



## Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2021

MS Teams (Virtual)

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### MINUTES

**Present:** R. Collver – Committee Chair, G. Anderson, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, S. Gibson J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, D. Werden, A. Burtis (Student Trustee), Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee), I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee), C. Kitchen (Student Trustee 2021-22), Reilly Mitchell (Student Trustee 2021-22)

**Administration:** Director – J. Roberto; Superintendents – W. Baker, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, A. Smith, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – K. Giannini

**Regrets:**

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

**A - 1 Opening**

**(a) Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 6:33p.m.

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

D. Dean declared conflict of interest for in-camera item B-1-b.

**(c) In Camera Session**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:33p.m.

**Carried**

**(d) Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 7:20 p.m.

**(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Agenda be approved.

**Carried**



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

Nil

### C - 1 Director's Report

#### (a) Directors Highlights

##### TPA - Excellence in Education Funding:

- R. Wyszynski provided an overview of Ministry funding.
- A number of years ago, it was determined that Document Management System would be beneficial to assist us in achieving our goals. We received \$80,000 worth of funding and we will be using these funds in the implementation of this system.

##### Budget Survey:

- R. Wyszynski provided an update regarding the Budget Survey, which is live and will be posted on our website the following morning. This is an excellent opportunity for our stakeholders to provide feedback regarding the needs in our community.

##### Virtual Learning 2021-2022 Parent Survey:

- A School Messenger was sent to all Grand Erie families on March 4, 2021. The survey will also be shared via social media and posted on the homepage of the Grand Erie website.
- The Grand Erie District School Board is currently canvassing families to determine interest and viability in running a Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) for the 2021-2022 school year. The completion of this survey is not a formal declaration. Complete one survey for each child in your family.
- Surveys must be completed by Friday, March 12, 2021.

##### GEPIG Virtual Thursday Spring Speaker Series:

- The Spring Speakers Series will be held on April 1, 8, 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include:
  - Parenting in a Pandemic.
  - Indigenous Education and Reconciliation.
  - How to be an Ally for Marginalized Students.
  - Mental Health & Well-Being During COVID-19.

##### International Women's Day:

- International Women's Day was celebrated to recognize the social economic cultural and political achievement of women.



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### Trustees Participating in Virtual Academy Sessions:

- We are happy to include all Trustees in Virtual Learning Academy classes or class visits upon expressed interest. Trustees are asked to connect with the Principal or Superintendent if they are interested in connecting with our students.

### Committees/Guests:

- We want to ensure that all Trustees have the opportunity to attend Committee Meetings as guests. Invitations will go out to all Trustees for future Committee Meetings.

### Strategic Planning:

- R. Collver advised that the Chairs' Committee met with Catherine McCullough this evening.
- Catherine will be supporting and guiding us through the process of developing our strategic plan.
- We are looking at scheduling three sessions with Trustees and Superintendents.

Proposed dates are:

- March 22, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- April 19, 2021 at 5:30-7:30 p.m.

C.A. Sloat inquired about why all Trustees and Superintendents were not invited to the session that took place this evening with Catherine McCullough. R. Collver advised that this meeting was to lay out the process. This meeting was just to propose dates for meetings with the Trustees.

G. Anderson stated Catherine McCullough is looking at affective practices and the idea of what strategic planning is as a whole. She is focusing on strong governance. She has also worked with multiple School Boards.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of March 8, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

### (b) Managing the Pandemic

J. Roberto provided an update on Managing the Pandemic. We are scheduled to have a joint media release with our coterminous board. Testing will be available for staff and students. We will be providing voluntary, asymptomatic PCR testing. We hope to have an update with respect to vendors soon.



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C.A. Sloat inquired about the status of the federal funding that was applied for. R. Wyszynski advised that 95% of projects are being approved and updates will be provided as they become available.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the free Personal Support Worker (PSW) courses that are being offered and whether this will affect us or in our September cohort. L. Munro advised that at this time, School Boards were not provided with this funding. We are working on how to obtain funding for this within our schools.

C.A. Sloat commented on an amendment to the school year calendar. D. Martins advised that the PD day for the Secondary School Calendar has been changed three to four times and the first change was made in November 2020.

### D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Item

#### (a) Board Approved Transportation Review

R. Wyszynski introduced P. Kuckyt to provide a summary of the Board Transportation Review report.

G. Anderson commented that this is an exceptionally detailed report.

C.A. Sloat inquired about Paris and whether there has been any further discussion with the County about making this a safe route. P. Kuckyt advised that the focus for the capital project of 2021 will be rehabilitation of pedestrian friendly infrastructure.

C. VanEvery-Albert inquired about item 2.3. Recently, there was some discussion about Six Nations students going to Cayuga and taking the express bus. This conversation was never completed. Are Six Nations students included in this report? P. Kuckyt advised that they are not included in this particular report.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in this report for the 2021-22 School Year.

**Carried**



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### D – 2 New Business – Information Items

#### (a) **Transportation Consortium Annual Report**

R. Wyszynski introduced P. Kuckyt to provide a summary of the STSBHN Annual Report on Transportation Services for the 2020-21 School Year.

D. Werden inquired whether Special Education students are included in the report. P. Kuckyt advised that Special Education students are not included in this particular report. D. Werden commented on wanting to ensure that we are minimizing the amount of time these students spend on buses. P. Kuckyt advised that of the 507 students, we had noted a total of 5 students in the morning and 7 students in the afternoon being over the 75-minute bus commute, which equates to 1.2% of the total population.

C.A. Sloat inquired about rider's aids and asked how many EAs are being utilized for this, as they have a longer day. P. Kuckyt advised that as of today, we have a total of 23 of our EAs riding on 20 of our buses (4 in Haldimand, 18 in Brantford and 1 in Norfolk).

C.A. Sloat asked how tracking is being achieved and whether there is any budget impact. P. Kuckyt advised that the budget impact is unknown at this time. We are not at the point right now where we can track 100% of the buses. Until we get the bus tracking tool perfected, we will not be pursuing other systems. The pandemic has highlighted a significant amount of needs within our system. One item that we have been working through is our seating plans. Being able to track exactly who was on each bus on each day would be of huge benefit in tracking student's attendance and also to be able to provide that information to our Public Health Units for contact tracing.

S. Gibson commented that this report was very informative. She mentioned that it would be beneficial to see some promotion of our active transportation. P. Kuckyt will work with the Communications Department on this.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

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

**Carried**

#### (b) **Student Trustee Selection 2021-22**

J. Roberto introduced the Student Trustees of 2021-22.

Z. Garbaty welcomed the new Student Trustees and stated that he looks forward to mentoring them through this transition process. He mentioned that he was disappointed



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that the successful candidate of the North was determined by the drawing of straws to break the tie. He is hopeful that there will be a better process implemented in the future.

R. Collver advised that drawing of straws is our regular process.

G. Anderson thanked the current Student Trustees and welcomed the new Student Trustees. He advised that the drawing of straws is the official process outlined in the Education Act.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Senate's report on the appointment of the following Student Trustees for 2021-22:

Grand Erie North: Reilly Mitchell

Grand Erie South: Carson Kitchen

Grand Erie Indigenous: Sierra Green

**Carried**

(c) **Information Technology Services Annual Update**

L. Munro introduced J. Ecklund to present the Information Technology Services Annual Update report.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the additional \$80,000 funding that was received by the government. We had money in last year's budget. Was that money spent or was it rolled over? J. Ecklund advised that we still have this funding available.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the new computers that the Board approved purchasing of. The items have been ordered. J. Ecklund advised that based on the terms of the Ministry, they should be delivered by the end of March 2021.

C.A. Sloat inquired about connectivity. With so much more happening virtually, has there been any major issues or is there anything we are doing to improve this? J. Ecklund advised that we are still rolling out the broadband modernization school, and we are still finalizing a lot of the elementary schools. Our deadline for this is the end of August 2021. Brantford Hydro has a contract for the final 10 elementary schools to connect.

C.A. Sloat asked about the back-up solution for M365. It was her understanding that this was part of our disaster recovery and we had talked about putting redundant servers in. Would that be part of this? Or is this on top of that? J. Ecklund advised that the disaster recovery site at the Simcoe location is mainly for all of the systems that are running at the Teacher Resource Centre (TRC). The email system and Office 365/M365 is in the Cloud, which is not



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something that we host. Some Boards are starting to back-up the Cloud and bring them to another position in the Cloud. This is in the event of a cyber-attack.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Information Technology Services Annual Update Report as information.

**Carried**

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

#### (a) F7 Disclosure of Wrongdoing

R. Wyszynski presented F7 Disclosure of Wrongdoing, which will be circulated to appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 30, 2021.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy F7 Disclosure of Wrongdoing to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 30, 2021.

**Carried**

#### (b) SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines

A. Smith presented SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines. In addition to these amendments, “School locations” will be replaced with “Board locations”.

C.A. Sloat inquired about when someone has determined that the limits have been breached. If you get a report, what is your responsibility?

A. Smith advised that any of these examples are stakeholders that may have a concern. The process would be based on all of the relevant information that came forward. The school would always be the first point of contact. A. Smith contacted the Ontario School’s Copyright Officer, and she was informed that the primary responsibility of School Boards is to educate staff using resources provided. It was also indicated that Boards are by in large compliant. The number of incidents reported is significantly low.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines.

**Carried**



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(c) **SO14 – Equity and Inclusive Education**

W. Baker presented SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education, which will be forwarded to appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 30, 2021.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 30, 2021.

**Carried**

E – 2 **Procedure Consideration – Information Items**

(a) **F101 Hospitality and Food Expenses**

R. Wyszynski presented F101 Hospitality and Food Expenses as printed.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure F101 Hospitality and Food Expenses as information.

**Carried**

(b) **P102 Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs**

R. Wyszynski presented P102 Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs as printed.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the storage of reports for six years on paper. Is this a Ministry requirement?

D. Martins advised that the paper copies are required for audit purposes and electronic copies are not acceptable at this point in time.

C.A. Sloat commented about the possibility of paying restitution. Some parents sign all the forms and it is very labour intensive. Why do we not have an indication that is saying you are representing the Board and you are responsible if you have a lapse in judgement?

Hopefully these conversations are being had with students and they are aware that they are liable.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure P102 Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs as information.

**Carried**





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(c) **FT107 Asbestos**

R. Wyszynski advised that had a recent meeting with the Ministry of Labour where they stated that our Procedure could be strengthened by incorporated the notice of project. We look to waive the Bylaw that would prevent this from circulating at this time.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT Bylaw 9 – Process for Development of Bylaws, Policies and Procedures be waived with respect to circulating Procedure FT107 Asbestos to all appropriate stakeholders for comments.

**Carried**

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure FT107 Asbestos as information.

**Carried**

(d) **HR110 Hiring Procedures**

S. Sincerbox provided a verbal update on HR110 Hiring Procedures. The recent release of PPM165 identifies how Boards are to put into place their hiring policies and procedures. Part of that is consultations with stakeholders, which we are in the process of starting to do. A status update will be provided at the end of the month.

D. Werden inquired about whether we will have this for Board approval at the end of the month.

S. Sincerbox advised that this will not be brought to the Board for approval.

C.A. Sloat inquired whether this will be circulated for comment again.

S. Sincerbox advised that we will be looking at all hiring, and it is our hope to get this out as quickly as possible. We will see how the consultations go and will decide whether this needs to be circulated for comments.

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

D. Werden circulated a summary of the last OPSBA meeting to Trustees.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

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

**Carried**

### G - 1 Correspondence

Nil

### H - 1 In-Camera Session

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board move back in-camera.

**Carried**

### I - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:51p.m.

**Carried**

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Committee of the Whole Board Chair, R. Collver