



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2021

MS Teams

MINUTES

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

Administration: Director – J. Roberto; Superintendents – W. Baker, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Kimberly Newhouse (Manager of Communications and Community Relations), Recording Secretary – K. Giannini

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

G. Anderson declared conflict of interest for item F-1-a.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session at 6:31 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 7:14 p.m.

(e) Memorials

(i) Cheryl Pineo, Valley Heights Secondary School – read by E. Dixon.

(ii) Mike Watling, Brantford Collegiate Institute & Vocational School – read by D. Dean.

(f) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried



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(g) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve item B-1-b.

Carried

(h) **Presentations**

Nil

(i) **Delegation**

Nil

B - 1 Approval of Minutes

(a) **Inaugural Board Meeting – December 14, 2020**

Presented as printed.

C.A. Sloat recommends that the motion for item D-1 be amended to state that the Grand Erie District School Board receives the Director's Report and Draft Director's Annual Report 2019-20 as information.

C.A. Sloat also recommends that the following statement be included in item H-1-d: "C.A. Sloat asked a question about warning labels that are being placed on library books. There is no process in place for this, and it doesn't seem to fit in procedure P103, and how will this be handled going forward? Senior Administration is looking at this issue through various lenses and this is on their radar."

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held December 14, 2020 be approved as amended.

Carried

(b) **Committee of the Whole Board – January 11, 2021**

Presented as printed.

S. Gibson stated that R. Collver's name should be included as the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

G. Anderson requests that the following statement be included in item E-1-c: "C.A. Sloat recommended writing a letter to the Minister. The Board of Trustees further directs the Chair



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of the Board to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting the ending of moratorium on school closures”.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board Meeting, held January 11, 2021 be approved as amended.

Carried

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

Nil

D - 1 Director's Report

(a) Director's Highlights:

Help Desk Support for Families

- Grand Erie District School Board is pleased to share that Help Desk staff support is now available to all Grand Erie parents and guardians as an additional resource to support their technology-related needs, and the Grand Erie Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
- Parents and guardians with a technical support problem related to Grand Erie VLE, virtual learning, Brightspace, Microsoft Teams, general technical needs or digital citizenship can now call Grand Erie's Help Desk between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at:
519-756-6301, extension 287080
Toll-free: 1-888-548-8878, extension: 287080
Alternatively, parents and guardians can also email Grand Erie's Help Desk at:
parent.techsupport@granderie.ca
A Grand Erie IT specialist will usually respond within 24 hours.

Elementary Declaration Results

- The elementary declaration survey for families to indicate a change in learning models closed on January 13. The summary is as follows:
 - Total Responses: 601
 - Requests to Transition to online learning: 186
 - Requests to Transition to in-class instruction: 415
- These results show a net increase of 229 students to in-class instruction learning.
- Students will begin in their new learning model on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. As indicated previously, families can work with their school principal where there is an extenuating circumstance that a student needs to transition outside of the final system transition date.



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Spotlight on Learning:

- The first video demonstrates student collaboration and leadership – thank you Abigail, she is a grade 1 student at Brier Park, and she is helping her friend submit an assignment
- Teamwork in a remote space doesn't get better than this.
- The second video demonstrates Callum's teacher at Cedarland needing help on how to submit a file to an assignment in content and he figured it out while on a call.

Ministry of Education Updates- Managing the Pandemic:

- Masks are now mandatory for students in Grades 1-3. This means that all Grand Erie students, from Grades 1-12, are required to wear masks when in school.
- Masking outdoors is required if staff and student can't maintain physical distancing.
- In-class instruction will continue for some Special Education students with complex needs.
- There are enhanced screening protocols for all staff as well as secondary school students. More information will be provided to Grand Erie staff, students and families on these new protocols soon.

Elementary Math Curriculum Resources:

- The elementary math curriculum, and supporting resources, are available to everyone on the new [Curriculum and Resources site](#).
- Additional resources for educators are available in the "Supports for Virtual Learning" e-Community in the ministry's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Resources will continue to be added throughout the school year, including webinar recordings, self-guided learning modules, as well as classroom-ready resources and lesson plans. If you are unsure how to login to the VLE, please visit www.d21.com/ontario or connect with your Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching (TELT) contact for support.
- Educators can also register for live webinars without a login at <https://ontario.educatorwebinars.ca/>. In addition to the new elementary math curriculum, webinar topics include anti-racism and anti-discrimination, mental health and well-being as well as, virtual teaching and learning.

Let's focus on the positive and #SharetheGood – School Mental Health Ontario:

- We all know the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on those in our Ontario schools. And every day we see news about the pandemic that is hard to read and process. It is easy to see the challenges, to feel helpless.
- But at the same time, we know the truly amazing things happening in our schools each day and these are the stories that deserves to be told.
- SMH-ON has launched #SharetheGood. It is a new bilingual campaign with the hope of igniting a widespread movement of positivity.
- The campaign will reflect the "good" which includes and is not limited to English, French, geographic reach, diversity of voices, sharing a range of lived experience, and highlight small and large boards.
- Share your stories and find out more ways to help at: smho-smso.ca/SharetheGood.



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Caucus Session:

G. Anderson advised that the Board of Trustees will hold a Caucus session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to discuss our Multi-Year Plan moving forward for 2021 and beyond.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the return to school date and whether there been any discussion regarding this topic. J. Roberto advised that the Stay at Home Order is in place until midnight on February 10, 2021. If there are any changes in consultation with the Public Health Unit and the Ministry of Education this will be shared with Trustees.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of January 25, 2021 as information.

Carried

(b) Managing the Pandemic

J. Richardson requests putting forth a motion for mandatory face coverings for Kindergarten students.

Motion by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve that mandatory face coverings or masks for students in kindergarten, with exceptions where applicable, apply to all kindergarten students following the return to school and the duration of the pandemic.

Carried

E - 1 Student Trustees' Report

(a) Student Senate:

We held our first Student Senate on January 14, 2021. The process of a Student Senate and the role of a Student Trustee was discussed. The upcoming election process was explained to the students in attendance. I Doxtator-Swamp provided and opening and closing for the Student Senate Meeting. A round table discussion was held, and everyone was in favour of having three meetings per year. For online learning, most students said that this was going well, and some students required additional supports and learning resource support. A lot of students preferred to have break-out sessions. Students identified that they prefer to have two classes per day instead of four. They also identified that paper packages are required for students that have connectivity issues.



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Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

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

Carried

(b) Menstrual Equity (ME) Project:

A survey was conducted following the Student Senate. Results were shared with the Trustees. 100% of students supported the ME Project and feel that this would benefit students. Some comments made were as follows:

- "We need [these products] free in all washrooms. Our school has a number of trans and non-binary students that need these products in all bathrooms."
- "I think this would benefit students. If a student finds themselves in a situation where they do not have access to products, then they will have problems focusing in class and with things like hygiene and bleeding through clothing."

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Menstrual Equity Project Report as information.

Carried

F - 1 Committee Report

(a) Committee of the Whole Board – January 11, 2021

G. Anderson declared a conflict of interest for the following item and left the meeting.

C.A. Sloat requested to divide item 1 (b) and item 5. These motions are approved by the Board.

G. Anderson returned to the meeting and requested to divide item 12.

D. Werden expressed that this is not the appropriate time to send this letter to the Ministry due to the pandemic. J. Richardson agreed that this is not the proper time to send this letter. It is agreed by the Board that this part of the motion will be removed, and we will not proceed with sending a letter to the Ministry at this time requesting the ending of moratorium on school closures.



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Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the recommendations from the January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting, as amended.

Carried

G - 1 New Business

(a) Major Construction Project Report

R. Wyszynski presented the Major Construction Project Report. It is advised that we are getting close to reaching substantial completion of the childcare centre at Central Public School and anticipate completion by April 2021.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Project Report as information.

Carried

(b) Quarterly Budget Report

R. Wyszynski presented the Quarterly Budget Report.

Consistent with Board Policy F2, the Quarterly Budget Report for the three months ended November 30, 2020 is shared with Trustees. We have reviewed some financial data in January, and we believe there are no changes. We are still projected for a balanced budget for the 2020-21 school year.

R. Collver inquired about the increase of priority and partnership. This used to be referred to as EPOs. The majority of this funding is used for COVID-19 and was Provincially funded.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the staffing numbers. R. Wyszynski advised that we added six additional staff members including, three Administrators and three clerical staff members.

C. VanEvery-Albert inquired about federal funding and what other federal funding are you referring to? R. Wyszynski indicated that we received COVID-19 support funding.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Quarterly Budget Report for the three months ended November 30, 2020 as information.

Carried



(c) **Request for Early Years Capital Program (EYCP) Funding**

R. Wyszynski presented the Request for Early Years Capital Program (EYCP) Funding report.

Priority one is the four-room childcare addition at Cobblestone Elementary School, Paris, Ontario. Priority two is the four-room childcare addition at Banbury Heights School, Brantford, Ontario.

The two business cases outlined above are in the process of being developed and, pending Board approval, will be submitted prior to the January 29, 2021 Ministry deadline.

R. Collver inquired if we have space to build in Haldimand and Norfolk if we determine need in those areas. R. Wyszynski advised that we do have space to build in Caledonia; however, no other needs were identified. In Norfolk, there was a request for Simcoe, and currently Grand Erie is sitting on approved funding to build a childcare centre in Simcoe (Elgin Avenue site). That project is still pending at this time.

C.A. Sloat expressed concern that we do not own the property at Banbury Heights. There is also a limited amount of space available. Has the community been spoken to about this? Parking has been identified as a major issue at this school. R. Wyszynski indicated that there are a couple of options available and student council will be invited to the meeting for their input. Concerns were also raised about the possible effect on the kindergarten play area that was opened in 2017 and paid for by the home and school, pride of place and an Ontario 150 grant.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Early Years Capital Program Funding application for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Carried

(d) **Facility Renewal Plan 2020-21: Update**

R. Wyszynski presented the Facilities Renewal Plan 2020-21 update.

R. Wyszynski advised that the Teacher Resource Centre and Facility Services Building are not eligible for Ministry funding. Staff will require Board approval to proceed with these projects, classifying the required capital upgrades as unsupported capital. The estimated project cost for these projects is approximately \$250,000 to \$450,000 and would increase the Board's annual amortization gap by \$16,000 to \$30,000 assuming the projects extend the life of the assets by 15 years.



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R. Collver inquired about the plan to bring the unsupported capital back down. R. Wyszynski advised that the plan is to bring that unsupported capital back down in the 2029-30 year. We will try to be more aggressive with paying this down.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the roofing project at the Teacher Resource Centre and the HVAC Unit replacement at the Facility Services Building as unsupported capital.

Carried

(e) **Audio and Video Upgrades for the Boardroom**

R. Wyszynski presented the Audio and Video upgrades for the boardroom.

- The boardroom will have its audio-visual system upgraded to accommodate web conferencing functionality and to provide better quality audio.
- The existing microphone system, speakers, wall-mounted TV display, and equipment rack will be decommissioned.
- A new 86" display will be wall mounted in place of the one being removed. The existing TV will be relocated to the back for the gallery for a richer viewing experience.
- Three cameras will be wall mounted in the Boardroom. They will be integrated with a USB conference bridge which will be connected to the PC. Web conference applications such as Teams, Zoom, WebEx, etc. running on the PC will be able to access the camera and microphone feeds through this USB bridge.
- Voice capture for conferencing will be through two ceiling suspended beam-tracking microphones over the conference table, two beam-tracking microphones above the gallery area, and two wireless gooseneck microphones for the corner desks. This will include automated camera tracking which will trigger a specific camera dependent on who is speaking.
- Control of the system will be through a 10-inch touch panel at the table. It will provide control over features such as source selection, camera movement, volume, conference dialing, and system power.
- Procurement to installation timelines are approximately 8-10 weeks.
- Total cost: approximately \$73,000 (net of HST).

Although no budget was provisioned for this investment during the budget development process, the Board could utilize a portion of the 2020-21 Trustee budget, projected to be underspent by \$70,000, for this purchase.



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Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Global USS quote for the Audio and Video upgrades for the Boardroom.

Carried

(f) **Indigenous Education System Support**

D. Martins presented the Indigenous Education System Support report.

The Ministry of Education just released the 2020-21 Board Action Plan (BAP) for submission in early February. Conversations have occurred since November when a simplified version of the BAP was presented to the Board of Trustees along with Superintendent Wyszynski's report indicating there were other substantive unspent funds in Section 18 of the Grant for Student Needs funding from 2019-20.

D. Martins highlighted the responsibilities of the Principal Leader of Indigenous Education and Equity and the Elementary Indigenous Engagement and Support Teacher.

The Principal Leader of Indigenous Education and Equity position will be posted, and the Elementary Indigenous Engagement and Support Teacher will be posted internally no later than February 1, 2021. The positions will commence as soon as possible with the Principal Leader reporting to both the Superintendents with responsibility for Indigenous Education and Equity. Funding for the remainder of the 2020-21 year will come from the unspent Section 18 allocation from 2019-20. The revenue generated this year for 2020-21 was substantially increased. There are funds available to support these much-needed system supports.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Indigenous Education System Support plan as information.

Carried

H - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Summary of Accounts – December 2020**

Presented as printed.



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Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of December 2020 in the amount of \$14,791,445.14 as information.

Carried

(b) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – November 19, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Special Education Advisory Committee minutes of November 19, 2020.

Carried

(c) **Native Advisory Committee Minutes – December 1, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Native Advisory Committee Minutes of December 1, 2020.

Carried

(d) **Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – December 17, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee minutes of December 17, 2020.

Carried

(e) **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – December 10, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee minutes of December 10, 2020 as information.

Carried



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(f) **Student Senate Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021**

Presented as printed.

Z. Garbaty noted that the Student Senate minutes should be amended to reflect that A. Burtis was in attendance. This is approved by the Board.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Student Senate Meeting minutes of January 14, 2021 as information, as amended.

Carried

I - 1 **Correspondence**

Nil

J - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Carried

Board Chair, G. Anderson