



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

A - 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) In-Camera Session **(6:30 pm)**
 - (i) Personnel
 - (ii) Legal
 - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement (Chief R. Stacey Laforme)
The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.
- (e) Call to Order
- (f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Agenda be approved."
- * (g) Appointment of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee (J. Roberto)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board appoint Tammy Sault as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee for the term September 25, 2023 to November 23, 2026."
- (h) Presentation
 - (i) Learn Lead Inspire Award (J. Roberto) (I)
 - (i) Memorials
 - * (i) Sheryl Cartwright (S. Gibson) (I)
 - * (ii) Greg de Waard (B. Doyle) (I)
 - * (iii) Avery Warwick (T. Waldschmidt) (I)
 - * (iv) Lucas Crump (J. Bradford) (I)
 - (j) In-Camera Report
 - (k) Delegations - Nil

B - 1 Approval of Minutes

- * (a) June 26, 2023 (Regular Board)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated June 26, 2023, be approved."

C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Finance Committee Meeting](#) Report dated September 11, 2023 (B. Doyle)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT effective September 26, 2023 new K-8 registrations at Caledonia Centennial Public School be directed to J.L. Mitchener Public School be approved."
- * (b) [Audit Committee Meeting](#) Report dated September 14, 2023 (T. Waldschmidt)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Internal Audit 2023-24 Plan Report be approved."

D - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings - Nil

Learn

Lead

Inspire



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

E - 1 **Report of the Director** (J. Roberto) (I)

F-1 **Student Trustees' Report** - Nil

G - 1 **New Business - Action / Information Items**

- * (a) Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member (R. Wyszynski)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the appointment of Atit Thakker as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending October 31, 2026."

- * (b) Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions 2023-24 (R. Wyszynski)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions 2023-24 to the Ministry of Education."

- * (c) Major Construction Project Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)
- * (d) Summer Learning Report (K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White) (I)

H - 1 **Other Business**

- * (a) Audit Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 15, 2023 (I)
- * (b) Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 15, 2023 (I)

I - 1 **OPSBA Report** (C. VanEvery-Albert) (I)

- * (a) Canadian School Boards Association and Alberta School Boards Association Congress 2023(I)

J - 1 **Correspondence**

- * (a) Simcoe County District School Board dated June 23, 2023 (I)
- * (b) Waterloo Region District School Board dated June 27, 2023 (I)
- * (c) Avon Maitland District School Board dated June 30, 2023 (I)
- * (d) Upper Grand District School Board dated September 8, 2023 (I)
- * (e) Thames Valley District School Board dated September 8, 2023 (I)
- * (f) Thames Valley District School Board dated September 8, 2023 (I)

K - 1 **Adjournment**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

OCTOBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
02	03	04	05 Special Education Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m.	06
09	10	11	12	13
16 Policy and Program Committee 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee 3:30 p.m. Governance Committee 6:30 p.m.	20
23	24	25	26 Supervised Alternative Learning 10:00 a.m. Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee 6:30 p.m.	27
30 Regular Board 7:15 p.m.	31			





Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board
FROM: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
RE: **Appointment of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee**
DATE: September 25, 2023

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board appoint Tammy Sault as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Trustee for the term September 25, 2023 to November 23, 2026.

Background

In accordance with a resolution passed by Grand Erie’s Board of Trustees on March 27, 2023, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Elected Council appointed Tammy Sault as the trustee to the Grand Erie District School Board representing the interests of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students and staff under the Education Services Agreement.

Tammy Sault will be serving a three-year term from September 25, 2023 to November 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D.,
 Director of Education & Secretary of the Board

In Memoriam

Sheryl Cartwright, a teacher
at Greenbrier Public School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Sheryl Cartwright, a teacher at Greenbrier Park Public School.

Sheryl began her career in Grand Erie in 1992 as an occasional teacher and dedicated many years to helping students reach their full potential, particularly those with diverse learning needs. She worked in roles including Kindergarten teacher, Prep teacher, and as a Teacher-Librarian. She spent nearly 18 years at Onondaga-Brant Public School as the Learning Resource Teacher, and most recently at Greenbrier Public School, where she began in 2014.

Sheryl was a beloved member of each school community that was lucky enough to have her on staff. Our deepest condolences go out to Sheryl's family, friends, colleagues and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Cronkwright, Principal
Greenbrier Public School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on September 25, 2023, by Chair Gibson.

In Memoriam

Greg de Waard, a custodian
at Oneida Central Public School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Greg de Waard, a custodian at Oneida Central Public School.

Greg was a dedicated member of Facility Services and began his career in Grand Erie in 2012 as a casual caretaker. He worked as an afternoon caretaker at a number of locations, including Woodman-Cainsville School and Agnes Hodge Public School, before becoming a custodian in 2023 at Oneida Central Public School. Over the past few years, Greg helped with staffing challenges by working day shifts at various schools in Grand Erie.

Greg had a passion for classic cars and hockey. He will be missed by many fellow car enthusiasts. He leaves behind his wife, Kim and son, Lucas.

Our deepest condolences go out to Greg's family, friends, colleagues and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

John Poulimenos, Principal
Oneida Central Public School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on September 25, 2023, by Vice-Chair Doyle.

In Memoriam

Avery Warwick, a student
at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Avery Warwick, a student at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School.

Avery was a recent graduate of North Park Collegiate and Vocational School and was looking forward to starting at Algonquin College in September. She was always smiling and a highly respected member of the school's rugby team. Dedicated to her friends and teammates, she was enthusiastic about any role where she could help.

Our deepest condolences go out to Avery's family, friends and everyone in the North Park school community, and anyone connected to these losses.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Wills, Principal
North Park Collegiate and Vocational School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on September 25, 2023, by Trustee Waldschmidt.

In Memoriam

Lucas Crump, a student
at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Lucas Crump, a student at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School.

Lucas had just completed Grade 10 at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School. He loved the French Immersion program he was enrolled in, and was passionate about sports, especially hockey. He's described as an "absolute ray of sunshine who loved life."

Our deepest condolences go out to Lucas' family, friends and everyone in the North Park school community, and anyone connected to these losses.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Wills, Principal
North Park Collegiate and Vocational School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on September 25, 2023, by Trustee Bradford.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

- Present:** Chair S. Gibson, Vice-Chair B. Doyle Trustees: J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore (MS Teams), E. Thomas, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton; Student Trustees: M. Baker, A. Skye, T. Zebroski
- Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Edgar, K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Communications and Community Relations Manager: D. Smouter, Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken
- Regrets:** Trustee G. Anderson
- Guests:** Budget and Grants Supervisor: A. Van Doorn, Divisional Manager of Operations, Energy & Sustainability: K. Hashimoto, J. Bell, General Legal Counsel (MS Teams)

A - 1 **Opening (6:40 pm)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:41 pm)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert
THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

(d) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

(f) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt
THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **Memorials** – Nil

(h) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Board confirm that the Director's Performance Appraisal has been completed.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Carried

(i) **Presentation – Patti McCleister Awards**

Director Roberto presented the Patti McCleister Award honouring the memory of Grand Erie's Training and Development Officer who left a legacy of collaborative leadership, and the ability to inspire others to Speech-Language Pathologist Belinda Benko and Elementary Educator Judy Gardner.

(i) **Learn Lead Inspire Award**

Director Roberto presented Olivia Jones of Dunnville Secondary School with a Learn Lead Inspire Award for her leadership and ability to advocate for herself and the successes and accomplishments she achieved.

(j) **Delegations – Nil**

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **May 29, 2023 (Regular Board)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, dated May 29, 2023, be approved.

Carried

(b) **June 5, 2023 (Regular Board)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, dated June 5, 2023, be approved.

Carried

(c) **June 21, 2023 (Special Board)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, dated June 21, 2023, be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Policy and Program Committee Meeting dated May 8, 2023**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

That the Purchasing Policy (BU-06); Hiring of Employees Policy (HR-03); Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05); Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07); Health and Safety Policy (HS-01); Workplace Violence Policy (HS-02); Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10); School Councils Policy (SO-02); Distribution of Materials in Schools Policy (SO-04); Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05); Student Suspensions Policy (SO-06); Student Expulsions Policy (SO-07); Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (SO-10); Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12); Access to Schools and Facilities Policy (SO-13) and Field Trips and Excursions Policy (SO-15) be approved.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Carried

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Bradford

That the Supplier Exclusivity: Food Services and Vending Machines in Schools Policy (F1); Safe Work Practices Policy (FT15); Bereavements Policy (HR-1); Service Provision for Students with Special Education Needs Policy (PR-01); Cyberbullying Policy (SO9); Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour Policy (SO11); Event Planning and Organizing Policy (SO26) and the Violence Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Policy (SO29) be rescinded.

Carried

(b) **Finance Committee Meeting Report dated June 12, 2023**

Budget 2023-24

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, Superintendent Wyszynski noted actuals are confirmed by the Ministry of Education in November following revised estimates.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the 2023-24 Operating budget of \$368,716,752.

Carried

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the 2023-24 Capital Budget of \$26,530,000.

Carried

(c) **Audit Committee Meeting Report dated June 15, 2023**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan.

Carried

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

Director Roberto highlighted the following:

- National Indigenous Peoples Day was June 21, 2023
- Sharing Our Voices was held on June 20, 2023
- Grand Erie celebrated diversity during the month of June with PRIDE and by flying the Pride flag
- The Language Curriculum and Math Plan was released by the Ministry of Education
- Stelco funded welding equipment upgrades including welding booths, ventilation systems and a new industry-grade multi-process welding machine at Cayuga Secondary School



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Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

- Grand Erie celebrates all graduates including students receiving awards, honours and scholarships
- Congratulations to all Grand Erie retirees for their years of service, dedication and commitment to students and staff
- Retirement of Superintendent of Education Wayne Baker
- Special thank you to Student Trustee Tatyana Zebroski (who represented students in the Brantford and Brant County), Maggie Baker (who represented students in Haldimand and Norfolk counties) and Aleena Skye (who represented Indigenous students across Grand Erie) for their hard work and dedication in being the voice of their fellow students

A preview of Shellard Lane Public School and joint use project design was provided and a short video highlighting the past school year can be found [here](#).

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

(a) **Student Trustees' Report – End of Year Report**

Presented as printed.

G - 1 **New Business - Action / Information Items**

(a) **Quarterly Budget Report**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2021-22**

Presented as printed.

(c) **Agnes G. Hodge Public School Holding Boundary Modifications**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the redirection of Shellard Lane Holding boundary from Agnes G. Hodge Public School to Bellview Public School effective June 27, 2023.

Carried

(c) **Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report 2022-23**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Finance Committee, Policy and Program Committee and Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2023-24**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Finance Committee, Policy and Program Committee and Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2023-24 be approved.

Carried



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

- (e) **Finance, Policy and Program, and Regular Board Meeting Schedule of Reports 2023-24**
Presented as printed.
- (f) **Annual Review of the Special Education Plan**
Presented as printed.
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Board approve the Annual Review of the Special Education Plan 2022-23, and the submission of the Special Education Report Components Checklist to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education by July 31, 2023.
Carried
- (h) **Disbanding of the Boundary Review Committees and Construction Committees**
Presented as printed.
Moved by: E. Thomas
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Board disband the Banbury Heights School/Branlyn Community School Boundary Review Committee, Cobblestone Child Care Project Committee, Banbury Child Care Project Committee and the Brantford, Paris and Waterford Boundary Review Special Ad Hoc Committees effective June 26, 2023.
Carried
- (i) **Review of Police Programs and Presence in Schools**
Presented as printed.
Director Roberto advised that Grand Erie has committed to share the model with all 72 school boards in the province at the request of Minister Lecce.
- H - 1 **Other Business** – Presented as printed.
- (a) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 16, 2023
 - (b) Audit Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 23, 2023
 - (c) Six Nations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 30, 2023
 - (d) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 27, 2023
 - (e) Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated May 4, 2023
- I - 1 **OPSBA Report**
Trustee VanEvery-Albert encouraged trustees to review emails from OPSBA for up-to-date information. The Annual General Meeting in Blue Mountain was well attended.
- J - 1 **Correspondence** – Presented as printed.
- (a) Thames Valley District School Board dated June 6, 2023
 - (b) Greater Essex County District School Board dated June 9, 2023
 - (c) Halton District School Board dated June 16, 2023
 - (d) Halton District School Board dated June 16, 2023



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, June 26, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

K - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto

DRAFT



Finance Committee Report

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting



Present: Committee Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: J. Bradford, S. Gibson, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Waldschmidt

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: J. Tozer (MS Teams), J. White, R. Wyszynski. Recording Secretary: C. Dero

Guests: L & C Consulting: L. Morgulis, Planning Supervisor: N. Hercanuck

A - 1 **Opening**
(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair B. Doyle at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

(c) **Welcome/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

Chair Doyle noted that the once the tenders that were originally scheduled for this meeting are confirmed, they will be brought forward to a future Board meeting or Finance Committee meeting.

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **June 12, 2023**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee dated June 12, 2023 be approved.

Carried

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** – Nil

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP)**

Presented as printed.

Planning Consultant, L. Morgulis spoke to Grand Erie's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), which addresses projected enrolment and school utilization, as well as planning for program locations and capital investments.



Finance Committee Report

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting

- In response to several questions, L. Morgulis provided addition information regarding:
- The importance of an LTAP and how it will guide the board's accommodation strategies;
 - using the LTAP to recognize where potential growth is projected to take place;
 - identifying the right school size for each area;
 - reviewing the plan annually;
 - the importance of working closely with municipalities and being aware of the land that Grand Erie will need in the next five years;
 - anticipating growth in a competitive environment;
 - Education Development Charges.

(b) **Caledonia Centennial Public School Enrolment**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT effective September 26, 2023 new K-8 registrations at Caledonia Centennial Public School be directed to J.L. Mitchener Public School, and that it be forwarded to the September 25, 2023 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

In response to a question, it was noted that Superintendent White will work closely with Administrators and a process will be followed to ensure communication is issued.

(c) **Trustee Honoraria Policy**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Trustee Honoraria Policy (BU-04) be forwarded to the October 30, 2023 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(d) **Trustee Honoraria**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024 be forwarded to the October 30, 2023 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried



Finance Committee Report

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting



The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** November 13, 2023

Committee Chair, B. Doyle

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, J. Robert



Audit Committee Report

Thursday, September 14, 2023

4:00 p.m.

- Present:** Committee Chair T. Waldschmidt, Trustee J. Bradford, Trustee R. Collver E. Hodgins,
- Administration:** Director J. Roberto, Superintendent R. Wyszynski, Manager of Business Services C. Smith
- KPMG (Internal Auditors):** S. Bedi
- Millards (External Auditors):** B. Schell
- Recording Secretary:** L. Howells

A - 1 **Opening Roll Call**

(a) The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Waldschmidt.

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

(c) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgement**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

(d) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee Agenda be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Selection of Audit Committee Chair**

Superintendent Wyszynski explained the statutory cycle of the committee and reminded the committee that all Trustees and voluntary members are eligible for the role of the Chair. Superintendent Wyszynski opened the floor to accept nominations.

Trustee Bradford nominated Trustee Waldschmidt, who accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received for Audit Committee Chair and the nominations were closed.

Trustee Waldschmidt was declared acclaimed as the Audit Committee Chair for the 2023-24 statutory committee cycle.

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee approve the September 14, 2023 Consent Agenda:

(a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated June 15, 2023, as amended



Audit Committee Report

Thursday, September 14, 2023

4:00 p.m.

- (b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence report,
- (c) Receive the Q3 Financials Forecast.

Carried

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

(a) Audit Committee Orientation

Superintendent Wyszynski stated modules 4 – 6 were shared with members following the last meeting for their review.

Modules 7 – 8 will be sent to committee members for their review.

E - 1 New Business

(a) Review Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Superintendent Wyszynski reviewed the current Audit Committee Terms of Reference noting these align with *Ontario Regulation 361/10* (the Regulation) and the *Education Act*.

F - 1 Internal Audit

(a) Internal Audit Plan 2023-24

Superintendent Wyszynski noted the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan was tentatively approved at the June 2023 Board meeting, with an action to refine the scope for Student Outcomes. S. Bedi from KPMG provided high-level overview of the refined Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24.

In response to a question, S. Bedi clarified that an assessment will be completed at identified schools, but the actions/recommendations will be considered for the system.

Moved by: E. Hodgins

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Internal Audit 2023-24 Plan Report be forwarded to the September 25, 2023 Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

(b) Regional Internal Audit Evaluation

Superintendent Wyszynski noted as per the Terms of Reference, the board is required to complete an evaluation of internal auditors annually. A survey link will be sent to Audit Committee members.

G - 1 External Audit

(a) External Auditors Assessment

Superintendent Wyszynski noted that similar to internal audit, the board is required to complete an assessment evaluation of external auditors. A survey link will be sent to Audit Committee members.

H - 1 Other Business and Emerging Issues

(a) External Community Member



Audit Committee Report

Thursday, September 14, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Superintendent Wyszynski advised that a vacant Non-Board Member position was advertised. Candidate interviews were held and a recommendation to appoint the Non-Board Member will be presented to Board of Trustees at the September 25, 2023 Board meeting.

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Carried

J - 1 **Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member**
DATE: September 25, 2023

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the appointment of Atit Thakker as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending September 30, 2026.

Background

Ontario Regulation 361/10 made under the *Education Act* requires every board to establish an Audit Committee.

Non-Board Member, Beryl Collingwood, resigned from the Audit Committee effective June 15, 2023.

Under Ontario Regulation 361/10, should a Non-Board member of the Audit Committee vacate their position, the position shall be filled as soon as possible in accordance with this Regulation. Advertisements recruiting potential members were placed in local newspapers, on the school board website and through social media.

By regulation, a Selection Committee of the Chair or designate, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board and Superintendent of Business and Treasurer met to identify potential candidates for appointment as Non-Board Audit Committee members. The Selection Committee reviewed the applications received and recommends Atit Thakker for appointment as Non-Board Member of the Audit Committee for a three-term ending September 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions 2023-24**
DATE: September 25, 2023

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions 2023-24 to the Ministry of Education.

Background

The recently released Ministry Memorandum 2023: B08 Launch of 2023-24 Capital Priorities Program (CPP), including Child Care Capital funding calls on school boards to submit business cases identifying their urgent pupil accommodation needs.

The CPP provides school boards with an opportunity to identify and address current accommodation needs related to

- accommodation pressures;
- supporting past consolidation decisions;
- addressing schools in poor condition; and
- providing facilities for French-language rights holders in underserved areas.

Capital Priority Submission Highlights/Summary Points

- Capital Priorities projects are expected to address current accommodation needs and should be considered 'shovel ready'.
- School boards have an opportunity to request childcare capital funding for projects associated with a larger Capital Priorities Project. As in past CPP submissions, support for the project(s) from the local Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) is required.

Additional Information

Guided by Grand Erie's Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), Senior Leadership team is recommending that business cases be submitted for the following two projects:

Priority One: New 450-600 pupil place elementary school in the Town of Paris. The new school would address enrolment pressure from recent and continuing residential development within the town. The submission would include a four-room childcare request for purpose built childcare spaces as per the needs highlighted by the local CMSM.

Priority Two: Eight (8) classroom, 2-storey addition to Cobblestone elementary school in the Town of Paris. The new addition would address enrolment pressure from recent and continuing residential development within the town.

Next Steps

The two business cases outlined above are being developed and, pending Board of Trustee approval, will be submitted to the Ministry of Education by the October 20, 2023, CPP submission deadline.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Belonging indicator of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: We will build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Major Construction Project Report**
DATE: September 25, 2023

Background

As per Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie's) Major Construction Policy (FT-01), the status of each active capital project will be provided in a bi-monthly report. As per policy, this report shall include budgeted and actual costs to date, details of project progress and schedule for completion. A funding strategy will be recommended should the forecasted expenditures for a project exceed the budget established.

Status

South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School

The City of Brantford has provided Grand Erie with approval for zoning by-law amendment. Grand Erie staff are in the process of finalizing cost estimates for the joint build and will be forwarding all pertinent information to the Ministry to obtain approval to proceed to tender.

Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School

The transaction to acquire the land of the school was completed on September 5, 2023. The project is in the late stages of design.

All active project details are listed in Appendix A.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Belonging indicator of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A

Project	Type	Phase	Ministry Approval	Target Opening Date	Architect	Site Acquisition	Site Plan Approval	Tender Awarded	General Contractor	Budget	Actual	Cost Forecast
Elgin Avenue Public School	Addition / Renovation	Pre-Design	Aug 04, 2017	Sep 01, 2025	Salter Pilon Architecture	N/A	No	No	TBD	\$ 6,180,145	\$ 98,279	\$ 6,180,145
South-West Brantford Elementary School	New School	Design	Oct 20, 2020	Sep 01, 2025	ZAS Architects	In Progress	In Progress	No	TBD	\$16,269,978	\$ 1,176,728	\$ 16,269,978
Cobblestone Elementary School Child Care	Addition	Design	Mar 25, 2021	Sep 01, 2024	Crguric Architects Inc.	N/A	In Progress	No	TBD	\$ 2,224,868	\$ 95,060	\$ 2,224,868
Banbury Heights Public School Child Care	Addition	Design	Mar 25, 2021	Dec 31, 2024	Crguric Architects Inc.	N/A	In Progress	No	TBD	\$ 2,182,082	\$ 101,643	\$ 2,182,082
Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School	New School	Design	Nov 23, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Svedas Architects	Completed	In Progress	No	TBD	\$12,288,985	\$ 4,035	\$ 12,288,985



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board

FROM: K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
L. Munro, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement
L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education
R. Vankerbroeck, Superintendent of Education
J. White, Superintendent of Education

RE: **Summer Learning Report**

DATE: September 25, 2023

Background

Grand Erie continued to offer rich and engaging summer learning opportunities for elementary and secondary students and staff. Building on past success, several innovative programs were piloted for Grand Erie students to enhance their language, mathematics and technology skills, earn credits, meet new friends and prepare them for a smooth transition into the next school year.

Program Highlights

Summer Learning Institute

This was the second year for Grand Erie to offer Summer Institute to support employee professional development. The 2023 Summer Institute was open to all Grand Erie employees. The institute ran from August 21, 2023, to August 25, 2023. Sessions were reflective of Grand Erie's mission of building a culture of learning, belonging and well-being to inspire each learner and were in alignment with the goals and priorities of the 2022-23 Annual Learning and Operating Plan.

There were 14 sessions run by Grand Erie staff and external facilitators with 145 participants across all employee sectors. Session feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Summer Additional Qualifications

This summer, 89 Grand Erie employees successfully completed Additional Qualifications courses. Ten employees took First Nations, Métis and Inuit People, 37 employees took Math Part 1, 2 or 3 and 42 employees completed Reading Part 1, 2 or 3.

Camp SAIL

Camp SAIL hosted 290 students from Grades 2 to 5 across five (5) sites throughout Grand Erie. This is an increase in 30 students from last summer. Host Schools were: Agnes G. Hodge Public School, Major Ballachey School, Cobblestone Elementary School, River Heights Public School, and Lynndale Heights Public School. Forty-four staff (coordinators and educators) were involved in making camp a success this year.

Students were provided with kits which included activity cards, manipulatives and tools to play math games. Educators attended training sessions which consisted of mathematics and language professional development, as well as the goals and structure of camp. Resources were provided to educators, including Lego STEM kits at each host school for continued use during the regular school year. Educators had access to the Camp SAIL Professional Learning Environment, a digital space with rich resources to support language, mathematics, and

wellness activities. Educators worked diligently to program with individual needs in mind, while engaging students in games, activities, and theme days to provide an engaging, educational summer camp environment.

With a targeted focus on Early Language (phonemic awareness) and Early Mathematics (addition), 84% of students demonstrated some or significant growth in phonemic awareness and 59% of students demonstrated some or significant growth in early mathematics skills.

Secondary Summer School (Credit Bearing)

With 72 Secondary summer school courses from which to choose, Grand Erie received more applicants than previous years. Opportunities for Reach Ahead courses provided students entering high school an opportunity to receive a credit in *Introduction to Business* (BTP10), *Civics* (CHV20), or *Careers* (GLC20). All courses were offered online through Brightspace. This provided flexibility for students and led to incredible success rates.

SS Final Summary Data		
	#	%
Total Credits	4137	
Successful Credits	4001	88.95

Additional in-person support was provided at Six Nations Polytechnic in Ohsweken. A Cultural Mentor and educator were on hand daily providing assistance to any student requiring additional support.

Focus on Youth

This program supports students who face challenges to employment and/or engagement in school, to acquire and be successful in their first job. Grand Erie was given additional funding to expand the number of students who benefitted from this program. Students were employed for six weeks and received twenty hours of pre-employment training which included certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), with Automated External Defibrillator (AED), First Aid, as well as skills such as how to conduct yourself in a work environment and how to deal with conflict. Throughout the six weeks:

- 33 completed the program
- 29 students earned a co-operative education credit
- 35 students earned 10 community hours to be used towards graduation

Other expansions to the program this year:

- Addition of two (2) new community partners for student employment
- Inclusion of students from Safe and Inclusive Schools programming

Student Testimonial:

"I would recommend the program to another student because it gave me valuable experience I can use and apply towards my future. I have acquired a school credit with a great mark to contribute to my grade 11 average. Lastly, this has helped me establish what I want to do with my future."

Skilled Trades Camps

270 participants were enrolled in 11 trades camps this summer with a focus on welding, construction, and hospitality. All camps were designed to build student confidence and self-esteem while students actively learned new skills. Camps were designed to promote student awareness and interest in pursuing skilled trades opportunities in their secondary and postsecondary education. Camps were hosted over five (5) designated weeks across five (5)

secondary schools throughout the district and were open to Grand Erie and Six Nations students. Participants ranged from incoming grade 7 to 9 students.

Organized KAOS Construction Camp was designed to help students learn how to safely use a mitre saw, bandsaw, drills, impact drivers and a tape measure. Students learned hands on mathematics. Each student built and took home a completed project.

Students in Culinary Chef Camp learned basic cooking skills including proper measurement and following recipes and written instructions. Students created multiple dishes including baking under the supervision of chef instructors.

Mind Over Metal Camp was offered to attain a goal of changing the perceptions of youth about welding and careers in welding. Students participated in hands-on activities including various welding techniques with a culminating hands-on project.

Specialized Services Summer Programs

This is the fourth year that Grand Erie students had the opportunity to participate in the Specialized Services Summer Programs. Returning to a classroom setting requires intentional teaching of routines, structure, thoughtful classroom design and time to make and build relationships with staff and peers. Specialized Services provided in-person programs to students from kindergarten through to secondary school age to build relationships and familiarize themselves with their school.

Programs were designed with a focus on inclusive practices and engaged students through smaller educator-to-student ratios, activities and lessons that were universally designed to meet students at their entry points for learning, and to support their transition back to school with confidence and excitement.

Data collection was conducted through post-surveys. Staff from each session were able to share their reflections about content, timing, format and impact on student learning and well-being of the summer program. This data will inform classroom approaches and programming during the school year and to plan for summer 2024 learning opportunities.

Programs Offered and Uptake:

Affinity

Focus – Elementary, skill-building, self-regulation, peer relationships

- 14 programs offered; 140 students participated

My Story

Focus – Secondary, skill-building, self-advocacy

- One (1) program offered; four (4) students participated

This is my New School

Focus – Year 1 Kindergarten or returning Year 2 Kindergarten, transition support

- 20 programs offered; 70 students participated

It All Adds Up to Me

Focus – Grade 5 and 6 age students, math skills, perseverance and resilience

- Nine (9) programs offered; 60 students participated

Reading Skills Development through Lexia

Focus – Grades 2 to 8 age students, reading skills

- Program individualized to student; 217 students participated

Parent(s)/Caregiver(s) Testimonials:

“My child attended six (6) county camps this summer, but this program was my child’s favourite which surprised us! Every day I picked up an enthusiastic child who was happy to talk about the program and things that were learned that day. The timing was perfect (late summer/ am sessions). Location and staff were great as well. I hope this program continues, perhaps on PA days throughout the year.”

Student Testimonials:

“I liked to have a leadership role.”

“I made a friend. I learned how to program and make a game.”

Educator Testimonials:

“I really like having the opportunity to get to know these new students on a smaller scale. We get to spend more one-on-one time with each of them and build connections and relationships that help the students have a positive transition into the class with all their other peers.”

“I think this program helped build confidence with going back to school as well as being able to communicate their math and problem-solving abilities in a small group environment.”

Next Steps

Summer learning programs continue to be an integral part of Grand Erie’s education service to the district. All Departments who offered summer learning opportunities this year will review and incorporate stakeholder feedback in their planning for 2024 summer learning programs.

Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Achievement and Well-Being indicators of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statements: we will build a culture of learning to nurture curiosity and opportunity for each learner and we will build a culture of well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

- K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
- L. Munro, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement
- L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education
- R. Vankerrebroeck, Superintendent of Education
- J. White, Superintendent of Education





Audit Committee

Thursday, June 15, 2023
MS Teams Virtual Meeting

4:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Members: Chair - T. Waldschmidt (Trustee), J. Bradford (Trustee),
B. Collingwood (Volunteer) R. Collver (Trustee),
E. Hodgins (Volunteer),
Management: J. Roberto (Director), R. Wyszynski (Superintendent of Business),
KPMG (Internal Auditors): S. Bedi, B. Bost, B. Sisson
Millards (External Auditors): J. Gilbert, U. Riaz

Recording Secretary: L. Howells, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Business

A - 1 **Opening**

Chair Waldschmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(a) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** - Nil

(b) **Welcome to Open Session**

Chair Waldschmidt called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

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

Presented as printed

Moved by: J. Bradford
Seconded by: E. Hodgins
THAT the Audit Committee Agenda be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: E. Hodgins
THAT the Audit Committee accept the June 15, 2023, Consent Agenda items and the recommendation contained therein:

- (a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated March 23, 2023, be approved
- (b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence report, as information.
- (c) Receive the Q2 Financials Forecast as information.

Carried

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

(a) **Audit Committee Orientation**

Superintendent. Wyszynski stated modules 1 – 3 were shared with members following the last meeting for their review and feedback.

In response to a question regarding risk assessment awareness, Superintendent Wyszynski provided further explanation and clarification that the mechanism for risk management controls is part of our internal audits, and included in the year end process and noted in the Annual Audit Committee Report.



Audit Committee

Thursday, June 15, 2023

4:30 PM

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Modules 4 -6 will be sent out to committee members in mid-August for their review and follow-up at the September 2023 Audit Committee meeting.

D - 1 **Internal Audit**

(a) **Student Mental Health Review Summary**

B. Sisson from KPMG provided a high-level overview of the summary report.

In response to a question regarding what the measurements for tracking and best practice are, S. Bedi provided further explanation of the effectiveness of using outcome measure such as S.M.A.R.T goals. L. Thompson added we currently use case management system Learner Inventions for Tracking Excellence (LITE) - to track purposes.

(b) **Internal Audit Plan 2023-24**

S. Bedi from KPMG provided a high-level overview of the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24.

In response to a request to expand on the description for recommendation one, S. Bedi provided further explanation stating it is strictly student outcomes.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Collingwood

THAT the Audit Committee recommends the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan.

Carried

E - 1 **External Audit**

(a) **Review of Engagement and Audit Planning Letters**

Superintendent Wyszynski stated at the March 2023 meeting the Audit Committee appointed Millards as auditors.

U. Riaz from Millards provided a high-level review of both letters.

E. Hodgins left the meeting at 5:53 pm

(b) **External Auditors Assessment**

Superintendent Wyszynski noted as part of annual work of this committee a survey link will be sent out.

F - 1 **Other Business and Emerging Issues**

(a) **2023-24 Board Budget**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided a high-level of the report that was presented at the June 12, 2023, Finance Committee Meeting.

A question was asked about the impact of CPP/EI Superintendent Wyszynski responded that the Ministry does not fully fund the recent changes made in CPP and EI legislation, therefore an incremental cost of approximately \$330K is carried in the 2023-24 budget.



Audit Committee

Thursday, June 15, 2023

4:30 PM

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(b) **External Community Member**

Superintendent Wyszynski advised the committee of the resignation of B. Collingwood effective June 30, 2023. Superintendent Wyszynski stated the vacant position will be advertised to have a replacement in place for the September 2023 meeting.

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Collingwood

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:07 pm

Carried

H - 1 **2023-24 Meeting Dates:**

- Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 4 p.m.
- Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 4 p.m.
- Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 4 p.m.
- Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 4 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday June 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom with MS Teams link

MINUTES

- Chair:** Vice Chair K. Jones, Community Representative
- Community Reps:** K. Kelly L. Nydam W. Rose
T. Sault
- Trustees:** T. Waldschmidt L. Whiton
J. Hertel, Information Technology
J. Hooper, Principal Leader Mental Health Education and Student Support Services
- Grand Erie Employees** L. Munro, Superintendent of Education
J. Senior, Principal Leader, Specialized Services
L. Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Coordinator
L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education
L. Boswell, Community Navigator, Contact Brant
- Organizations/Agencies** C. Gilman, Easter Seals Ontario
R. Vriends, Autism Ontario
- Guests:** S. Bennett, Professor, Brock University
M. Somma, Assistant Professor, Brock University
P. Bagchee, Manager, Mental Health and Well-Being
T. Buchanan, Supervisor of Employment Supports, Community Living Brant
- Absent with regrets:** L. DeJong, Social Worker, Lansdowne Children’s Centre
M. Gatopoulos, Community Representative
F. Lainson, Program Co-ordinator Specialized Services
C. Stefanelli, Program Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services
- Recording Secretary:** J. Valstar, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Education

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Due to technological difficulties, Vice-Chair Jones, in Chair DeJong’s absence, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

J. Hertel, Information Technology, informed members of the YouTube livestream. Vice-Chair Jones reminded members of the closed caption feature available in MS Teams

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

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the June 6, 2023 Agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried





Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday June 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom with MS Teams link

MINUTES

B - 1 Timed Items

(a) The Gifts You Bring

Principal Leader Senior led members in an 'ice breaker' activity where they shared why they joined SEAC, and what they contribute personally to the committee.

(b) Grand Erie's Response to the Right to Read – Early Literacy in Grand Erie – Update

Superintendent Munro gave an update on Grand Erie's response to Right to Read, and answered member questions about implementation of supports, how data is gathered, the type of data that is gathered, and how often assessments are done. Superintendent Munro will provide more information on structured literacy at a later date.

(c) Inclusive Model Update – Situational Analysis

S. Bennett and M. Somma explained the comprehensive situational analysis they will be executing in order to gauge the school community's climate on moving towards inclusion in Grand Erie. Data will be collected from employees, students, families, and community members utilizing surveys, interview questions, and focus groups to gather data. Once this first step of the analysis has been completed, S. Bennett and Team will present the data to the board indicating what the current climate is towards inclusion within Grand Erie.

(d) Snowball Activity

Deferred to the September SEAC meeting.

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

(a) Approval of Minutes

Presented as printed.

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: C. Gilman

THAT the Minutes dated May 4, 2023 be approved, as presented.

Carried

(b) SEAC Representative to Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC)

T. Waldschmidt will represent SEAC on GEPIC for the 2023-24 school year.

(c) Dates for SEAC Meetings 2023-24 – draft

Presented as printed. Option 1 was selected.

D - 1 New Business

(a) Summer Programs

L. Sheppard and Principal Leader Hooper walked members through the link to the summer programs on the Grand Erie website, explaining what is being offered, where to find information, and how to register.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday June 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom with MS Teams link

MINUTES

E - 1 Other Business

(a) Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) Update

Deferred to September

(b) Grand Erie's Special Education Plan 2022-23

Presented as printed.

Move by: W. Rose

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the Board approve the Annual Review of the Special Education Plan 2022-23, and the submission of the Special Education Report Components Checklist to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education by July 31, 2023.

Carried

F - 1 Standing Items

(a) Policies Out for Comment

Nil

(b) Trustee Updates

Trustee Waldschmidt and Trustee Whiton shared their updates that included recent community events, and student success.

(c) Chair/Vice Chair Updates

Superintendent Thompson shared with committee members that F. Lainson, Program Coordinator Specialized Services, will be retiring at the end of June 2023, and thanked her for her many years of hard work in Special Education.

G - 1 Information Items - Nil

H - 1 Community Updates - Nil

I - 1 Correspondence

(a) LDAO Circular June 2023

Presented as printed

Members were informed they may send any comments/questions to J. Valstar, Executive Assistant to Liana Thompson.

J - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) OSSTF Inclusion Symposium – Summary Report (Sept 2023)

(b) Student Success – Feedback on Destreaming in Grand Erie (Sept 2023)

(c) Belonging project (Sept 2023)

(d) Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) Update (Sept 2023)

K - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday September 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Education Centre. A virtual option will be provided.



H-1-b

Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday June 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom with MS Teams link

MINUTES

L - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Carried



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: Trustee Claudine VanEvery-Albert, OPSBA Board of Director Member and Voting Delegate

RE: **Canadian School Boards Association & Alberta School Board Association Congress 2023**

DATE: September 25, 2023

Background

The Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) hosted the 2023 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Congress 2023 and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education in Banff, Alberta from July 3 – 5, 2023.

Highlights

Monday, July 3

- Blackfoot Elders Blessing
- Keynote Speaker: Naheed Nenshi, former Mayor of Calgary “A not very Political Life but Everything is Political”
- Collecting Student Demographic Data presentation “What to consider when collecting student data.”
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism in Edmonton Catholic Schools presentation

Tuesday, July 4

- CSBA President remarks and Congress 2024 announcement was made (will be held in Toronto)
- Keynote Speaker: The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean (27th Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada)
- Leveraging Game-Based Learning and Community Connection
- Alberta Minister of Education was in attendance
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Shelly Niemi (Métis), Educational Leader, Researcher, Scholar and Public Speaker

Wednesday, July 5

- Keynote Speaker: Riaz Meghji “Every Conversation Counts: How to Build Extraordinary Relationships”
- Closing Ceremonies included speakers, drumming and dancing

OPSBA

Following the Congress, a Zoom meeting was held with OPSBA Executive Director Stephanie Donaldson and OPSBA Liaison Alicia Cameron to debrief on the event. The Congress 2024 CSBA in Toronto will cover Indigenous Education where more First Nation, Métis and Inuit participation and presentations will be showcased, as well as plans and activities taking place in Ontario. Planning for the Congress CSBA 2024 event will continue over the next school year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trustee Claudine VanEvery-Albert,
OPSBA Board of Director Member and Voting Delegate



June 26, 2023

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 22nd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Stephen Lecce,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). We would like to start off by thanking you for the funding announcements for the 2023-24 school year. As one of Ontario's top growth boards, being provided with this information in a timely manner, is essential in maximizing the efficient and effective use of funding, as well as being able to bring forward a balanced budget in accordance with Ministry requirements. Recognizing that the hard work of preparing for next year's funding allocation has already begun, we are contacting you now with concerns and suggestions for consideration in your decision-making process for the province's future special education funding models.

A key aspect of the special education funding is ensuring allocated funding aligns with the current needs of the board in 2023. To maximize the allocated special education funding, it should be based on the most recent and relevant educational and community needs data, rather than drawing on previous community-data (legacy census data) that may not adequately reflect ongoing changes in population demographics, diversity, or the current and future needs. Simcoe County has changed significantly in recent decades, and these changes need to be taken into account when making financial decisions to support our students effectively. While we appreciate that special education funding has generally increased in recent years in the SCDSB, increases have largely been proportional to changes in enrolment and/or reflected increases in wages, rather than actual increased supports and services for students.

In the SCDSB, approximately 1 in every 5 students (approx. 11,500) has a special education related strength and need. Since the pandemic (COVID-19), the complexity of the needs of students has increased dramatically. Our most vulnerable students, especially those with special education and/or mental health needs, have been disproportionately impacted by the prolonged pandemic, caused by extended periods of school closures, restricted access to community-based services and supports (speech and language and occupational therapy), limited access to other children needed to develop pro-social skills, self-regulation, and strong oral language skills, which are all essential elements to maximizing success at school and in life after school. To minimize the impact of the pandemic on students with disabilities, significant and sustained investment will be required to alleviate long-term negative effects.

The success of students with special education and/or mental health needs at school is also greatly impacted by other aspects of educational funding, including access to appropriate physical space at school (opportunities for therapy at school to reduce unnecessary transition or time away from school), transportation funding (modified start and end times, travel distances to access specialized programming), etc. The SCDSB's Board of Trustees has recently written to the Ministry of Education to express concerns related to the need for capital funding, as well as

Page 1 of 3

changes in transportation funding. We would like to add our support to those previously identified concerns, and to reiterate the impact that these other types of education funding have on students with special education needs, and the corresponding appropriate supports that the board is then able to offer.

As you know, Ontario was the first province in Canada (2005) to pass legislation (*The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* [AODA]), with the goal and timeline of removing barriers to accessibility, including in schools by 2025. As we approach 2025 (date identified in AODA), many schools in the SCDSB continue to require significant investments in their facility infrastructure to reduce physical barriers, such as elevators, ramps, accessible washrooms, as well as accessible forms of transportation. We urge the Ministry to communicate with boards as to how these needed changes will be financially supported as the deadline quickly approaches.

Student success at school doesn't begin or end at the school's front door. To appropriately support students with special education needs in schools, a whole community wrap-around approach is required. Funding of services and supports provided through other ministries, such as timely access to community-based mental health supports, medical doctors, speech, physical and occupational therapy, nursing to support students with diabetes, and the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) also impact students' success while at school. Legislated wage restrictions in various public education or health-care sectors have negatively impacted the ability to hire and retain sufficient and high-quality clinical staff, educational assistants, child and youth workers, special education resource teachers, etc., to meet the increasingly complex needs of students emerging from the pandemic.

As the complexity of the needs of our communities continue to grow and change over time, comprehensive funding for Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECCP) (Section 23) needs to recognize the true costs for boards to partner with community agencies to offer successful care and treatment programs for students (transportation, staffing, facility costs, etc.).

The SCDSB's SEAC is supportive of the recommendations outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read Inquiry, as well as the recent funding announcements by the Ministry of Education to support improvements in reading instruction. Sustained funding, as well as a long-term commitment will be required to match the increasing complex needs of our students. Professional learning will improve not only the quality of instruction, it will help reduce attitudinal barriers faced by students with disabilities related to stereotypes, lack of knowledge, and sensitivity to their needs.

We also wish to express our support in the concerns recently communicated by many SEAC's regarding the funding of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP). While we appreciate the Ministry's recent updates to this funding model, we are concerned that recent changes may not adequately reflect SCDSB's growth and/or increasing complexity of students. We look forward to an update on these changes, including plans to address the needs of the growth boards within the province.

On behalf of the SCDSB's SEAC we would like to thank you for your time and dedication to all Ontario students, especially the most vulnerable with special education strengths and needs, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We wish to urge the Minister to take our concerns and suggestions into consideration when planning for future funding allocations and decisions. We appreciate the Minister's respect for our committee's understanding of our local needs and the importance of our advocacy on behalf of the needs of our students and families. We would be happy for the opportunity to discuss any of the above issues further, and we look forward to your response. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brandy Rafeek
Chairperson, SEAC



Kevin Berry
Vice-chairperson, SEAC

- c: Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson, SCDSB
John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB
Dawn Stephens, Associate Director of Education, SCDSB
Chris Samis, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Special Education, SCDSB
Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie–Springwater–Oro-Medonte
Hon. Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe
Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie–Innisfil
Brian Saunderson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey
Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)
Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardelt Avenue
 Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
 T: 519-570-0003
 F: 519-742-1364
 wrdsb.ca

June 27, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce,
 Minister of Education
 315 Front Street,
 14th Floor Toronto,
 ON M7A 0B8

Re: School Board Funding

Dear Minister Lecce,

Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Trustees have approved the 2023-24 school year budget. In doing so, the Board was forced to make some very difficult decisions regarding staffing and resources for next school year, and we would ask that the Ministry examine its funding approach and address some of the critical gaps we have identified, which are putting pressure on our staff and students to achieve better outcomes.

Trustees acknowledge the critical importance of fiscal responsibility and assure you that staff have undertaken a thorough review of expenditures in order to present a budget that aligns with the shared goals of the Ministry and our board, and complies with Ministry budget regulations. That being said, the following areas represent significant financial pressures for the board, and we believe the Ministry has a shared responsibility in terms of addressing these as we move forward.

To begin, we wanted to draw your attention to some of the challenges created by the new student transportation funding model. While the new funding model represents a positive step forward in terms of allocating funding based on a common set of standards and benchmarks, the model as presented in 2023-24 is creating some additional pressures for the WRDSB and other school boards across the province. Our existing contracts with operators, which were competitively procured, have increases built-in that are tied directly to the consumer price index (5.8%); the new funding model does not address the specific escalation clauses transportation consortia have built into their agreements. The new funding model also does not recognize passenger vehicles (minivans and taxis specifically) as a funded mode of transportation. In our area, Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) primarily uses these passenger vehicles to transport students with exceptional needs, because we recognize that depending on the student's exceptionalities, a small passenger vehicle may contribute to a better educational experience overall (shorter route times, quieter environment). Like many boards, the WRDSB continues to regularly overspend our transportation budget to meet the



needs of the students in our district, but with the introduction of the new funding model in 2023-24, our deficit in transportation has increased from approximately \$1.49M (2022-23) to \$2.92M (2023-24).

To help maintain the cleanliness, maintenance and day-to-day operation of our schools, we ask that the Ministry examine its benchmark funding for school operations within the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), which have not kept up with inflation. As you are aware, some contractual obligations, such as school bus operator contracts, are tied to the rate of inflation through the consumer price index (CPI). Others, such as construction tenders or contracts that come up for renewal on an annual basis (technology licenses, maintenance services and supplies), reflect the anticipation of sustained price increases (inflation). In our facility services area, several contracts are renewing this summer for consumable supplies such as paper towels and cleaning supplies, and the anticipated increase in costs for 2023-24 is approximately 15% (commodity and contract specific). Similarly, renewals for various software licenses are also impacted by price inflation, with year-over-year increases ranging from 5-7%. Our utility costs are also expected to rise significantly as global demand for various energy sources (natural gas) exceed current supply and the federal carbon tax increases. While we appreciate the 2% non-salary benchmark increase that has been provided for 2023-24, it is insufficient given the price escalations we are experiencing on a day-to-day basis.

The [Canada Pension Plan \(CPP\) enhancement](#), introduced in January 2019, is designed to help increase retirement income for working Canadians and their families. As you are aware, school boards and employees contribute equally to the CPP, and these costs are funded through the salary and benefits benchmarks provided by the Ministry of Education. As the CPP enhancement has been phased-in over the past number of years, there is no evidence that Ministry funding benchmarks have increased to reflect the higher employer contributions that are required. For the 2023-24 school year, we are estimating the incremental cost to the WRDSB is approximately \$1.26M. As CPP remittances are a statutory requirement, we are asking the Ministry to examine its benefits benchmarks to ensure that they provide sufficient funding to cover the obligations boards have under this program.

Lastly, we want to draw your attention to the ongoing operational and financial impacts of employee short-term sick leave plans. Prior to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, there had been a consistent upward trend in short-term supply staff costs across the province. The onset of the pandemic disrupted this trend and staff at the WRDSB noted a significant decline in utilization of short-term sick leave across all employee groups in the latter part of the 2019-20 school year and the entire 2020-21 school year. This disruption continued in the early part of 2021-22, but since then, we have witnessed a return to pre-pandemic utilization and the financial and operational pressures associated with short-term sick leave. Through the GSN, the WRDSB is projected to receive \$11.11M in funding to cover short-term supply costs (teachers


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and DECEs); for 2023-24, our forecasted expenditures in this area are \$21.99M, creating a pressure of approximately \$10.88M for these two employee groups alone. While we appreciate that you have acknowledged the pressures associated with short-term sick leave, school boards have limited options to address this challenge since sick-time provisions are centrally negotiated. We are asking the Ministry to review the benchmarks included in the Pupil Foundation Grant to ensure they adequately support the sick-time provisions that have been centrally negotiated.

Minister Lecce, we respectfully request the Ministry of Education consider these requests to support the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards with similar budget pressures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
 Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees
 Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
 Local Members of Provincial Parliament
 Deputy Minister of Education
 Regional Manager - West, Ministry of Education
 Assistant Deputy Minister, Capital and Business Support Division, Ministry of Education
 Region of Waterloo Regional Chair
 Local Mayors

June 30, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
438 University Ave., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

The Trustees representing the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) have recently approved the 2023/2024 Budget, with an in-year deficit of \$1.9 M. After a detailed review of the cost pressures we are facing at AMDSB, Trustees felt it important to share our concerns with you. While our total funding for the upcoming school year has increased, the rate of increased funding *inadequately* covers the increases we are seeing due to the rising costs of inflation and supports needed for our system. More specifically, our funding challenges include:

1. Special Education funding shortfall: The increase in Special Education funding for 2023/24 is not adequate to cover the Collective Agreement (Labour Provision) related cost increases as well as the cost increases due to Statutory Benefits. The funding gap in Special Education has grown from \$1.2M in 2022/2023 to over \$1.8M in 2023/2024.
2. Transportation Funding Reform challenges: Like many boards in the province, the impact of this has resulted in a loss for AMDSB. The increased funding is misleading, given it now includes the driver retention bonuses to be passed on to Bus Companies, formerly managed directly by the Ministry. The funding reform does not appear to include funding for vans and there appears to be a nil increase to cover inflationary cost pressures of bus contracts. While we applaud the transparency in setting a provincial walk-distance via the funding formula reform, the reality is that funding provided does not allow us to implement these changes fully, thereby setting us up for community expectations which we can not fulfill. Without changes to the funding formula, AMDSB will continue to operate a structural deficit as it relates to student transportation.
3. Significant cost of Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefit costs, without funding increases: The estimated cost of the new CPP benefit cost structure is approximately \$1.9M. Without an increase in future benefits benchmark funding, this cost pressure will continue to contribute significantly to our annual operating deficit.
4. Lack of inflationary increases throughout the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs): While the 2023/2024 GSNs did include some nominal increases in facilities related non-salary benchmarks, the lack of funding to address inflation-related costs is a significant worry. Examples of these non-funding cost pressures include increases in school supplies and resources, software services, bus contract costs (noted above) and costs associated with facilities operations.
5. Loss of Indigenous funding and subsequent impact on programming: At AMDSB, 100% of the prior years' Indigenous funds were used to support school level Indigenous programming. This loss of funding (\$320 K in 2023/2024 and projected to be \$620 K in 2024/2025) has required a reduction in program offerings impacting students directly.

6. Nil Equity funding provided: The lack of funding to support equity-related work has been a significant worry for AMDSB for a number of years. At AMDSB, battling oppression and racism is a key priority for us, which is difficult work in itself, especially with no funding to support the work or staff to lead in this important area stated as a priority by our Ministry.
7. Mental Health Support funding: We would like to acknowledge the increased funding AMDSB has received in the last 3-4 years but please know the need for Mental Health Supports in our communities is significantly greater than what we are able to provide, and this need is growing every day.
8. Lack of adequate funding to support Cyber Risk prevention: As you are aware, cyber incidents abound in the education system. Much of the Information Technology related funding is directed into mitigating this risk, which means a refocusing of funds away from purchases of student technology. This is not sustainable for the long-term.

These funding challenges have resulted in the filing of a deficit budget for the 2023/2024 year. While our budget is compliant, our concern about future years, if funding is not corrected, is even greater.

We understand that there are financial pressures across all sectors but we would be remiss if we did not advocate on behalf of our students. While we have made adjustments to our expenses for 2023/2024 to ensure a compliant budget is submitted, we have significant concerns for future years, and our ability to continue to file a budget that is compliant, while also meeting the needs of our school community. We ask that you consider ensuring that we are financially able to meet our ongoing requirements while we strive to offer the education and supports our school community expects.

Sincerely,



Nancy Rothwell
Chair of the
Avon Maitland District School Board

cc: Lisa Thompson MPP
Matthew Rae MPP
Cathy Abraham, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
OPSBA Member Board Chairs



Ralf Mesenbrink

Chair of the Board

Board Office: 500 Victoria Road N. Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

Email: ralf.mesenbrink@ugdsb.on.ca

Tel: 519-822-4420 ext. 575 or **Toll Free:** 1-800-321-4025

September 8, 2023

Honourable Stephen Lecce
 Minister of Education
 5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
 Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Sent via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Upper Grand District Board of Trustees I am requesting an amendment to the Education Act that would allow Student Trustees to independently move and second motions during board meetings.

Under Section 55(4) of the Education Act, Student Trustees are not entitled to move a motion but may suggest a motion which would need to be moved and seconded by members of the Board of Trustees.

Student representation and participation are essential to the good governance of a school board. We believe student voice at the board table must be expressed freely and fairly. Student voice strengthens student engagement and is an essential part of board discussion and decision making. Furthermore, this request to amend the Education Act is encouraged by the Ontario Student Trustees' Association whose priorities include Student Trustee governance.

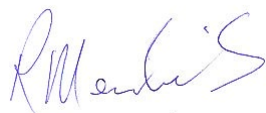
Section 55(6) of the Education Act states that Student Trustees shall have the same opportunities for participation at meetings of the board and its committees as does a member. The requested amendment to the Education Act supports Section 55(6) by providing Student Trustees with an authentic means to participate fully in board meetings, expressing student voice and advocating for the students they were elected to represent.

I trust that you will seriously consider our request.

Upper Grand District School Board

• Ralf Mesenbrink; Chair	• Jen Edwards	• Irene Hanenberg	• Martha MacNeil	• Kenn Manzerolle
• Katherine Hauser; Vice Chair	• Robin Ross	• Luke Weiler	• Laurie Whyte	• Lynn Topping

Sincerely,



Ralf Mesenbrink,
Chair of the Board

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
Honourable Matthew Rae, MPP, Perth-Wellington
Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Honourable Mike Schreiner, MPP, Guelph
Honourable Chandra Pasma, MPP, Education Critic
Ontario School Board Chairs

Upper Grand District School Board

• Ralf Mesenbrink; Chair	• Jen Edwards	• Irene Hanenberg	• Martha MacNeil	• Kenn Manzerolle
• Katherine Hauser; Vice Chair	• Robin Ross	• Luke Weiler	• Laurie Whyte	• Lynn Topping

September 8, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Flr, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: GNS Insufficiencies

Dear Minister Lecce,

At the June 20, 2023, meeting of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), Trustees passed a motion directing the Chair to write to the Minister of Education to express the Board's concern that provincial allocations through the Grant for Student Needs (GSN) are insufficient to meet operational needs.

This decision came following Trustee review and approval of TVDSB's Preliminary 2023-2024 Budget.

Specific areas of concern include replacement staff for absences, temporary student accommodations, Educational Assistant wages, Special Education funding, statutory benefits, IT infrastructure and devices, and transportation.

Replacement Staff for Absences

Absences continue to be high in all staffing groups and have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Replacement costs for absences therefore continue to be a challenge, given the centrally bargained language in Collective Agreements as it relates to the sick leave/short term disability language. The lack of funding in this area is a significant and sustained budget pressure.

Temporary Student Accommodations

With notable increases in enrolment over the past few years, TVDSB is incurring substantial expenses for temporary accommodations (portables). Temporary accommodations costs for the board over the past four years, including the current year's projections, total \$20.1 million, whereas Ministry funding for this expense totals only \$6.4 million. The 2023-2024 temporary accommodation funding provided is only \$1.4 million.

Educational Assistant Wages

Salary amounts for Educational Assistants are significantly lower at TVDSB than surrounding areas. With the recently centrally negotiated and ratified CUPE Collective Agreements, the opportunity to conduct local market value job evaluations and wage adjustments has been eliminated for this group of staff. In addition, the Ministry has not provided any additional funding to address this issue.

Special Education Funding

Special Education expenses are budgeted to exceed the special education funding by \$3.4 million in 2023-2024 (consistent with the prior year). Recognizing that the need here is significant, Trustees passed a motion at the Board meeting on June 27, 2023 to write a separate letter requesting that the government address chronic shortfalls in provincial funding for Special Education. This letter will be forwarded separately.

Statutory Benefits

On June 6, 2023, TVDSB wrote a letter urging the Ministry to address the substantial impact on our budget of longstanding increases in Employment Insurance (EI) and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefit expenses. Since 2019, TVDSB has estimated approximately \$12.2 million in additional EI and CPP statutory benefit expenses in excess of funding because of increases in maximum earnings amounts and rate changes. Additional increases are projected in the coming years.

IT Infrastructure and Devices

Additional funding for computing devices was received during the pandemic. This funding supplemented some of the board's immediate short-term needs during remote learning to support students and staff. There is a continued need to sustain additional funding for student and staff computing devices in response to ongoing replacement and curriculum needs.

Cyber threats and security and privacy requirements to protect and support in-person and remote learning have resulted in increased costs in software and hardware needed to maintain these complex networking systems and infrastructure. There is an immediate need for sustained additional funding for this critical technology infrastructure.

Transportation

The Ministry of Education's new Transportation Funding formula announced for the 2023-2024 school year is deficient as it does not provide funding for minivans. Nineteen percent of the TVDSB's Transportation Consortium routes are contracted with bus operators for minivans, the majority of which are for special education students. This has resulted in a decrease in funding of \$13.5 million that is being provided

temporarily as transition funding. We ask that the Ministry address this issue in the 2024-2025 GSNs in order to support the needs of TVDSB's most vulnerable students. As one of the fastest growing school boards in Ontario, TVDSB faces unique and unprecedented pressures. If the GSN is not adjusted, our school board will continue to be met with serious challenges serving the needs of Thames Valley schools, staff, and communities. Moreover, permanent staffing and program reductions will be necessary. As I have done through past letters and Ministry calls, I will continue to advocate on behalf of my fellow Trustees and the entire school board for immediate action to address these critical and time sensitive issues.

I would like to extend an invitation for you to visit Thames Valley so that we can further collaborate on addressing this unprecedented growth.

The Executive Assistant to the Chair's Office, Danielle Hancock, would be happy to arrange a meeting, and can be reached at d.hancock@tvdsb.ca or (519) 452-2000 Ext. 20219.

Sincerely,



Lori-Ann Pizzolato
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Trustees

September 8, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Flr, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Special Education Shortfalls

Dear Minister Lecce,

On June 27, 2023, Thames Valley District School Board Trustees unanimously supported the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) recommendation that we write you letter about chronic shortfalls in provincial funding for special education.

SEAC's recommendation came as a response to their review of the TVDSB's 2023-24 Special Education Budget and Special Education Plan.

Thames Valley's Special Education Plan, which was developed in collaboration with SEAC, is a comprehensive document that is well-positioned to meet the complex needs of Thames Valley students. The Board of Trustees strongly agrees with SEAC's concern that the availability of financial resources may impact the board's ability to fully implement the Plan. We also stand with the committee in their request for Special Education program expansion, staffing improvements and reduced wait times for services.

Meeting Special Education needs has become more challenging as Thames Valley experiences rapid growth due to residential development and new families moving to the district.

An example of one of the many areas where we have seen an increase is programming for students formally identified through the IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) process with a developmental disability. Thames Valley has approximately 11% of its exceptional students identified with a developmental disability, compared to the provincial average of 5.1%. Our data shows that we have an unprecedented

number of 1200 students choosing to stay in school until the age of 21. As a direct result, Thames Valley has needed to increase the number of Developmental Disability classes from 79 during the 2019-20 academic year to 89 for the 2023-24 school year. This adjustment has resulted in an additional cost of \$2.5 million.

Overall, TVDSB's Special Education expenses are budgeted to exceed the Grant for Student Needs by \$3.4 million in 2023-24 (consistent with the prior year). Additional resources are required if we are to successfully meet the needs of special education students and reduce barriers to accessing assessments and resources.

On behalf Thames Valley District School Board Trustees, thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. The Board looks forward to continuing this important conversation and working with the Ministry to provide critical supports to all Thames Valley students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Pizzolato".

Lori-Ann Pizzolato
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Trustees