

- › Include PPE for school bus drivers and monitors
- › Require students in grades 4-12 to wear a face covering while on the bus and when transferring between vehicles
- › Have enhanced disinfecting processes in place daily
- › Have seating plans in place to assist with contact tracing by Public Health Units
- › Have sanitizer in place to assist with clean hand hygiene practices





Child Care

› Child Care including Before and After Care

Collaboration continues with CMSMs (Consolidated Municipal Service Managers), Childcare Operators, Authorized Recreation Providers, and, our coterminous board to determine an approach to operate:

- › Before and After School programming for children and families, where there is sufficient demand and/or viability
- › School Age Programs during Professional Activity Days and holidays
- › Ministry of Education announced revised Operational Guidelines for licensed Child Care operators to support the safe reopening of programs across the province. Updates have also been made to the Before and After School Kindergarten to Grade 6 Policies and Guideline to provide COVID-19-related operational guidance



Health and Safety

› Student Safety Protocols for Full-Day Return

- › JK to Grade 3 – Masks are not required but are encouraged
- › Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks/face coverings indoors, including in hallways and in classrooms
- › Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available
- › Outdoor times can be opportunities to provide student breaks from wearing masks within their cohorts in designated play areas
- › Masks may be removed during break periods provided physical distancing is maintained
- › The Ministry of Education will allow exemptions for students who have health conditions that preclude them from wearing a mask. Requests for exemption can be completed through the school principal and documentation will be required



Health and Safety

› Student Safety Protocols for Full-Day Return

Elementary

- › Use of common spaces should be restricted as much as possible – library, gymnasium
- › Physical Education – hold classes outdoors as often as possible
- › Student Personal Belongings - minimize the number of personal belongings (e.g., backpack, clothing, sunscreen, etc.) and, if brought, asking that belongings be labeled and kept in the child's designated area
- › Classroom sizes vary across the district, schools will remove unnecessary furniture and will be setting up desks with as much distancing as possible, and to allow teachers as much teaching space as possible



Health and Safety

› Student Safety Protocols for Full-Day Return

Secondary

- › Bell times – regular scheduled times
- › Lunch – alternative times or locations
- › No sharing of food/beverages
- › Bathroom – pass required and logged in classroom
- › Library/Cafeteria – during instructional time may be used for students with spares
- › Use of common spaces – will be restricted as much as possible with directional arrow markings
- › Lockers will not be used





Health and Safety

› Additional Safety Protocols for Full-Day Return

- › All staff will be required to wear masks and eye protection where required
- › Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for classroom teachers and educational assistants will be available where required
- › Visitor access is at the discretion of Principal or designate. All visitor access must be logged and documented
- › Hand sanitizers will be made available in all classrooms and designated areas of the school including the entrance(s) of the building



Health and Safety

› Health and Safety Protocols

Enhanced Cleaning Procedures

- › All Board buildings will be cleaned daily following the regular custodial cleaning schedules

During the school day, the following items will be disinfected twice daily

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| › Office Desks | › Cafeteria Tables | › Handrails |
| › Tables In Common Area | › Door Handles | › Photocopiers |
| › Office Reception Areas | › Elevators | › Handicap Access Points |
| › Washrooms | › Water Fountains | › Touchscreens |
| | › Filling Stations | › Push Buttons |
| | › Light Switches | |



Health and Safety

› Health and Safety Protocols

Personal Protective Equipment

- › Medical Mask Level 1
- › Disposable Gloves
- › Disposable Gowns
- › Face Shields & Eye Protection
- › Isolation Kits

Cleaning Supplies

- › Hand Sanitizers
- › Bathroom Soap
- › Disinfectant Spray

PPE protocol has been created and shared with local Public Health Units



Health and Safety

› Signage and Physical Distancing

- › Signage for Covid-19 Reminders, Physical Distancing, Hand Hygiene, Symptom Awareness, Mask requirements, etc.
- › Entry/Exit Protocol will be in place
- › Demarcation internal and/or external as required for pick-up and drop off
- › Signage will be posted for traffic flow and reminders on physical distancing
- › Where hallways or stairwells are not wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic then one-way signs will be posted

Items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected regularly have been removed including area rugs, upholstered furniture, and soft toys



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board
FROM: JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education & Secretary
RE: **Return to In Person Board Meeting Plan & Protocol**
DATE: August 17, 2020

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the In-Person Board Meeting Plan as information.

Background

As the Province has directed school boards to have all out students back in full time as of September 8, 2020, it is an appropriate time to return to in person Board Meetings once again. This will begin on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Additional Information

The Brant Medical Officer of Health was contacted and provided the following guidance:

- Up to 50 people in the Board room as long as all are masked, and social distancing occurs
- Board room is cleaned before and after the meeting

Understanding that some individuals may not be comfortable returning to in person board meetings, MS Teams will be continued to be used for virtual participation. Trustees will need to provide attendance intentions to Chair prior to the meeting.

Attached is the Board Meeting Protocol. All members will be required to review and understand the protocol.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto
Director of Education & Secretary

Board Meeting Protocol

1. Board Room Layout

- 24 participants (11 Trustees, 3 Student Trustees, 8 Sr. Admin, 1 Recording Secretary, 1 Communication Manager)
- Table does not allow for 2m physical distancing



2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The following PPE will be required to be worn during the meeting for droplet precautions
 - Medical Mask level 1
 - Eye Protection (face shield or safety glasses)
- PPE will be provided for all personnel in attendance
- Physical Distancing is required in order to remove PPE (mask)

3. Technology

- Each in room attendee connects to MS Team via their devices at their spot
- Each member will be provided personal headset with mic – will allow for multiple user participation via MS Teams in the Board Room to reduce feedback and improve sound quality for those listening remotely
- Members in attendance, have the option to use video and/or audio throughout the Board meeting

4. Audience – Public Attendance

- Will not be allowed at this time
- Meeting will be streamed via YouTube Live until the COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols have been completely lifted

5. Delegations

- Delegation will occur via MS Teams – video/audio is preferred but audio only is sufficient

6. Responsibility

- Members attending in person, will be required to follow the Protocol for Access to Admin Buildings (*to be provided*)
- Due to Health and Safety Protocols, paper copies of the board package will not be distributed. Members bringing their own copies are responsible for removing/shredding following the meeting.



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Joanna Roberto, Director of Education & Secretary
FROM: Wayne Baker, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Revised School Year Calendars 2020-21**
DATE: August 17, 2020

Recommended Action:

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive as information the report "Revised School Year Calendars 2020-21".

Background

On July 8, 2020, Trustees received as information revised 2020-21 school year calendars, with a new school start date of September 1 and three Professional Activity days prior to students arriving on September 8.

Additional Information

On July 31, Grand Erie staff learned of the Ministry's preference for a quadmester secondary model. On August 12, Grand Erie staff received a Ministry memo that provided additional direction on the three Professional Activity days prior to the arrival of students. As a result of Executive Council discussion, this information is included in the attached revised school year calendars.

Next Steps

Upon receipt by the Trustees, the revised School Year Calendars will be shared with all stakeholder groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Baker
Superintendent of Education



2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

ELEMENTARY

	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week				
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
September		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
		P	P	P	B	H	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2		
October				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
				3	4	5	1	2	3	4	H	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3
November	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				
	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	P	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3				
December		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
		4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	B	B	B	B	H	H	B	B	B	
January					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
					H	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	P	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1
February	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	H	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5					
March	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	B	B	B	B	B	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3		
April				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
				4	H	H	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3
May	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	H	4	5	1	2	3				
June		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
		4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	P	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	P	B		

The 2020-21 School Year Calendar provides a total of 187 Instructional and 7 Professional Development Days.



School Holiday



Professional Activity Day



Board Designated Holiday

- Sept. 1/20 • Re-opening protocols, mental health and wellbeing, remote and online learning strategies and tools, bullying prevention and equity and an introduction to the new elementary math curriculum and fundamental math concepts/skills
- Sept. 2/20
- Sept. 3/20

- Nov.13/20 • Student Assessment & Reporting - Parent Interviews
- Jan. 18/21 • Student Assessment & Reporting - Report Cards
- June 11/21 • Student Assessment & Reporting - Report Cards
- June 29/21 • School Achievement Reflection and Planning

SUCCESS for Every Student



2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

SECONDARY

	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week				
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
September		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
		P	P	P	B	H																			
October				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
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November	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				
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December		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
																B	B	B	B	H	H	B	B	B	
January					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
					H																		E	E	E
February	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
	P	P									H														
March	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
											B	B	B	B	B										
April				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
					H	H										E	E								
May	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
																H									
June		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
																			E	E	E	P	B		

The 2020-21 School Year Calendar provided a total of 187 Instructional and 7 Professional Development Days.

H School Holiday

E Examination Day

P Professional Activity Day

B Board Designated Holiday

- Sept. 1/20 • Re-opening protocols, mental health and wellbeing, remote and
- Sept. 2/20 • online learning strategies and tools, bullying prevention and
- Sept. 3/20 • equity and an introduction to the new elementary math curriculum and fundamental math concepts/skills

- Nov. 13/20 • Improving Student Achievement: Focus on Math
- Feb. 1/21 • Reporting and Program Planning
- Feb. 2/21 • Reporting and Program Planning
- June 29/21 • School Achievement Reflection and Planning

SUCCESS for Every Student



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education & Secretary
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **2020-21 Budget Approval**
DATE: August 17, 2020

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2020-21 Operating Budget of \$333,662,210.

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2020-21 Capital Budget of \$30,908,899.

Background

The 2020-21 Operating and Capital Budgets have been developed as set out in Board Policy F2 – Budget Development Process, in consultation with program and service area staff and in consideration of budget priorities provided by the Board, the Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan and alignment to the Ministry of Education's Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The budgets will be submitted to the Ministry as required by regulation on or before the submission deadline of August 19, 2020 pending Board approval.

Additional Information

The preparation of the 2020-21 budget faced a number of unprecedented challenges and delays as the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the postponement of the Ministry's announcement of the GSN. Typically, school boards receive the GSN announcement in early April, but this year's announcement was delayed until the middle of June, which resulted in a rescheduled budget submission date to the Ministry.

Education funding for the province through the GSN for 2020–21 is projected to be \$25.52 billion. The average provincial per-pupil funding is projected to be \$12,525 in 2020–21, which is an increase of \$250 or 2.0% from 2019–20. The GSN announcement assured school boards that disruption to funding formulae would be minimal and that investments would be made to support school boards in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak and to address the unique learning needs of students, including a new *Supports for Students Fund* (SSF).

Operating Budget Highlights:

- The total Operating Budget for the 2020-21 school year is \$333,662,210 and has increased \$11,990,112 or 3.73% from the 2019-20 budget of \$321,672,098.
- Total projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) for the Board for 2020-21 is anticipated to be approximately 25,747; a decrease of 85 from the 2019-20 estimated enrolment of 25,832. The chart below illustrates the enrolment changes by panel (ADE refers to Average Daily Enrolment):

	2019-20	2020-21		
Summary of Enrolment	Estimates	Estimates	Change	Change (%)
Elementary ADE	17,995	18,203	208	1.16%
Secondary ADE	7,837	7,544	-293	-3.74%
Total ADE	25,832	25,747	-85	-0.03%

- The Ministry's 2020-21 GSN and complementary Partnerships and Priorities Funds (PPF) have introduced a number of new initiatives and targeted funding that will focus on the Covid-19 pandemic and supporting students. The following summarizes the list of significant changes to the development of the Board's 2020-21 Budget:
 - Response to the Covid-19 Outbreak
 - \$640,000 to support the hiring of additional custodial staff
 - \$122,000 for health and safety training that is extended to all employees of the board, occasional and permanent.
 - \$132,000 for Special Education to address local needs including additional staffing resources, specific evidence-based programs or interventions, additional learning resources such as assistive technology, and for professional assessments.
 - \$270,000 investments in Mental Health and Well-Being to support the expected higher mental health needs of students.
 - \$186,000 investment in technology to support students who were unable to access technology during the 2019-20 school year to have greater access for 2020-21.
 - \$51,000 to support enhanced cleaning in schools and on school buses
 - Other funding has also been announced, but amounts have not yet been allocated to School Boards. These investments include:
 - Funding and procurement support for critical supplies such as masks and Personal Protective Equipment for staff and students
 - Funding for cleaning supplies to support the costs of enhanced cleaning required to clean schools and buses in an effort to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission in schools
 - Funding for student transportation to support enhancements to cleaning protocols on buses.
 - Funding is also available, where needed, to support the hiring of additional teachers.
 - Compensation
 - The Ministry will provide a one per cent salary benchmark increase for staff, where negotiated collective agreements have been provincially ratified, for 2020-21.
 - Class Size Averages
 - No changes to elementary class sizes
 - For grades 9-12, the funded average class size will be reduced from 28 to 23. This will eliminate Grand Erie's reliance on Attrition Protection funding for the 2020-21 school year.

- Targeted New Investments
 - Similar to the Local Priorities Funding, which was discontinued after the 2018-19 school year, the Ministry has announced the new Support for Students Fund. This will provide flexible funding for school boards to support the learning needs of students, which may include special education, mental health and well-being, language instruction, Indigenous education and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programming. Grand Erie's SSF allocation will total \$2.9 million for 2020-21 and Senior Administration is working in collaboration with union groups to develop spending plans that will align with the aforementioned needs.
- The Ministry has also provided for the following:
 - The School Operations Allocation will receive a 2 per cent cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the allocation to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs)
 - The ministry has increased the supply teacher benchmarks by the equivalent of one additional day to recognize school boards' experience with sick leave usage.
 - Continuation of Rural and Northern Education Funding
- Other PPFs, which typically complement the GSN, target programs to support and protect specific Ministry initiatives. The 2019-20 Budget did not include any PPF revenue as the announcements were not made until well into the school year. However, the 2020-21 budget announcement revealed that Grand Erie would receive four PPF allocations totaling approximately \$1,000,000. The following PPFs have been allocated to Grand Erie:
 - After Schools Skills Development Programs \$80,700
 - Math Strategy \$890,000
 - Parents Reaching Our Grants \$16,000
 - Well-Being and Mental Health \$39,600
 - There were other PPFs that were announced; however, they have not yet been allocated to school boards. These will be announced at a later date.

Although the GSN funding mentioned above was generally consistent with prior year, there are a number of uncertainties regarding the Covid-19 pandemic that are difficult to predict. In the 2019-20 school year, the environment in which students learned and staff worked shifted dramatically to a virtually-focused environment which forced staff and students to adapt. As a result, operating budgets were developed cautiously so that department expenditure plans had flexibility in the event that Boards are required to shift between teaching models. Senior Administration has also allocated significant resources from the 2019-20 budget to devote to health and safety enhancements and supplies that will be required for reopening in September 2020.

Senior Administration is pleased to present an Operating Budget to Trustees that is balanced without the use of reserves and is compliant with all legislation regarding class size ratios, enveloped spending restrictions (Special Education and Board Administration), and supports many of the initiatives in the Board's Multi Year Plan and the Learning Plan Leveraging Digital. Although enrolment continues to decline slightly for Grand Erie, various spending levels were left untouched so that support for students would remain at similar resource allocation levels. Some of the highlights of the 2020-21 Grand Erie District School Board Operating Budget include:

- Grand Erie continues to invest in the classroom to support Student Achievement, as evidenced by an anticipated increase to the Elementary teaching panel by 22 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions.
 - The addition of an Experiential Learning Leader to provide effective experiential learning opportunities to help students engage in education and career/life planning through exposure to a variety of careers and pathways
 - An increase to the compliment of Designated Early Childhood Educators by 8 FTE
 - Conversion of 2 FTE Educational Assistants into 2 FTE Lead Educational Assistants to better serve our schools in the Special Education environment
 - Other investments that support the Achievement indicator in the Multi-Year Plan are:
 - Increase of \$80,000 to school budgets to help support local school expenditures.
 - Increase of approximately 1 FTE elementary clerical positions.
 - No reductions to secondary clerical positions; even though funding was reduced significantly.
 - Investment of an additional \$33,000 in an enrolment retention program designed to keep students on our enrolment registers and in our schools. This brings the total investment for this program up to \$53,000.
 - Investment of \$65,000 to enhance focus on literacy intervention.
 - \$63,000 in new funding to support implementation and training for educators and system leaders as new curriculum, including Indigenous-focused curriculum, and assessment policies are released.
 - Technology investments continue to play an important part in the propensity of staff and students to succeed by utilizing digital platforms and upgraded devices; these investments for 2020-21 include:
 - \$432,000 to continue the Board's long-term computer purchase plan to refresh technology for staff and students more frequently. Grand Erie is anticipating to receive approximately 2,800 new devices in the 2020-21 school year to support technology needs.
 - \$1,000,000 in an effort to complete the Broadband Modernization Program to enhance internet access to rural areas.
 - \$278,000 in continued support for the growth of the long term information technology reserve
 - Student transportation will see the largest investment from within the 2020-21 operating budget. The existing contract is set to expire on August 31, 2020 and Grand Erie will be entering into a new, 10 year agreement with transportation providers who will deliver home-to-school services for students. The additional \$1.9 million investment is the end result of an extremely organized and modern competitive procurement process. Grand Erie has benefited from its current contract which included below-market rates; as a result, the majority of the increase is due to a return to market-level minimum wage and capital infrastructure costs. However, the investments also include some additional features that will improve the level of service delivered by Student Transportation Service of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN). These technology investments include:
 - GPS on 100% of the bus fleet
 - Camera systems (internal and external) on 15% of the bus fleet
 - Roof-mounted strobe lights mounted on 100% of bus fleet
- It should be noted that although expenditures increased \$1.9 million in transportation, funding stayed the same. This is a fundamental problem with transportation funding formula as costs are not supported with new funding; unless consortiums are in a deficit. Grand Erie's 2019-20 transportation costs are lower than revenues, so the Board is not eligible for grant

increases outside of enrolment gains. The Ministry has undertaken a thorough review of the transportation allocation, so Boards are not faced with such significant challenges.

Capital Budget Highlights:

- Capital
 - School Condition Improvement (SCI): \$1.4 billion in funding provincially will allow the Board to revitalize and renew aged building components that have exceeded or will exceed their useful life.
 - School Renewal Allocation (SRA): \$375 million provincially in capital funding will address the renewal needs of their schools and undertake capital improvements to older buildings.
 - There are no new capital priorities projects expected to commence as the three submissions made to the Ministry in September 2019 were not successful in this round of funding.

The total capital budget for 2020-21 is expected to be \$30,908,899; the details are identified below:

- **Capital Priorities** **\$3.6 million**
 - Elgin Avenue Public School
- **Child Care Capital** **\$2.6 million**
 - Elgin Avenue Public School
 - Central Public School
- **Child and Family Program Capital** **\$0.5 million**
 - Elgin Avenue Public School
- **School Condition Improvement** **\$19.5 million**
 - Learning Commons Conversions
 - Security System Upgrades
 - Asbestos Removal
 - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
 - Masonry
 - Paving
 - Roofing
 - Window and Door Upgrades
 - Electrical Systems
 - Elgin Ave Public School Renovations
 - Pride of Place
 - Classroom Modernization Program (NEW)
- **School Renewal** **\$2.1 million**
 - Community Partnership & Incentive Program
 - Pride of Place
 - Interior Finishes
 - Gym Curtains
 - Accessibility Upgrades

- **Minor Tangible Capital Assets** **\$2.6 million**
 - Technology Purchases
 - Facilities Equipment
 - Furniture Replacement
 - Vehicles

Outlook

The 2019-20 fiscal year has definitely been an interesting year. While job-action and Covid-19 dictated the efforts of staff creating new challenges, there was great financial news to share. In July 2020, the Ministry acknowledged the excellent financial progress made by Grand Erie by confirming it had successfully met the criteria established in a Ministry-imposed Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP). The MYFRP required the Board's accumulated surplus to reach \$3.1 million by August 2019. This has confirmed that the fiscal restraints, strong budgeting and frequent monitoring the Board has put into place are working well. Senior Administration, along with all staff, will continue to employ tough financial approaches for the upcoming school year, especially when there are many operational challenges ahead.

The upcoming 2020-2021 school year will undoubtedly be a challenging one. Although there remains a great deal of uncertainty on what the impact Covid-19 will have on our sector, the budget is built with some flexibility to reduce, defer or shift department budgets into spending that will support health and safety, PPE, cleaning, physical distancing and technology. Senior administration has developed this budget with certain assumptions regarding reopening Grand Erie schools and as with any plan, risks are inherent, and staff remain optimistic that these risks will not have a significant disruption to the carefully laid out plans being proposed to Trustees.

Notwithstanding, staff absenteeism (and associated staff replacement costs), adequate supervision requirements, cleaning and sanitization requirements, PPE and masks procurement, physical barrier enhancements, heightened awareness of potentially volatile enrolment patterns, staff and student anxiety and fluctuating utility pricing are all realistic risks that could have a significant impact on the budget. If the costs of ensuring health and safety standards are met or exceeded during the school year become difficult to control, Ministry involvement will be critical in ensuring the proposed budget being presented today stays on track throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Given the assumptions, inherent risks and alignment to the Multi-Year Plan, Senior Administration is confident in recommending both the Operating and Capital budgets for approval as they emphasize not only Grand Erie's goal for *Success for Every Student* but they reflect a new reality; an environment where Covid-19 pandemic affects every facet of education.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports all indicators of *Success for Every Student*.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer