



---

## MINUTES

**Present:** Board Chair G. Anderson, Board Vice-Chair R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, S. Gibson, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. Speers, D. Werden, I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee), Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee),

**Administration:** Director - B. Blancher; Superintendents – W. Baker, L. De Vos, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary – L. Howells

**Regrets:**

**Trustees:** C. VanEvery-Albert, A. Hauser (Student Trustee)

**Administration:**

**A - 1 Opening**

**(a) Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 6:01 p.m.

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

Nil

**(c) In Camera Session**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel matter at 6:02 p.m.

**Carried**

**(d) Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 6:15 p.m.

**(e) In Camera Report**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve A-1-a.

**Carried**

**B - 1 New Business**

**(a) School Re-opening Plans Progress**

B. Blancher referred to the School Re-opening Plans Progress Report and provided a high-level overview on background and stated:

- The Sr. Administration team began work on the plans prior to the end of June for the three models
- the models have been shared with our local union leaders for review and feedback



- have connected with our coterminous board to ensure alignment for transportation
- models were shared with both of our local Medical Officers of Health
- on July 31<sup>st</sup> Sr. Administration will participate in a meeting with one of the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Education to review the models.

B. Blancher stated that she wanted to remind everyone this is a progress report on our plans, there will likely need to be further refinement based on both the Minister of Education's announcement later this week and on the meeting we are having with the Ministry team on Friday afternoon. Nothing that we are sharing tonight is a done a deal, once we have further direction and necessary refinements to our plans, we will be sharing them with the Grand Erie community.

B. Blancher displayed the PowerPoint slides and asked the Superintendents to walk through the slides to provide an overview of the progress to date and considerations for the 3 models:

- Model A – Remote Learning – will replicate the school day as much as possible
- Model B – Adapted/Hybrid Delivery – Modified School Day Cohorts
- Model C – Conventional Delivery with Enhanced Health and Safety
  - L. De Vos reviewed the Elementary School Plans. L. De Vos stated that what is being presented tonight is the best thinking as of last week. L. De Vos stated that the Model A schedule presented tonight is a Sample Only as evolved as it will be shifting to a full day to replicate what we currently have – the student conferencing, professional learning and staff collaboration will be within the day. L. De Vos stated synchronous learning must occur every day, we will set out the exact number of minutes and these will be closely monitored. L. De Vos stated in Model B we will require adaptations to the school environment and will develop protocols for classroom materials
    - C. Speers asked on the Model C there shows 20 minutes at home for learning, is that due to the workload for the teachers? L. De Vos responded it is a full day learning, a minimum 20 minutes of the learning would be synchronous – they would see the teacher and classroom
    - C.A. Sloat asked on Model B & C if those are full day? L. De Vos responded that all 3 models will reflect a full day. C.A. Sloat commented that there are concerns from many boards and others about the cohorts going from school to daycare, there would be more contact points, so the full day schedule is a better model.
    - R. Collver asked about the 15 in the class and if the room is larger and does allow for 2-meter social distance, are we able to support that with more students. L. De Vos responded that yes, when we are looking at the classes that may have more than 30 students, if we have a bigger room and could spread students out, then we could accommodate larger cohorts. R. Collver further asked are we also utilizing common areas like the gyms, libraries,



multi-purpose rooms? L. De Vos responded we are, minimally. R. Wyszynski added that he supports L. De Vos's comments, the 15 students were based on a 750-800 sq. ft. room size and if the room was larger, we could accommodate more students

- J. Richardson asked for clarification in Model B does Cohort A attend week 2 Monday & Tuesday or Thursday, Friday? L. De Vos responded Cohort A will attend every Monday & Tuesday and alternating Wednesdays.
- D. Martins reviewed the Secondary School Plans and stated Secondary is also a full day schedule for each model. D. Martins noted in Model A we continue to work around collective agreements with instructional and prep time and, if approved, the teachers will delivery remote learning from the school site. D. Martins noted in Secondary we are requiring a minimum of 3 – 45 minutes of synchronous sessions per week. D. Martins noted in Model B there are two options for Secondary, option 1: regular period schedule – 4 classes/day and option 2: 2 periods per day (1-2 times/week). In Model C, there would be a regular period schedule but there are some operational considerations that need to be implemented in Secondary – cleaning and travel time between classrooms, the entry/exit points, lunch locations etc.
  - C. Speers asked about attendance and how families call in daily if their child is not attending and there is very tight window usually, have we looked at that in terms of safety and how students will be accounted for as quickly as possible? D. Martins responded it is done by periods/classes in Secondary and Superintendent Baker can speak to safe arrival for Elementary. W. Baker responded that in elementary we have an obligation to make sure schools contact all parents within 1 hour of the start of school time to account for all our students.
  - Z. Garbaty asked about the synchronous learning and noted he is happy to hear there will be a minimum, is that a minimum per class? D. Martins responded it is 3 sessions per course per week. Z. Garbaty further asked about the cleaning in school it was mentioned twice a day on high touch services, wondering for desks when it comes to Secondary students moving in and out of classes, are we cleaning each desk every time a new group of students comes into the room to elevate cleaning on the touch points. D. Martins responded it will be difficult for custodians to go into every class room twice a day to clean every desk or chair, what we are looking at in both the conventional and adaptative model is that Secondary students and staff when they enter a room, would be asked to wipe down their desk and chair in a safe manner.
  - S. Gibson commented that she appreciates all the work and understands this a work in progress and noted her questions are around health and safety. S.



Gibson asked about the screening when students come into school and what is going to happen – are parents completing a screening in the morning or will it occur before students walk in the school door? Also, the potential for masking now that the municipalities have changed their rules and asked in relation to bathrooms, she understands that some don't have paper towel dispensers and may have blowers and wonders about thoughts to looking at that? D. Martins deferred to R. Wyszynski as these are operational issues. R. Wyszynski responded that for screening and masking, we are awaiting provincial instructions on what that is going to look like, when we look at childcare screening is occurring before a child is dropped off daily. For the masking, we again are waiting for a directive from the Ministry for both students and staff. R. Wyszynski added with respect to the paper towel issue he will need to take that back to the team, but we will balance the Public Health recommendations for bathroom requirements.

- G. Anderson stated as reminder to everyone and those viewing online, that we have to realize that we are awaiting provincial direction and that is expected this Thursday, we as a school board do not ultimately make all the decisions and there is hope that there will be some clear direction from the Minister.
- R. Collver agreed with G. Anderson's comment and added that we need to remember we are listening to a progress report; this is staff's best thinking right now under limited guidance from the Ministry and we need to remember that as we continue viewing these slides.
- L. Thompson reviewed the Consideration for Students with Special Education Needs and Mental Health and Well-Being slides. L. Thompson stated that Mental Health and Well-Being will be a key area of focus immediately upon return whether it is Model A, B or C.
- L. De Vos reviewed the Child Care slides including Before and After Care
  - C. Speers stated in the County of Brant the municipality has not put forth a Before and After School Program Joint Partnership with Grand Erie as they are waiting for the Minister of Education and asked for further information/details on this? L. De Vos responded that if we were in a conventional model, then the Before and After would pick up, however if we are in an adaptive model – cohorts, our childcare partners need to look at the programs to see to if they are viable and beyond our own protocol, they have their protocols and there is some concern regarding mixed cohorting (e.g. Students from Grade 1 to Grade 6 in shared care program), we are still waiting for direction.
- L. Munro reviewed the Technology slides which consisted of current status and the plan for remote learning.



- C.A. Sloat asked about the accelerated purchasing of new computers from Compugen as the budget has not been approved and is concerned about timeline and what is Compugen suggesting? L. Munro responded the Compugen lease starts August 17 and we are trying to expedite it. C.A. Sloat shared her concerns about if we can do that and honouring the budget process and said she is sure that will be discussed during the budget meeting later tonight.
- C. Speers asked about Special Ed, do we have any appetite to allow Zoom meetings for occupational/physical therapists that need to consult with the teachers for strategies? L. Munro responded our preferred platform is Microsoft Teams, so if we schedule/implement a meeting we would use the Teams platform, however if an outside provider is using Zoom and they invite us, we can participate, as Zoom has updated their privacy and as long as families are well aware of working in a digital world.
- R. Wyszynski reviewed the Operations slide stating they are similar between the conventional and adaptive model, in terms of increased cleaning standards etc. R. Wyszynski stated some of these increased standards can be done by custodians but there may some that are required to be done by students and teaching staff in the larger schools.
  - C. Speers asked if there will be terminal/major clean at the end of the day? R. Wyszynski responded that the goal of end of day is that any incoming staff/student are coming into a clean facility the next day.
- B. Blancher reviewed the next steps slides and reiterated that this is our best thinking at this time, and we are waiting for guidance around writing an Outbreak Protocol.

Moved by: C. Speers

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the School Re-Opening Plans Progress Report as information.

**Carried**

G. Anderson made a final comment to all and reiterated B. Blancher's comment that we are waiting for the Ministry to make an announcement which hopefully will have some clear directions, expected to come later this week.

R. Collver noted this is off topic but stated at the last Budget meeting we learned, through a letter to the Director from the Ministry of Education that we are now out of the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan and she congratulated R. Wyszynski and his team for bringing this positive outcome. R. Collver also requested a couple of items to be added to the August 17 Special Board Meeting agenda:



**Special Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**  
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

---

- Continuation of Virtual Meetings
- Discussion with our MPPs regarding No Capital Priorities funding received

**C - 1 Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

**Carried**

---

Board Chair, G. Anderson