



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2020

Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: S. Gibson– Committee Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, J. Richardson (via MS Teams), C.A. Sloat, C. Speers (via MS Teams), C. VanEvery-Albert (via MS Teams), D. Werden, A. Burtis (Student Trustee), Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee), I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee) (via MS Teams)

Administration: Director – J. Roberto; Superintendents – W. Baker, L. De Vos (via MS Teams), D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – L. Howells

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, S. Gibson at 6:31 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

C.A. Sloat declared conflict with Open session Agenda item F-1-a.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:31 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, S. Gibson at 7:16 p.m.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Presented as printed. Item D-1-c Contract Award was added.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried



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(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil

B - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health Report**

L. De Vos referred to the Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health Report noting on October 28, 2019 Trustees requested that SO110 Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health be brought for review and the exemption data to this meeting. L. De Vos noted that due COVID-19 Health & Physical Education was not a subject required to be taught from March 16 to June 30, 2020 and no data was collected.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health Report as information.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO110 Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by October 29, 2020.

Carried

(b) **COVID Funding Update**

R. Wyszynski referred to COVID-19 Funding Update report providing high-level overview of the additional funding Grand Erie received as part of the New Investments to Support School Reopening and Sr. Administration's analysis and how Grand Erie will utilize these funds for the intended purpose; to enhance health & safety measures in schools and buildings and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

B. Doyle asked about the shortage of bus drivers and if we were aware of this prior to the school year starting. R. Wyszynski responded that the driver shortage is a province wide issues and the biggest challenge we are dealing with.

R. Collver asked for a brief update with regarding mental health and well-being for students and staff. L. Thompson spoke specifically to the mental health for our students, we have received \$568,625 to go towards staffing or resources for students with special needs and



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mental health concerns. We are going to hire 2.5 full time social workers that will be allocated to our schools along with regular compliment and will also being supporting students in our virtual academy. As well, we will also be able to hire 2 Child & Youth Workers. L. Thompson noted that we are looking at funding more Lexia licenses so that students in our virtual academy can participate and working with Superintendent Baker, we do need to make sure we spend 10% funding on specific resource to support young students JK – Grade 3 that have some self-regulation concerns. S. Sincerbox spoke to the mental health and well-being for staff, noting that we will continue with our involvement with Life Speak.

G. Anderson asked about the additional social workers and Child & Youth Workers will they be divided among schools. L. Thompson responded they will be divided up based on how our staff is currently allocated to school and it will lighten the load for our current staff but will also need to consider our Virtual Academy.

J. Richardson asked if there has been any discussion or thought in investing in outdoor classrooms and are teachers being encouraged to use outdoor space, realizing the window to use is short? D. Martins responded we are encouraging very strongly both elementary and secondary to use outdoor spaces for many different areas to provide that increased physical distancing and a break for both students and staff.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the COVID-19 Funding Update as information.

Carried

C - 1 **Director's Report**

Director's highlights:

- Director Roberto began by recognizing some of our teams
 - Technology e-Learning Teachers (TeLT) and District e-Learning Consultants (DeLC) and the work they are doing behind the scenes to set staff and students up for success in eLearning and online learning courses.
 - Student Success Teams and their responsiveness over the summer supporting many of our students across Grand Erie.
 - English teachers, Indigenous Education and Secondary Program Team for launching the delivery of the Grade 11 NBE (Understanding Contemporary FNMI Voices) course throughout our board this fall.
 - Community partners who have been supportive throughout this process, both Medical Officers at the Brant County Health Unit and Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit. As we continue to navigate through our reopening their unwavering support



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and guidance for our students and staff has been appreciated, we are grateful for all their ongoing communication and their staff support.

- Manager of Communications for her ongoing communication to our communities.
- Superintendent Wyszynski for his role as Grand Erie COVID Lead with the Ministry of Education.
- **Virtual Academy** – We currently have 1255 students in secondary and approximately 3300 in elementary. We currently have 47 secondary teachers and approximately 120 elementary teachers. That may change as we move forward.
- **Nutrition program** - will be up and running and Superintendent Baker is working closely with community partners.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of September 14, 2020 as information.

Carried

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) **Schedule of Pre-Budget Consultation and Budget Review Meetings**

R. Wyszynski referred to the schedule of Pre-Budget Consultation and Budget Review Meetings report which outlines the proposed dates for the 2021-22 Budget cycle.

C.A. Sloat asked we should put a date in June. R. Wyszynski responded we could add June 8, 2021.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board set the dates for Pre-Budget Consultation Meetings as follows:

- 1 Tuesday, February 2, 2021
- 2 Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board set the dates for Budget Review meetings as follows, as amended:

- 1 Tuesday, April 20, 2021
- 2 Monday, May 17, 2021



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3 Thursday, May 27, 2021

4 Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Carried

(b) **School Closure Information**

J. Roberto referred to the School Closure information report noting that direction will come from the Public Health Unit with regards school closures due to an outbreak in a school.

C.A. Sloat asked Director Roberto if we see any other reason that we may have to close schools other than the Ministry of Health and do you feel you need a motion/direction from the Board that you have the ability to close a school that is not Ministry of Health related or in Procedure FT103? Director Roberto responded that Procedure FT103 Temporary Closure of Board Buildings that we can use that framework.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the School Closure Information report as information.

Carried

(c) **Contract Award – Student Laptops**

R. Wyszynski referred to the Purchase of Student Laptops report providing a high-level overview.

C.A. Sloat asked for an update on the chips for the computers that were ordered the end of August and would these additional computers be available and are they impacted by the chip shortage, and what is the timeline to receive them. L. Munro responded that we don't have an updated on the chip issue and it is quite possible that these additional computers will also be on backorder due to the chip issue.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Purchase of 525 Student Laptops from Compugen Inc., in the amount of \$265,125 plus HST.

Carried



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D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) Enrolment Update

R. Wyszynski provided a verbal report stating that we have received Enrolment data from both elementary and secondary panels but has not been cleaned enough to provide a report to Trustees today. R. Wyszynski noted that there has been a lot of movement of students between school, online learning and home schooling.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School receive Enrolment Update verbal report as information.

Carried

(b) Supervised Alternative Learning Annual Report

D. Martins referred to the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) report and reviewed the 2019-20 school year data which consisted of:

- Percentage of Students by Age Profile (age calculated as of December 31, 2019) including ratios males to females
- Number of Students by Activity Group
- Student Enrolment
- Credit Summary
- Cumulative Data Summary Analysis

D. Martins provided a high-level overview of the summary and next steps.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Supervised Alternative Learning Annual Report as information.

Carried

E - 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision Items

(a) Bylaw 8 – Committees of the Board – Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Terms of Reference

D. Martins referred to the Bylaw 8 – Committees of the Board – Indigenous Education Advisory Committee report noting the IEAC Committee has reviewed the Terms of Reference and is recommending amendments.

C. VanEvery-Albert requested on 3.3 that there is has been change in the organization of the Six Nations Council and should read Representative from the Six Nations Elected Council.



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R. Collver requested an addition - 6.5 Respond to any Recommendation from IEAC.

C.A. Sloat referred to sections 3.11 & 4.2 noting that the term Indigenous Lead is not the term we use in the board and would recommend we include both terms.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 8 – Committees of the Board - Amendments to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Terms of Reference, as amended.

Carried

E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) FT105 Playground Equipment

R. Wyszynski noted Policy FT105 Playground Equipment has been identified for review, will be going out for comment.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure FT105 Playground Equipment to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by October 29, 2020

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

C.A. Sloat removed herself from the table.

(a) OPSBA Report

D. Werden referred to the OPSBA Report noting it outlines the elections and policy resolutions for the upcoming Annual General Meetings.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA Report as information.

Carried

C.A. Sloat returned to the table.



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G - 1 Correspondence

(a) **County of Brant Operations – June 10, 2020 re: Bobby St. West**

G. Anderson stated that a second letter has been sent.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.

Carried

H - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, S. Gibson