



MINUTES

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

Administration: Director – J. Roberto; Superintendents – W. Baker, L. De Vos, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – K. Giannini & 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 6:32 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel, legal and property matters at 6:33 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

C.A. Sloat recommends moving Item D-1-a up on the agenda as the Auditor is present.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved with the amendment.

Carried



- (f) **In Camera Report**
Nil

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

(a) Rural and Northern Education Spending Report

R. Wyszynski presented the Rural and Northern Education Spending Report. Grand Erie District School Board received \$613,755 for the 2019-20 school year. We were only able to utilize \$84,147 of these funds and the unspent funds of \$529,609 will be left in deferred revenue to support COVID-19 expenses for rural schools in the 2020-21 school year.

C.A. Sloat inquired about school field trips. R. Wyszynski advised that this funding is typically used prior to alternative funding, and that this has been impacted by COVID-19.

J. Richardson inquired about whether we are able to use some of the additional funding towards transportation and hiring additional Bus Drivers. R. Wyszynski will present this idea and will report back to the Board.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the 2019-20 Rural and Northern Education Fund Spending Report as information.

Carried

(b) Modified School Year Calendar Ad-hoc Committee Terms of Reference

W. Baker provides an overview of the Modified School Year Calendar Ad-hoc Committee Terms of Reference.

G. Anderson inquired about the process of identifying a school and asked if this is limited to Brantford. W. Baker advises that this would not be limited to Brant County and would not be imposed on any particular school.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Balanced School Year Calendar Ad-hoc Committee Terms of Reference.

Carried



C - 1 Director's Report

(a) Directors Highlights

- Grand Erie District School Board was mentioned in the Fall IBM Publication on the Learning Plan Leverage Digital Plan.
- 2200 devices were deployed to schools to support our device refresh initiative. ITS has also received 525 devices to support students participating in Virtual Learning. The increase in devices has enabled us to support families who require more than one device.
- We are currently reviewing the 2021 opt-in dates and will report back that will include communication to all staff and families.
- A survey will be launched participation of all parents, guardians, staff and students of the VLA to obtain feedback of progress and to look at how we as a District can further support our families and staff in this new learning environment.
- Professional development is occurring in Elementary both virtually and after school.
- The Ontario government has announced that they are providing up to \$1.05 billion in combined federal-provincial funding through the new COVID-19 Resilience infrastructure stream to build or renovate health and safety related projects in long-term care, education and municipalities. Eligible projects must begin by September 30, 2021 and be completed by December 31, 2021.
- The COVID-19 Operational Guide has been released.
- The draft Policy/Program Memorandum for the teacher hiring policy, encourages Boards at this time to look at the following key items:
 - 1) Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights
 - 2) Qualifications and Merit
 - 3) Employment Mobility
 - 4) Fairness and Transparency
 - 5) Monitoring and Evaluation

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of November 9, 2020 as information.

Carried



(b) Managing the Pandemic
Discussed in C-1-a.

C.A. Sloat inquired about fundraising, and if this is permitted if it is non-contact. Are we talking about facility rentals? The latest information that we have acquired is all permits are cancelled through January 3, 2021.

C.A. Sloat inquired about whether school are permitted to do “hot lunches”. And also asked whether we should be asking all staff to download the COVID Alert application on their Board phones.

Z. Garbaty stated that he has had several students comment about not being in favour of the quad semester. He inquired about whether there has been any further discussion regarding returning to four classes per day. There has been discussion. However, to meet the Public Health and Provincial Government guidelines, we are unable to return to this model at this time.

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Item

(a) Consolidated Financial Statements – August 31, 2020

R. Wyszynski invited Dianne Latta, Senior Partner of Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh to review the Auditor’s Report. Dianne Latta provided a high-level overview of the Consolidated Financial Statements – August 31, 2020.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Auditor’s Report for the year ended August 31, 2020, as recommended by the Grand Erie District School Board’s Audit Committee.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board direct the Board Chair and Vice Chair to sign the Consolidated Financial Statements dated August 31, 2020 on behalf of the Board; and THAT the Consolidated Financial Statements dated August 31, 2020 be forwarded to the Ministry of Education as required by the Education Act.

Carried



(b) **Preliminary Year End**

R. Wyszynski provided a high-level summary of the 2019-20 Financial Year End report.

R. Collver inquired about unsupported capital. It was on the capital renewal plan for 2018 and 2019, and those funds come from school condition and school renewal funds. Did we identify this as an unsupported capital in that report and that it wasn't coming from the renewal and conditions funding? In that 2018-19 report, it was identified as school condition improvement dollars, but they're ineligible. What should have happened in that report is that project should have been with the third column saying "unsupported".

G. Anderson inquired about the 2019-20 Capital Projects and the Principal Building and Ground column. He asked if this was a direct result of COVID-19. R. Wyszynski stated that this is correct.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the 2019-20 Capital Projects and the Community Partnership Incentive Program (CPIP) and the Pride of Place. Both of these were underspent. Is this because things came in underbudget or because they didn't get completed. We usually provide a report of prior year completed. Pride of Place was underspent, but the CPIP was actually overspent. There was a great number of projects that we were unable to achieve due to COVID-19.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Preliminary Year End as information.

Carried

(c) **Facility Renewal Plan 2020-21**

R. Wyszynski provided a high-level summary of the Facility Renewal Plan 2020-21.

C.A. Sloat inquired about accessibility as all schools are required to be accessible by 2025. Will we have enough to make all schools accessible? We are looking into an accessibility consult to determine the cost to make these remaining schools accessible.

R. Collver referred to page three of the report – our schools are being challenged right now with fundraising. Is there some other way to administer the Community Partnership Incentive program? This would require an amendment to the policy. R. Wyszynski will bring this to the Facilities team and will bring this back to the Board of Trustees.



Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Facility Renewal Plan 2020-21.

Carried

(d) **Trustee Honoraria**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Trustee Honoraria for the period from December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 as presented.

Carried

(e) **Trustees' Travel and PD Expenses**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Trustee's Travel and PD Expenses Report as information.

Carried

(f) **Contract Award – Softchoice Term License & Maintenance**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the renewal licensing of the Microsoft Office suite from Softchoice LP in the amount of \$260,544.93 plus HST.

Carried

D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) **Annual Update Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22**

Superintendent, L. Thompson presented the Annual Update Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22 Report. L. Thompson recognizes that there is a need for an amendment on page two of the report. The next steps for the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan should read "2017-22".



Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Annual Update Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2017-22 as information with the amendment of the date.

Carried

(b) **Grand Erie Graduation Rate Report**

Superintendent, D. Martins presented the Grand Erie Graduation Rate Report.

G. Anderson clarified that the students that started at one school and graduated from a different school would not be included in this data.

C.A. Sloat inquired about myBlueprint and asked how this is planning to be rolled out. This will go through the access points of the grade seven and eight students and also the secondary students. Our hope is to eventually have course selection sheets submitted electronically.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

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

Carried

(c) **2020-21 Indigenous Education Board Action Plan**

Superintendent, D. Martins presented the 2020-21 Indigenous Education Board Action Plan.

Indigenous education remains a key priority for the Ministry of Education with a commitment to ensuring that each First Nation, Métis and Inuit student has every opportunity for success. The Ministry continues to focus on meeting two primary objectives:

1. To improve student achievement and well-being among Indigenous students.
2. To close the achievement gap between Indigenous students and “all students”.

Grand Erie acknowledges the diversity of Nations across Turtle Island. Where possible, the specific Nation’s name will be used; otherwise the term Indigenous, Métis or Inuit will be referenced in print or otherwise.

C. VanEvery-Albert was thankful that the paragraph regarding our Nation’s name was included in this report. She inquired about Engagement and Awareness Building and asked if there is any specific reason why the Native Advisory Committee was not included in that



group? We have professional development funds that comes from the education foundation agreement with Six Nations specifically and the funding for that is allocated through that avenue for Engagement and Awareness pieces. The funding for the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee comes from the Ministry for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the 2020-21 Indigenous Education Board Action Plan as information.

Carried

(d) **Health & Safety Annual Report 2019-20**

R. Wyszynski presented a high-level overview of the Health and Safety Annual Report 2019-20.

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be the focus of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) and the Board until such time as the Public Health Unit declares the event over.

G. Anderson inquired whether Educational Assistants (EAs) are being provided with the opportunity to participate in this Student Aggression/Workplace Violence and Crisis Intervention training and workshops, as they are a high-risk group. R. Wyszynski stated that they are provided with this opportunity.

C.A. Sloat asked if the Ministry of Labour has provided verbal approval to change the Term of Reference. R. Wyszynski replies that the Ministry understands that it's not a normal year and we need to look after our staff and students, and they do not see an issue with us temporarily amending the Terms of Reference at this time.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receives the Health & Safety Annual Report 2019-20 as information.

Carried

(e) **Multi-Year Plan 2016-2020 Update**

J. Roberto provided a high-level overview of the Multi-Year 2016-20 Update.

J. Roberto recognized former Director Brenda Blancher, Senior Team, all of our Managers and Departments, Stakeholders who led, implemented and supported system direction that



impacted student achievement and well-being. J. Roberto also acknowledged the Board of Trustees for supporting the direction of the Multi-Year Plan.

R. Collver commented that it is wonderful to see the things that we have completed in the last four years, and it's unfortunate that we are unable to see what was completed between March and September that wasn't captured in this report.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Multi-Year Plan 2016-2020 Update as information.

Carried

(f) **Student Suspension Report**

Superintendent, W. Baker provided a summary of the Student Suspension Report.

G. Anderson inquired about next year and asks if there are any expectations for the students below grade four. W. Baker stated that if you have behaviour that could be considered under an expulsion, a suspension could be considered.

R. Collver stated that Regulation 440 will present challenges. How are we intentionally supporting our schools to help with the challenges that may arise in this age group? Are we adding any intentional supports for them to help manage these students? R. Collver asks how we are sending a child home for a day? This could be referred to as a voluntary withdrawal with the understanding that supports will be in place when they return to school.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

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

Carried

(g) **Student Expulsion Report**

Superintendent, W. Baker provided a summary of the Student Expulsion Report.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

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

Carried



(h) **Student Exclusion Report**

Superintendent, W. Baker provided a summary of the Student Exclusion Report.

R. Collver asked how long does an exclusion last. Much like an expulsion, we consider re-entry with conditions in place. Exclusions could last up to a year.

C.A. Sloat asked if we still have students on modified days outside the IPRC process and how often is this occurring? W. Baker advised that this should not be occurring anymore.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

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

Carried

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

(a) **FT10 Green Schools Construction**

R. Wyszynski presented the FT10 Green Schools Construction and Renovation Policy. This was approved by the Board in October 2016 and we have made a number of revisions to the terminology and methodology in the policy.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT10 Green School Construction and Renovation to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by January 8, 2021.

Carried

(b) **FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships**

R. Wyszynski presented the FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships Policy. This is also being circulated for comments. We are suggesting that the any renovations required by the partner to effectively use the space must be approved by the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer, rather than the Board. This will assist in speeding up the process.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT11 Community Planning and Facility Partnership to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by January 8, 2021.



Carried

(c) **SO2 School Councils**

J. Roberto presented SO2 School Councils, which will be circulated for comments. The date will be amended to January 8, 2021.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward SO2 School Councils to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by January 8, 2021.

Carried

(d) **SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools**

J. Roberto presented SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools, which will be circulated for comments. The date will be amended to January 8, 2021.

C.A. Sloat noticed that “his/her” should be amended to “their”.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by January 8, 2021, as amended.

Carried

(e) **Regulation 440/20 – Revisions to Grand Erie Policies SO6, SO7, SO10 & SO11**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT Bylaw 9 – Processes for Development of Bylaws, Policies and Procedures be waived with respect to circulating the following Policies:

- SO6 Student Suspensions,
- SO7 Student Expulsions,
- SO10 Bullying Prevention and Intervention,
- SO11 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour

to all appropriate stakeholders for comments.

Carried

Motion by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policies:



- SO6 Student Suspensions,
- SO7 Student Expulsions,
- SO10 Bullying Prevention and Intervention,
- SO11 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour.

Carried

E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) FT105 Playground Equipment

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure FT105 Playground Equipment as information.

Carried

(b) SO110 Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO110 Exemption to Human Development & Sexual Health as information.

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

(a) OPSBA Report

R. Collver presented a verbal OPSBA report.

On Saturday, November 7, 2020 R. Collver, D. Werden and C.A. Sloat attended a virtual meeting. The key topics discussed were red line items, which are serious threats to education that we feel OPSBA should pay attention to.

- E-Learning
- Dissolving School Boards
- Enrollment
- Facility Repairs
- Virtual Budget

The Provincial Budget was also on the agenda, as well as Special Education, Mental Health, Transportation and COVID-19, which remain priorities.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020
Education Centre, Board Room & MS Teams (Virtual)

The Public Education Symposium will be a virtual learning session on January 28, 2021 from 10:00am-3:15pm. Some of the key topic they will be discussing are:

- Indigenous Education
- Anti-Racism

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

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

Carried

G - 1 Correspondence

(a) BHNCD SB Letter to City of Brantford

G. Anderson shared this letter with the Board.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

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 9:10 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, S. Gibson