



# Regular Board Meeting

Monday, May 27, 2024

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 p.m.)**
  - (i) Personnel
  - (ii) Legal
  - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement  
*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) Memorials
  - (i) Reid Hanans, Lakewood Elementary School (L. Whiton)
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Awards (J. Roberto)
- (j) Student Showcase - Oakland Scotland School and North Park Collegiate and Vocational School (J. Roberto, R. Vankerrebroeck)
- (k) Delegations

### B - 1 Approval of Minutes

- \* (a) April 22, 2024 (Regular Board Meeting)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated April 22, 2024, be approved."*
- \* (b) April 29, 2024 (Special Board Meeting)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated April 29, 2024, be approved."*

### C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- \* (a) [Finance Committee Meeting](#) Report dated May 6, 2024 (B. Doyle) (I)
- \* (b) [Policy and Program Committee Meeting](#) Report dated May 13, 2024 (S. Gibson) (I)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT Option Two for June 13, 2025 (Cancel Transportation in Port Dover/Lakewood Elementary School Closed to Students/Lakewood Staff Reports to School/Group Stops for Secondary Students) be approved."*

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

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

### F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

- \* (a) Student Senate Report (M. Baker, K. Gayowsky, A. Skye) (I)



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, May 27, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

### AGENDA

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

- \* (a) Major Construction Project Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)
- \* (b) Approval to Tender Construction of Childcare at Banbury Heights School (R. Wyszynski)

**Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Board approve the design of the new childcare addition at Banbury Heights School for release of tender documents."*

- \* (c) Approval to Tender Construction of South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School (R. Wyszynski)

**Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Board approve the design of the new South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School for release of tender documents."*

#### H - 1 Other Business

- \* (a) Student Senate Meeting Minutes dated February 15, 2024 (I)
- \* (b) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 28, 2024 (I)
- \* (c) Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 4, 2024 (I)
- \* (d) Six Nations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 18, 2024 (I)

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

#### J - 1 Correspondence

- \* (a) Durham District School Board dated April 24, 2024 (I)

#### K - 1 Adjournment

**Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."*



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, May 27, 2024

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

### AGENDA

## JUNE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
03	04	05	06 Special Education Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m.	07
10 Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Six Nations Advisory Committee 1:00 p.m.  Audit Committee 4:30 p.m.	14
17 Policy and Program Committee 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
24 Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.	25	26	27	28

## **In Memoriam**

Reid Hanans, a student  
at Lakewood Elementary School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Reid Hanans, a Junior Kindergarten student at Lakewood Elementary School.

Reid had an energetic personality. He loved to find materials in the class to build and play with. Reid was always willing to lend a helping hand to his teachers and peers. He always had a smile on his face and was a kind friend who will be missed by all.

Our deepest condolences go out to Reid's family, friends, the Lakewood Public School community, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Logan, Principal  
Lakewood Public School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting  
on May 27, 2024, by Trustee Whiton.



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton (MS Teams), Student Trustees: M. Baker, K. Gayowsky

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham, L. Munro, D. Smouter, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Absent:** Student Trustee A. Skye

A - 1 **Opening (6:31 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:33 p.m.)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Doyle

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 7:34 p.m.

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

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

(g) **Memorial**

(i) **Dallas Grandpre**

The memorial of Dallas Grandpre was read by Trustee Waldschmidt.

(h) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the attached Governance Policy #5, to replace the current Governance Policy #5, as required by Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 83/24, effective May



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

15, 2024, and for the purpose of the Director's Performance Review now under way, the current Governance Policy #5 remains in force and effect.

**Carried**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the appointment of the current Director's Performance Review Committee members to the Director Performance Appraisal Committee, pursuant to Section 3 of O. Reg. 83/24, effective May 15, 2024.

The Terms of Reference for the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee shall be to conduct the Director's Performance Appraisal in accordance with Governance Policy #5, O. Reg. 83/24, and other applicable provisions of the Education Act and its regulations.

The Director's Performance Appraisal Committee shall complete the Director's Performance Review currently in process.

**Carried**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT Item D-1-b be approved.

**Carried**

(i) **Student Showcase**

(i) **James Hillier Public School**

Director Roberto introduced the students from James Hillier Public School who placed first at the Norfolk Musical Arts Festival and performed their French second language presentation piece "Le corbeau et le renard".

(ii) **Punjabi Language Elementary and Secondary Students (GELA)**

Director Roberto introduced GELA's Punjabi students celebrating Sikh Heritage Month. They sang Shabad as a part of their celebration.

(j) **Delegations – Nil**

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **March 25, 2024 (Regular Board Meeting)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated March 25, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Finance Committee Meeting Report dated April 8, 2024**

Presented as printed.



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

Director Roberto highlighted the following:

- Learning at Grand Erie – GEMAAP and PA Day
- Recycling Solar Eclipse Glasses
- Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair Winners
- Bite of Brant
- The Little Mermaid at Pauline Johnson
- Art Soup
- Jane Goodall: Reasons for Hope
- Braiding Diversity into Justice
- Brant OPP Event
- Brant Fire Department at Tollgate Technical Skills Centre
- Lansdowne Children's Centre Celebrated 50 Years
- PSW Funding
- Budget Survey
- Days of Significance
- Indigenous Youth Artists
- Upcoming Events – GEPIC – Power of Connection and Wellness Out Loud

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

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

(a) **Annual Learning and Operating Plan Mid Term Update**  
Presented.

(b) **Trustee Expenses**  
Presented as printed.

(c) **Finance Committee, Policy and Program Committee and Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2024-25**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Finance Committee, Policy and Program Committee and Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2024-25 be approved.

**Carried**

H - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 14, 2023**  
Presented as printed.

(b) **Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2024**  
Presented as printed.

(c) **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 7, 2024**  
Presented as printed.



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

#### I - 1 OPSBA Report

Trustee VanEvery-Albert advised of the following:

- Central West Regional meeting hosted by Grand Erie was well received
- Labour Relations Symposium – April 25-26, 2024
- 2024 Canadian School Board Association Congress and National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education – July 3-5, 2024

#### J - 1 Correspondence – presented as printed.

- (a) The Children's Safety Village of Brant dated February 19, 2024
- (b) Grand Erie District School Board dated March 22, 2024
- (c) Ottawa-Carlton District School Board dated April 4, 2024
- (d) Ottawa-Carlton District School Board dated April 4, 2024

#### K - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Carried**

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto





## Special Board Meeting

Monday, April 29, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson (MS Teams), J. Bradford (MS Teams), R. Collver (MS Teams), L. Passmore (MS Teams), E. Thomas, (MS Teams), T. Sault (MS Teams), C. VanEvery-Albert (MS Teams), T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton (MS Teams)

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendent: R. Wyszynski (MS Teams), Recording Secretary: C. Dero (MS Teams)

**Absent:** Student Trustees: M. Baker, K. Gayowsky, A. Skye

A - 1 **Opening (6:00 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

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

Chair Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(d) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

(f) **Memorial** - Nil

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

(h) **Student Showcase** - Nil

(i) **Delegations** - Nil

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

(a) **Contract Award - Caledonia Joint Elementary School Construction**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the contract for the construction of the joint elementary school and childcare facility located in Caledonia to Tambro Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$26,810,000.

**Carried**



## Special Board Meeting

Monday, April 29, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

It was noted that Tambro Construction Ltd. is on the list of prequalified vendors and have built a number of schools in the board's geographic vicinity.

Grand Erie will work with BHNCD SB, and an agreement will be put in place to handle the project jointly.

#### C - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

**Carried**

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Chair S. Gibson

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Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



## Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### REPORT

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

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Guests:** Manager C. Smith, Manager A. Van Doorn

**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: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

**Carried**

**C - 1 Approval of Minutes**

**(a) April 8, 2024**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee dated April 8, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

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

**E - 1 New Business**

**(a) Core Education De-Brief 2024-25**

Presented as printed.

Trustee Passmore joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

**(b) Budget Survey 2024-25**

There were approximately 1100 responses from staff, students, parents/caregivers, committee members and the community. Feedback included requests for facility upgrades, professional development in math, literacy and technology, math resources and supports in specialized services.

**F - 1 Other Business – Nil**



**C-1-a**

## Finance Committee Meeting

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

**6:30 p.m.**

### REPORT

**G - 1 Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**H - 1 Next Meeting Date:** June 10, 2024



## Policy and Program Committee

Monday, May 13, 2024

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### REPORT

**Present:** Committee Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: R. Collver B. Doyle, T. Sault, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham, L. Munro, , J. Tozer, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White, Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

Roll call was completed.

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

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

Chair S. Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

**Carried**

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

**March 4, 2024**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Minutes of the Policy and Program Committee meeting dated January 15, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

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

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

(a) **Implications of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Events on Port Dover Students 2024-25**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT Option Two for June 13, 2025 (Cancel Transportation in Port Dover/Lakewood Elementary School Closed to Students/Lakewood Staff Reports to School/Group Stops for Secondary Students) be forwarded to the May 27, 2024 Regular Board Meeting for approval.

**Carried**



## Policy and Program Committee

Monday, May 13, 2024

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### REPORT

(b) **Curriculum Updates**

Presented as printed.

It was noted that both Grade 11 and Grade 12 students will be able to participate in full-time apprenticeship learning.

(c) **Acadience Early Reading Screener**

Presented as printed.

It was noted that the screener provides a high-level understanding of a student's needs.

Multi-Language Learner (MLL) Coaches will support the classroom teacher. In addition, MLL Coaches administer both the STEP Assessment and Acadience Early Reading Screener to students.

All boards are required to ensure educators receive professional development for the administration of the screener.

(d) **Secondary Program Review – Phase 1**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, it was noted that a secondary program review for additional schools will be scheduled based on findings of Phase 1 and will align with the Long-Term Accommodation Plan.

(e) **Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan and Student Achievement Plan Update**

Grand Erie's Math Achievement Action Plan was implemented to support math learning and improve math achievement for students across the district. Trustees received an update regarding the goals and key performance indicators for student progress and achievement prioritized in Grand Erie. The Math Achievement Action Plan builds in connection points between educators, math instructional coaches, Administrators and Senior Administration to ensure each school individually, and the district as a whole, is working collaboratively to achieve the goals of the plan.

F - 1 **New Business – Policy - Nil**

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Policy and Program meeting be adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

**Carried**

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** June 17, 2024



# Grand Erie District School Board

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

**FROM:** Maggie Baker, Student Trustee – South  
Keira Gayowsky, Student Trustee – North  
Aleena Skye, Student Trustee – Indigenous

**RE:** **Student Senate Report**

**DATE:** May 27, 2024

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The Student Trustees held their third Student Senate event of the year on April 25, 2024 at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School. Student Senate enables student leaders to connect with each other to create an even better future for their schools. Student Trustees connected with Student Senators, working to finalize initiatives and focus on student advocacy.

The day began with Student Senate working groups: environmentalism, student mental health and well-being, and student voice. Each working group brainstormed new ideas and worked to finalize initiatives that commenced earlier in the year.

Student Trustee Baker led the Mental Health and Well-Being Working Group, fostering new ideas and continuing to work on current projects. Students reviewed the updated cafeteria pricing and brainstormed innovative ideas to support cost reductions, like fundraising and food programs. Students also voiced suggestions to ensure staff are aware of mental health concerns, stressors, and workloads that students face during this time of the year. The group explored how to enhance outreach to support students struggling with mental health and ensure equitable access to resources and events. Students generated new ideas, exploring the concept of a school-wide calendar to support students and secondary schools concerning well-being. The group finished their breakout by revisiting the term School Health Nurse instead of Sexual Health Nurse.

Student Trustee Gayowsky led the Student Voice Working Group, where ideas were discussed, and projects were reviewed and finalized. With a focus on social media this year, students looked at days of significance in May and how to promote inclusion and diversity. Taking initiative, student senators expressed interest in creating posts for senate social media. Recently, Delhi Student Senators created a post for Dutch Heritage Month. Students discussed a social media campaign highlighting secondary schools and their programs to support grade 8 to 9 transitions. Senators discussed ways to enhance acknowledging pronouns in a way that made students feel that they are in a safe and welcoming space. The Student Voice Working Group will continue collaborating and using social media to support our student body as the end of the school year draws closer.

The environmental working group voted on which of the dress code posters they wanted based on which one they felt represented students within Grand Erie schools. The group completed their project of getting plastic water bottles removed from all vending machines across the board to help prevent the environmental impacts bottling companies have on the land in which Grand Erie resides and to lower the board's usage of single-use plastic. The working group provided recycling bin signage to every school to encourage proper disposal of recyclables and ensure students know where each product goes. Finally, the group discussed

giving a plant as a gift to every school from the environmental working group to either have in their school or plant on the property with a special meaning/ message behind it that resonates with Grand Erie's vision and mission.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Jeff A.D. Martin, who shared his experiences uncovering implicit bias. He focused on the power of inclusion and embracing diversity. He shared that no matter how different we may look from each other, we are more alike than we are different. Students felt empowered and inspired by his presentation as they were reminded of their worth and self-value. The presentation aligned heavily with Grand Erie's emphasis on belonging within school and creating a supportive environment. He urged students to learn, lead, and inspire, emphasizing their potential to make positive change.

Students were reminded of the upcoming Student Senate event on May 30th, 2024, which will be the last Senate event of the 2023-2024 school year. This upcoming event will emphasize the Senate's future, being led in tandem with the incoming 2024-2025 Student Trustees. Planning for this Student Senate is underway, and we are pleased to continue our work with the student body, which continues to learn, lead, and inspire.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Baker, Student Trustee – South

K. Gayowsky, Student Trustee – North

A. Skye, Student Trustee – Indigenous





# Grand Erie District School Board

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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: May 27, 2024

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## Background

As per Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie's) Major Construction Policy (FA-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 forecasted expenditures for a project exceed the budget established.

## Status

### Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School

The project has received Ministry of Education approval to proceed, and the tender was released. The project team has awarded the general construction contract to Tambro Construction Ltd.

### South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School

The project has received Ministry of Education approval to proceed, and Grand Erie's Purchasing Department will proceed to tender the project.

### Banbury Heights

The project has received Ministry of Education approval to proceed, and Grand Erie's Purchasing Department will proceed to tender the project.

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 (SPA)	Tender Awarded	General Contractor	Budget	Actual	Cost Forecast
Elgin Avenue Public School	Addition / Renovation	Pre-Tender	Aug 04, 2017	Sep 01, 2025	Salter Pilon Architecture	N/A	In progress.	No	TBD	\$ 6,180,145	\$ 156,653	\$ 6,180,145
South-West Brantford Elementary School	New School	Pre-Tender	Oct 20, 2020	Sep 01, 2026	ZAS Architects	In Progress	Conditional SPA received (Jan 2024).	No	TBD	\$ 37,276,746	\$ 1,380,512	\$ 37,276,746
Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School	New School	Pre-Construction	Nov 23, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Svedas Architects	Completed	Approved.	Yes	Tambro	\$ 18,935,580	\$ 307,412	\$ 18,935,580
Cobblestone Elementary School Child Care	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 25, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	In progress.	No	TBD	\$ 2,224,868	\$ 103,984	\$ 2,224,868
Banbury Heights School Child Care	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 25, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	Approved.	No	TBD	\$ 2,182,082	\$ 246,531	\$ 3,209,266
Cobblestone Elementary School Addition	Addition	Design	Mar 27, 2024	Sep 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	Not yet initiated.	No	TBD	\$ 4,098,600	\$ -	\$ 4,098,600



# 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: **Approval to Tender Construction of Childcare at Banbury Heights School**  
DATE: May 27, 2024

**Recommended Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
THAT the Board approve the design of the new childcare addition at Banbury Heights School for release of tender documents.

## Background

In March 2021, the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) received an announcement from the Ministry of Education indicating that it would receive capital funding for an expansion of the existing childcare centre (1 infant, 1 toddler, and 1 preschool room) at Banbury Heights School in Brantford, Ontario.

In June 2023, Grand Erie received confirmation that the floor and site plan for a childcare centre license have been reviewed and approved in principle by the Ministry of Education pursuant to Section 14 of O. Reg. 137/15 under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

On May 3, 2024, the Ministry of Education provided Grand Erie with an Approval to Proceed (ATP) to tender the project.

## Project Scope:

The addition, which will include approximately 4,300 square feet of constructed space, will include the following construction scope:

- 1 infant, 1 toddler and 1 pre-school room
- Designated play areas for each room

The site plan application has been approved and the building permit application is currently underway. The design plans are attached as Appendix A: Site Plan and Appendix B: Floor Plan.

## Budget Implications:

A cost consultant was engaged to review the project drawings developed by Grguric Architects and provided a Class A cost estimate to ensure the project cost is within the Ministry of Education's ATP funding allowance.

## Project Cost Breakdown:

Description	Budget
New Childcare Construction (Class A Estimate)	\$2,577,497
Estimated Site Works	\$305,970
Architect, Fees, Permits	\$225,800
<b>Total Estimated Project Cost</b>	<b>\$3,109,267</b>

**Funding Breakdown:**

Description	Budget
Ministry - Child Care Capital	\$2,182,082
Ministry - Additional Child Care Capital	\$545,521
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$2,727,603</b>
Funding Variance	<b>-\$381,664</b>

The estimated project costs are approximately \$381,664 higher than the Ministry of Education approved allocation; however, Senior Administration in consultation with the Ministry of Education, is recommending supplementing the gap through Grand Erie's accumulated surplus.

This funding plan should support the project; however, should the tender results reveal an additional budget pressure, Grand Erie will need to further explore these three options:

1. Review alternate pricing and re-structure components so the project fits within the approved project funding.
2. Utilize internal, Board-appropriated reserves for any cost overruns. The balances of Board reserves as of August 31, 2023, are:

Reserve Fund	Balance	Notes
<b>Proceeds of Disposition - Ministry</b>	\$130,967	Requires Ministry Approval
<b>Proceeds of Disposition - Other</b>	\$1,016,793	Requires Ministry Approval
<b>Accumulated Surplus:</b>	\$11,111,173	Requires Board Approval

3. Incur unsupported capital for any cost overruns.

**Project Schedule:**

Pending Board of Trustees approval of the designed project scope of work, staff can release the tender for this project in late May 2024. The following schedule is subject to favorable tender pricing:

<b>General Contractor Tender Posting</b>	<b>May 2024</b>
<b>Tender Award</b>	July 2024
<b>Execution of Contract</b>	July 2024
<b>Break Ground / Commence Construction Phase</b>	August 2024
<b>Grand Opening:</b>	September 2025

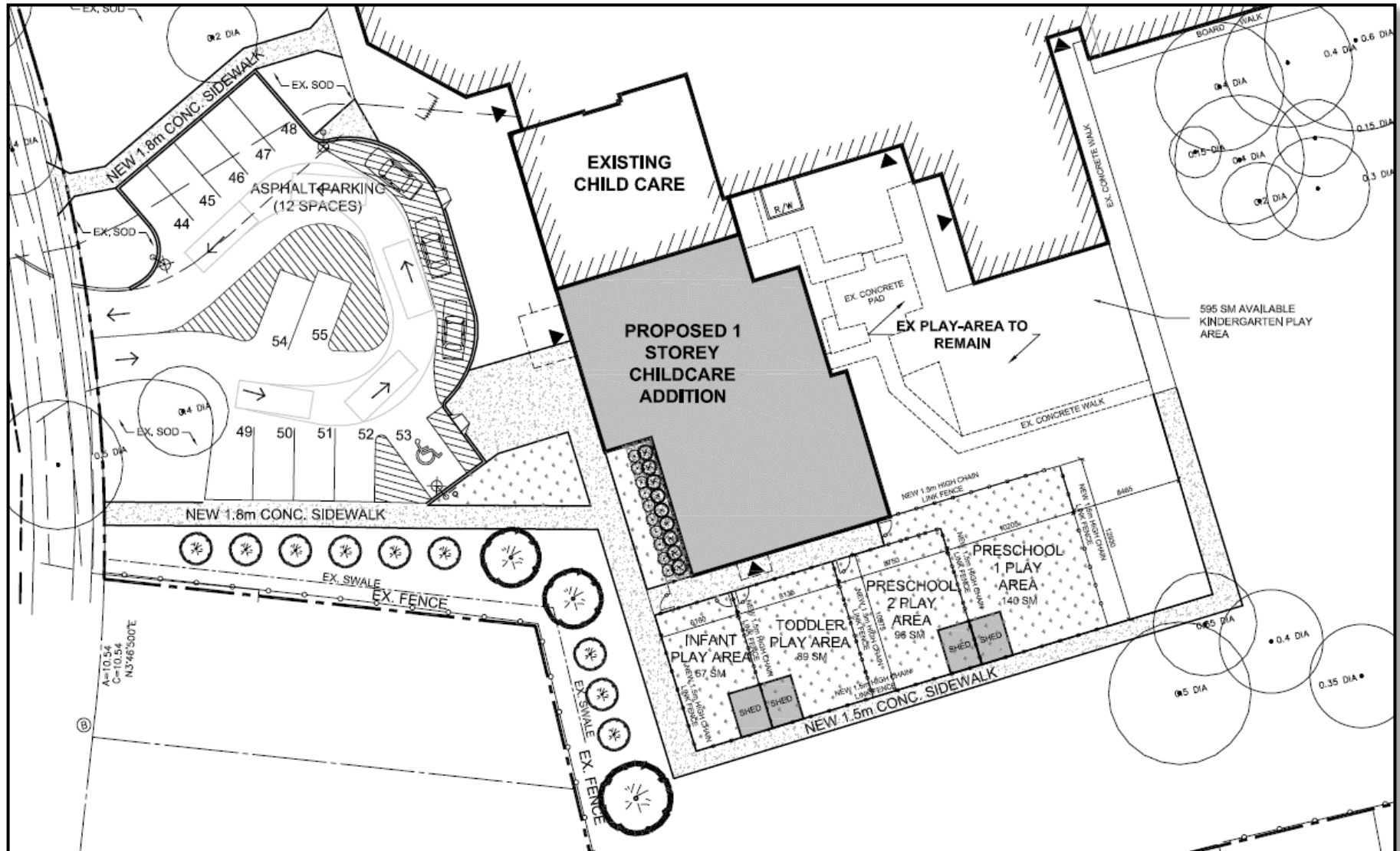
**Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan**

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.

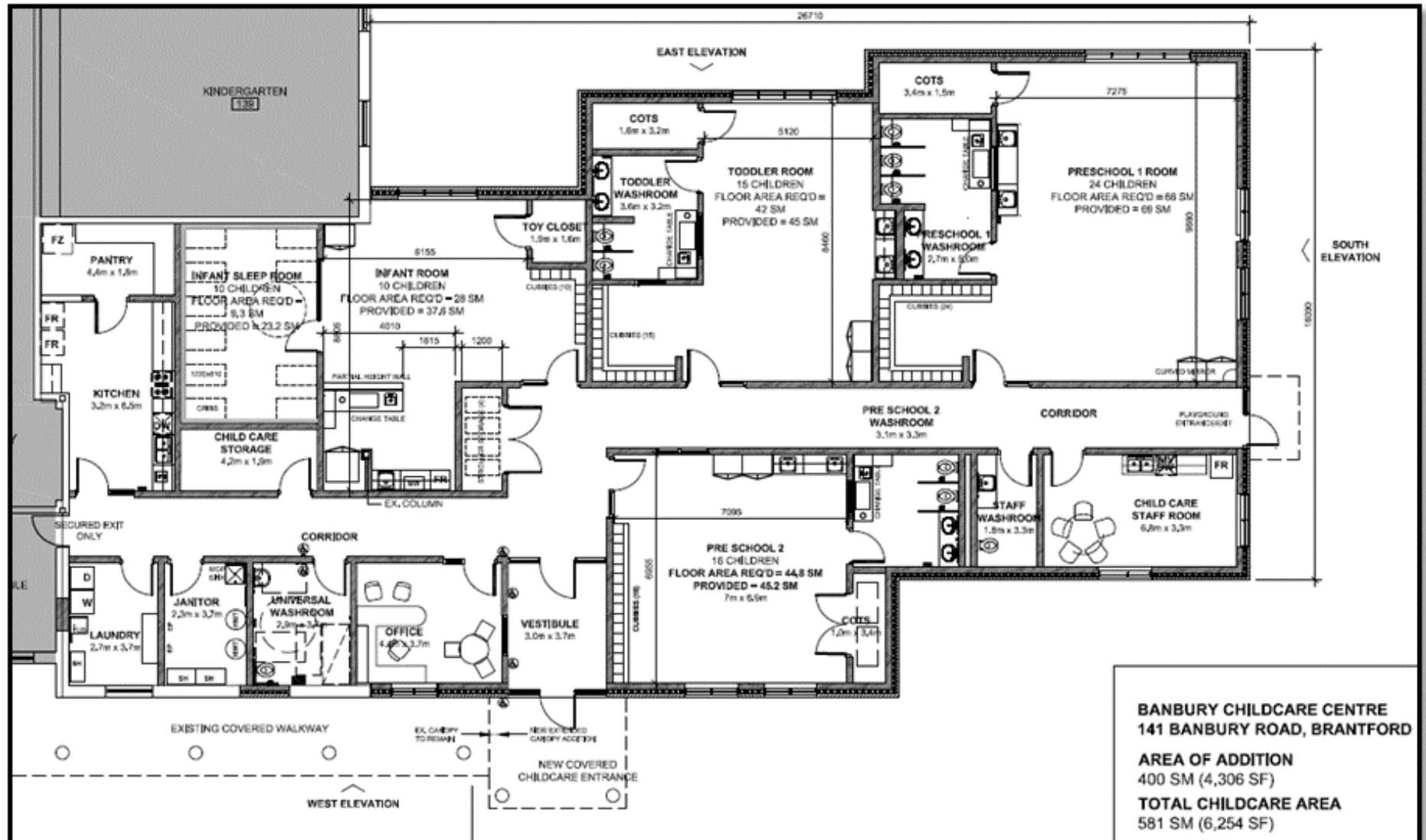
Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

## Appendix A



## Appendix B





# 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: **Approval to Tender Construction of South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School**  
DATE: May 27, 2024

**Recommended Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
THAT the Board approve the design of the new South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School for release of tender documents.

## Background

In October 2020, the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) received an announcement from the Ministry of Education indicating that it would receive capital funding for a new joint-use elementary school that would include 650 pupil-places and a four-room childcare centre (1 infant, 1 toddler, 1 preschool and 1 family-age group) to address accommodation pressure in southwest Brantford. In addition, Grand Erie has partnered with the City of Brantford and the Brantford Public library to construct an enhanced library and triple gymnasium at the undeveloped site at the intersection of Shellard Lane and Strickland Avenue in Brantford.

In August 2023, Grand Erie received confirmation that the floor and site plan for a childcare centre license have been reviewed and approved in principle by the Ministry of Education pursuant to Section 14 of O. Reg. 137/15 under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

On May 14, 2024, the Ministry of Education provided the Grand Erie with an Approval to Proceed (ATP) to tender the project.

## Project Scope:

The new build, which will include approximately 108,000 square feet of constructed space, will include the following construction scope:

- Four (4) Kindergarten classrooms
- 23 regular classrooms
- 2 Specialized Services Spaces
- 32,500 square feet of space dedicated to a recreation/community centre and gymnasiums
- 13,500 square foot library
- Landscape areas include playgrounds, open space recreation areas, walkways, fencing and lighting

The site plan application, as well as the building permit applications, are both currently underway. The schematic drawings are attached as Appendix A: 3D Rendering and Appendix B: Design Plan.

## Budget Implications:

A cost consultant was engaged to review the project drawings developed by ZAS Architect Inc., in collaboration with Colliers Project Leaders, and a Class A cost estimate was developed to ensure the estimated project costs were within the Ministry of Education's ATP funding allowance.



**Project Cost Breakdown:**

Description	Budget
New Construction (Class A Estimate)	\$ 67,079,386
New Childcare Construction (Class A Estimate)	
Estimated Site Works	
Architect Fees	
Project Management Fees	
Furniture and Equipment	
Permits, Inspections, Incidentals	
<b>Total estimated project cost</b>	<b>\$67,079,386</b>

**Funding Breakdown:**

Description	Budget
Ministry – Capital/Land Priorities	\$34,436,984
Ministry – Child Care Capital	\$2,839,762
Third Party	\$29,802,640
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$67,079,386</b>
Funding Variance	-

This project has been funded through the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities and Child Care Capital Funding Program as well as capital allocations from the City of Brantford and the Brantford Public Library. Currently, no additional reserves have been allocated to this project. However, should the tender results reveal a budget pressure, Grand Erie will have three options:

1. Review alternate pricing and re-structure components so the project fits within the approved project funding.
2. Utilize internal, Board-appropriated reserves for any cost overruns. The balances of Board reserves as of August 31, 2023 are:

Reserve Fund	Balance	Notes
<b>Proceeds of Disposition - Ministry</b>	\$130,967	Requires Ministry Approval
<b>Proceeds of Disposition - Other</b>	\$1,016,793	Requires Ministry Approval
<b>Accumulated Surplus:</b>	\$11,111,173	Requires Board Approval

3. Incur unsupported capital for any cost overruns.

**Project Schedule:**

Pending Board of Trustees approval of the designed project scope of work, staff can release the tender for this project in late May 2024. The following schedule is subject to favorable tender pricing:

<b>General Contractor Tender Posting</b>	<b>May 2024</b>
<b>Tender Award</b>	July 2024
<b>Execution of Contract</b>	July 2024
<b>Commence Construction Phase</b>	July 2024
<b>Grand Opening:</b>	September 2026

**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  
Aerial View – Front of School





Aerial View – Back of School

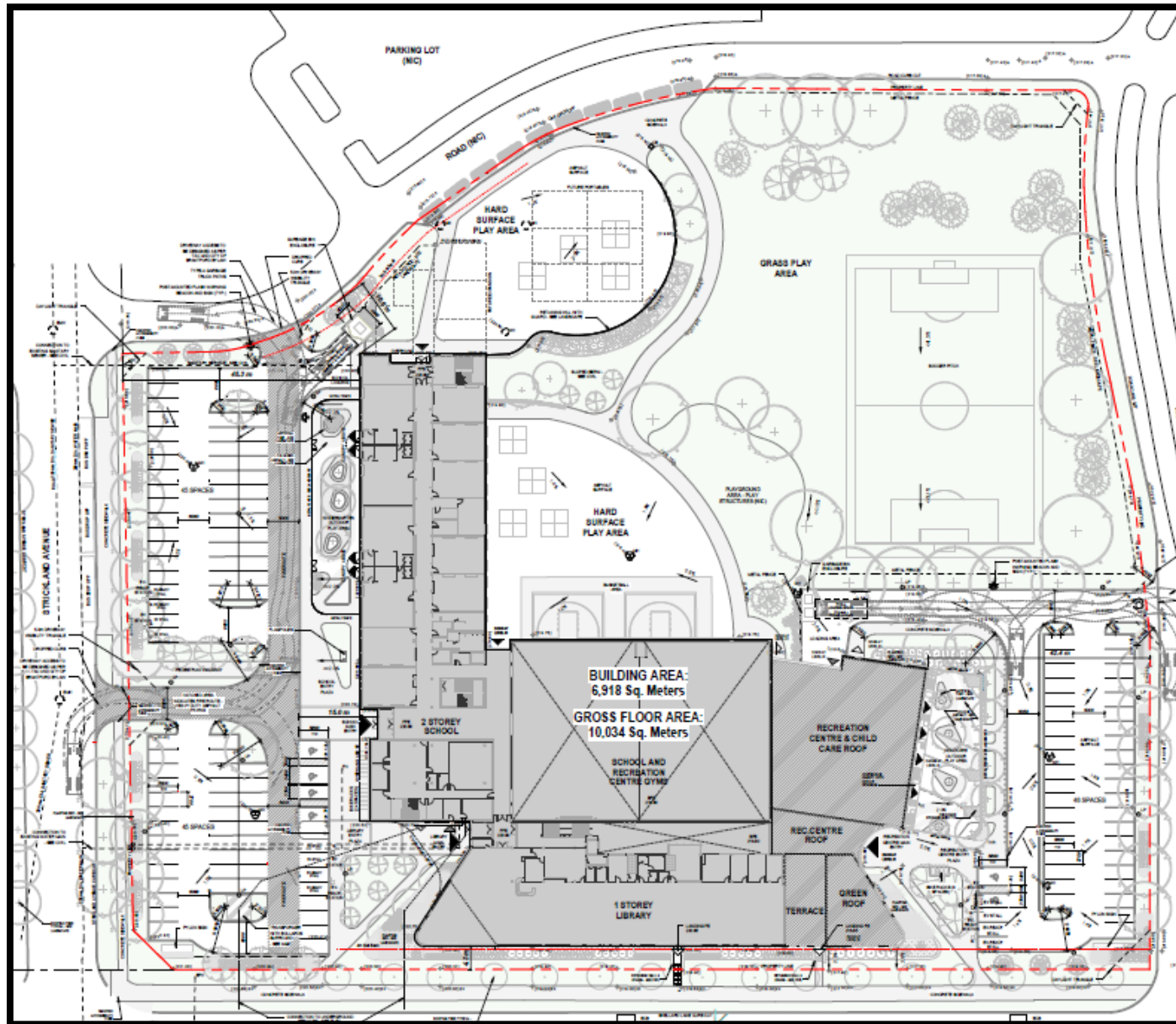


Aerial View – Child Care Centre





## Appendix B





## Student Senate Meeting & Trustee Elections

Friday, February 15, 2024

10:10 a.m.

Hagersville Secondary School

### MINUTES

**Present:** Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Cayuga Secondary School, Delhi District Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, Hagersville Secondary School, McKinnon Park, North Park Collegiate, Paris District High School, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Simcoe Composite School, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre, Valley Heights Secondary School, Waterford District High School

**Student Trustees:** Maggie Baker (Representing South)  
Keira Gayowsky (Representing North)  
Aleena Skye (Representing Indigenous)

**Administration:** Superintendent Lisa Munro, Executive Assistant: Kerri Harrison

**Recorder:** Kerri Harrison

**A - 1 Opening/Welcome**

- (a) **Grand Erie Land Acknowledgement** – Student Trustee Baker
- (b) **Opening Address** – Jacob Hill
- (c) **Welcome** – Superintendent Munro opened the meeting and welcomed Senators and Candidates

**B - 1 Approval of the Minutes – November 23, 2023**

Moved by: I. Halsey

Seconded by: C. Shields

THAT the minutes of the Student Senate meeting, dated November 23, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

**C - 1 Elections and UISC Consensus Building**

Student Senators and Candidates broke into North/South for candidate questions and voting and UISC for candidate questions and consensus building

**D - 1 Working Groups**

Student Senators broke into working groups to discuss Mental Health, Student Voice, and Environment.

**E - 1 Round Table Discussion**

Student Senators summarized the working group discussion:

Mental Health and Well-Being Working Group:

Initiative Updates:

- Cafeteria prices survey – over 10% feedback from all secondary students. Went over the survey results and next steps
- Trustee Baker met with Superintendent Ashe and they will be working together
- Discussed the following:
  - Student panel to understand students' lived experiences regarding mental health
  - How to reach students who are not comfortable reaching out



H-1-a

## Student Senate Meeting & Trustee Elections

Friday, February 15, 2024

10:10 a.m.

Hagersville Secondary School

### MINUTES

- o Mental health surveys
- o Targeting a range of students to deliver mental health supports
- o IEP information sessions for students and teachers to raise awareness
- o "Talking locker" where students can anonymously submit concerns

Student Voice Working Group:

Initiatives Update:

- School Cash Online – fees have been dropped from 4% to 2%. Cash is always accepted, although debit & credit is preferred
- Asking for feedback on You Belong Here nights and looking at ways we can use social media to help the transitions from grade 8 to grade 9
- Asking senators to provide more detail about washroom concerns and updates on menstrual products within their schools
- Looking at ways to support updated furniture and resources
- Asking about course availability for in person or online courses
- Social media outreach, with posts regarding multiculturalism

Environmental Working Group:

Initiatives Update:

- Water bottles being removed from schools – working with Purchasing
- Signage on garbage cans and composting – signs will be delivered to schools
- Looking into resources re: recycling

#### F – 1 **Announcement of 2024-25 Student Trustees**

North – Caitlyn Shields

South – Olivia Prince

UISC – Aidyn Lyle Hill

#### G – 1 **Closing Address** – Suzie Miller

#### **Future dates:**

- April 25, 2023
- May 30, 2023

**The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**



## Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:30 p.m.

Joseph Brant Learning Centre (Pine Tree Room)/MS Office  
Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

<b>Chair:</b>	J.P. Gauthier, Indigenous Education Teacher Consultant
<b>Community Representative(s):</b>	P. Barber, Director of Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
<b>Trustees:</b>	T. Sault, Trustee A. Skye, Student Trustee L. Whiton, Trustee
<b>Grand Erie Staff:</b>	K. Graham, Superintendent of Education D. Montour, System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education (Acting) R. Mullings, Elementary Principal J. Roberto, Director of Education Nil.
<b>Organizations/ Agencies:</b>	Nil.
<b>Parent/Family Designates</b>	Nil.
<b>Regrets:</b>	S. George, Parent/Family Designate V. King-Jamieson, Mississaugas of the Credit Education Pillar Lead B. Sandy, Local Association Representative K. Sandy, Local Association Representative T. Simon, Parent/Family Designate D. Sowers, Local Association Representative J. Burnham, Local Association Representative C. General, Local Association Representative L. Harris, Local Association Representative N. Shawana, Elementary and Secondary Education Advisor Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation R. Skye, Indigenous Education Advocate H. Watts, Education Manager – Six Nations Lifelong Learning Taskforce
<b>Absent:</b>	Nil.
<b>Guests:</b>	Nil.
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) **Opening Address**  
Chair Gauthier provided opening greetings.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**  
Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- (c) **Introduction & Roll Call**  
Chair Gauthier welcomed members to the meeting. Roll Call was complete.
- (d) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approvals**  
The agenda was approved.



## Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:30 p.m.

Joseph Brant Learning Centre (Pine Tree Room)/MS Office  
Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

(e) **Student Showcase**

Chair Gauthier shared a video that represents the work in the schools with a focus on a PD session for “land-based learning opportunity”. Upcoming learning in schools will continue to be documented.

(f) **Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustee Skye shared a summary of her work as Student Trustee: Student Trustees school visits to promote student trustee elections, Student Senate through consensus model, UISC - Consistency with Land Acknowledgement in schools, and Recycling Program (Including removal of water bottles in all schools/buildings).

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

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **December 14, 2023**

P. Barber, Director of Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation moved THAT the minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on December 14, 2023 be approved. The minutes were approved.

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Indigenous Education Team - Update**

Deneen Montour was introduced as the Acting System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education.

(b) **Community Membership**

Reaching out to the community will continue as the Committee seeks members for vacant positions.

(c) **Updates - Community** - Nil

(d) **Board Action Plan (BAP) - Update #3**

The PowerPoint Presentation shared included the Board Action Plan (Overview, four main areas & supporting initiatives, three components, Budget, Grant for Student Need - Supplemental Account, Staffing Overview, Grand Erie Indigenous Supplemental Amount).

It was clarified that money spent in the organization already supports some of the initiatives and that BAP funds will be used to enhance initiatives outside of the organization.

E - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Meeting Dates**

The last meeting of the school year will be held on May 23, 2024.

(b) **Draft School Year Calendars (2024/25)**

As printed. The School Year Calendar Committee consists of various representations including an Indigenous Education representative.





## Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024

3:30 p.m.

Joseph Brant Learning Centre (Pine Tree Room)/MS Office  
Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

(c) **School Climate Survey**

A PowerPoint presentation was shared; information is being brought forward to committees in Grand Erie and will be shared families and local unions. Key dates were highlighted. The survey is voluntary and anonymous and is used to enhance the student experience.

Superintendent Graham will take back the recommendation to connect with various newspapers in the community and Band Council to share this information out to parents.

F - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 23, 2024 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Chair Gauthier adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

H - 1 **Closing Address**

Nil.



## Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday April 4, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Chair L. DeJong, Vice-Chair K. Jones, Trustees: R. Collver, T. Waldschmidt  
Community Representatives: B. Bruce, W. Rose  
Organizations: T. Buchanan, L. Boswell, P. Found, C. Gilman, C. Stefanelli,  
R. Vriends

**Guests:**

Superintendent P. Ashe, School Culture and Well-being Lead J. Boyer

**Administration:**

Superintendent L. Thompson, Specialized Services Supervisor P. Bagchee,  
Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

**Absent with regrets:** Community Representative K. Kelly, Principal Leader J. Senior, Trustee L. Whiton

**Absent:**

Community Representative L. Nydam

**A - 1 Opening**

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

Vice Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

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

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

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

Add: I-1 (a): Letter from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's SEAC

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the March 7, 2024 agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

**B - 1 Timed Items**

**(a) Restorative Practices in Grand Erie**

School Culture and Well-being Lead J. Boyer presented an overview of Restorative Justice and how it is being used in Grand Erie.

**(b) Update on the Social Justice Series**

School Culture and Well-being Lead J. Boyer gave an update on Grand Erie's Social Justice Series.

**(c) Supporting Students with Special Education Needs on a Suspension or Expulsion**

School Culture and Well-being Lead J. Boyer presented Grand Erie's approach to supporting students with Special Education needs when suspended or expelled from school.



## Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday April 4, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

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

**(a) Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: T. Buchanan

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes dated March 7, 2024 be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**D - 1 New Business**

**(a) Highlights of Grand Erie's Professional Learning Environment (PLE)**

Program and Inclusion Coordinator L. Sheppard gave an overview of Grand Erie's Professional Learning Environment.

**E - 1 Other Business - Nil**

**F - 1 Standing Items**

**(a) Policies Out for Comment - Nil**

**(b) Family Math Newsletters**

Superintendent Thompson presented the Family Math Newsletters that are sent out to families each month. Superintendent Thompson will update SEAC members with feedback from families at a future meeting.

**(c) Trustee Update**

Trustee Waldschmidt shared details about the recipient of Grand Erie's Learn, Lead, Inspire Award at the March Board meeting.

Trustee Collver shared an update including that agreements have been reached with all union partners until August 2026, details on approvals for new and retrofitted schools in Grand Erie, and Grants for Student Needs from the Ministry of Education.

**(d) Chair/Vice Chair Update**

Chair DeJong shared an update including how the Chair, Vice Chair, and Superintendent plan the content of the SEAC meetings. She invited members to email with any topics they would like to see added to future SEAC meetings and encouraged members to share community updates with SEAC.

Vice Chair Jones told members about the two bird banding locations in the area and encouraged parents/caregivers to take their children to encourage interest in science and birding.

**G - 1 Information Items - Nil**

**H - 1 Community Updates - Nil**



H-1-c

## Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday April 4, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

I - 1 **Correspondence**

- (a) **Letter from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's SEAC to the Ministry of Education**

J - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

- (a) A Day in the Life of a Math Coach
- (b) Video Spotlight – Inclusion by Design in Grand Erie
- (c) Grand Erie's SEAC – Terms of Reference review and updating
- (d) Ministry of Education Website – Review
- (e) Supporting students with special education needs during lockdowns
- (f) Educational Assistant Allocation Review
- (g) A Day in the Life of an Educational Assistant

K - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday May 2, 2024 in the Board Room at the Education Centre with a Virtual option

L - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**Carried**



## Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2024

1:00 p.m.

McKinnon Park Secondary School, Indigenous Portable

### MINUTES

<b>Chair:</b>	C. VanEvery-Albert, Trustee
<b>Community Representative(s):</b>	A. Powless-Bomberry, Six Nations Elected Council Representative
<b>Trustees:</b>	E. Thomas, Trustee
<b>Grand Erie Staff:</b>	K. Graham, Superintendent of Education J. Laight, Six Nations Indigenous Advisor D. Powless, Community Liaison Worker J. Roberto, Director of Education D. VanEvery, Indigenous Education Counsellor C. Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor Nil.
<b>Grand Erie Staff (Resources):</b>	
<b>Organizations/ Agencies:</b>	Nil.
<b>Regrets:</b>	S. Graham, Six Nations Federal Schools Representative A. Skye, Indigenous Student Trustee
<b>Absent</b>	T. Anderson, Indigenous Services Canada Director of Education responsible for Six Nations Federal Schools Amanda General, Kawenní:io/Gawení:yo Private School Caroline VanEvery-Albert, Everlasting Tree School Nil.
<b>Guest</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) **Ohen: ton Karihwatehkwen**  
Six Nations Indigenous Advisor J. Laight provided opening greetings.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgment Statement**  
Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgment statement.
- (c) **Introduction & Roll Call**  
Introductions and Roll call were completed.
- (d) **Approval of Agenda**  
The agenda was approved by consensus.
- (e) **Student Showcase**  
McKinnon Park Secondary School student shared the collaborative student voice and highlighted their excitement and anticipation of Lacrosse Programs starting at the school.
- (f) **Student Senate Update**  
The Indigenous Student Trustee Report was reported on behalf of Student Trustee Skye. A highlight included the last United Indigenous Student Council meeting of the year will be held on May 17, 2024 at Hagersville Secondary School.



## Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2024

1:00 p.m.

McKinnon Park Secondary School, Indigenous Portable

### MINUTES

#### B - 1 **ESA Staff Roundtable**

##### (a) **Introductions and Updates from each school**

Six Nations Indigenous Advisor, J. Laight shared some current initiatives: Student Support meetings, Jordan's Principle support, United Indigenous Student Council, planning of the NBE PD Session, NTIP Training, and March 28 Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Event featuring Samantha Doxtator.

Indigenous Education Counsellor C. Vyse shared some of the following initiatives/events that she is supporting students with at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, McKinnon Park Secondary School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School: Cultural Mentor - social signing, ribbon skirt activity and peer study group, NPAAM Indigenous Youth Employment & Training Meet & Greet, STEAM hosting social, grade 7 tour, RIGHT FIT and recognizing March as Indigenous languages Month, Quill workshop and water day at Waterloo.

Indigenous Education Counsellor D. VanEvery shared some of the following initiatives/events that she is supporting students with at Hagersville Secondary School/NewStart Program: Grade 12 students e-Learning Opt-Outs and obtaining community hours, May 11 - Plant sale/Auto show, Grade 9 students Parent meetings, Grade 7 student tours lead by Indigenous leaders, Right Fit, Photoshoot to update promotional items and Summer School planning/Adult Ed GELA.

Community Liaison Worker D. Powless shared that he has been working on a number on attendance referrals for the Big 6 schools through development of re-engagement strategies (creation of a video). He reported increased success at Nations/NewStart and Turning Point. Academic improvements have been seen through timetable changes and working with Guidance Counsellors/Mental Health Counsellors/Indigenous Education Counsellor. He is involved with the development and coaching of the Lacrosse Program in Grand Erie.

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

#### D - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

##### (a) **Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2024**

Six Nations Indigenous Advisor J. Laight moved THAT the minutes of the Six Nations Advisory Committee held on February 22, 2024 be approved. The minutes were approved.

**Carried**

#### E - 1 **New Business**

##### (a) **Indigenous Awards**

An Award is being established in honour of Phil VanEvery-Albert. It will be granted to a graduating student who has an interest in computer education in post-secondary education. The award will be supported by the Six Nations Community and the Indigenous Education team.

#### F - 1 **Information Items**

##### (a) **Six Nations Annual General Meeting Planning Update**

Information booths will be confirmed and may include eLearning, Alternative Education, Learning on the Land, Summer School, MLL, and Adult Ed.

##### (b) **Education Services Agreement Update**

The next meeting is scheduled on May 3, 2024.



## Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2024

1:00 p.m.

McKinnon Park Secondary School, Indigenous Portable

### MINUTES

- (c) **Indigenous Language Update**  
Classes are at maximum; focus will continue to offer more languages in schools.
- (d) **Grand Erie-Kanienkehaka Circle Update** - Nil.
- (e) **Meeting Dates**  
The following are the remaining meeting dates scheduled for 2023-24:
- May 16, 2024 (Six Nations Annual General Meeting (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.))
  - June 13, 2024 (\*In person)
- (f) **Land-based Learning Course Bundle**  
Programming and course design are being developed to support the bundle.
- G - 1 **Next Meeting:**  
Six Nations Annual General Meeting  
Thursday, May 16, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m. (Informal) Event
- H - 1 **Closing Address & Adjournment**  
Six Nations Indigenous Advisor, J. Laight gave the closing address.  
Chair VanEvery-Albert adjourned the meeting at 3: 27 p.m.



## Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

April 24, 2024

### **Re: Transportation Support for Students with Special Education Needs – Accessibility to Education and Multiple Pathways.**

Dear Minister Lecce,

Every year the Durham District School Board (DDSB) approves expenditures beyond the Grants for Student Needs Special Education funding envelope to support the needs of our students' requiring accommodations and intensive support services. When expressing challenges boards face in supporting students with special needs to be successful, rarely is the lack of access to public transportation mentioned and how it can be a significant barrier to students with accommodation needs in limiting pathways or their success.

The recent legislative review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) highlighted that the goal of Ontario being accessible by 2025 is an improbable achievement. With approximately 2.9 million Ontarians aged 15+ currently have one or more disabilities and 75% of those surveyed residents with disabilities reported negative experiences, the reviewer, Mr. Rich Donovan declared a crisis in Ontario.

- A study from the Canadian Urban Transportation Authority (CUTA) entitled "[Value Case for Accessible Transit in Canada](#)" identified benefits in providing accessible transportation. Some of the noted benefits of accessible transportation include:
  - Greater independence and expanded life choices and options;
  - Increased mobility
  - Provision of transportation access employment, school, medical, healthcare and other services, often the only option for individuals requiring accommodation
  - More affordable option to private providers (e.g., Uber or taxis);
  - Improved services for all customers;
  - Promotes social inclusion and encourages involvement in the community;
  - Creates economic benefits as a result having more people to participate in the labour force;
  - Increases ability to access volunteer opportunities;
  - Lowers reliance on family members and caregivers in providing private transportation;
  - Savings and lower demand of government and social services as people with disabilities have increased opportunities to independently access employment and community program opportunities.



@DurhamDistrictSchoolBoard



@DDSBSchools





## Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) provides school bus services to students who attend programs for both the DDSB and the Durham Catholic District School Board. The Regional Municipality of Durham provides public transportation through Durham Region Transit (DRT). Unfortunately, secondary students are rarely considered in route planning and the provision of transportation services at the municipal level. We commonly hear from municipalities that “school boards have the responsibility to transport students to school”. This was recently highlighted when public transportation routes were changed by Durham Region Transportation (DRT) that removed the ability for secondary students to take public transit to several secondary schools in Ajax. This decision magnified the detrimental impact of eliminating public transportation for secondary students with accommodation needs.

Durham Region Transportation changed the local services for people with disabilities to align with practices with other GTA Municipalities. Door to door services is now limited to a person with a disability that specifically prevents them from using a scheduled transportation service and that the individual must be able to board and unboard the service vehicle independently. This service is not available to students. There is an “On Demand” service which uses smaller vehicles to pick up people from a bus stop on routes with regular service. On demand service has reliability challenges in that it can be canceled due a limited number of small vehicles available. In addition, it is not an option for students with accommodation needs including mobility and/or who are unable to navigate the issues that arise when a pickup is cancelled or changed without sufficient notice.

The lack of reliable, accessible public transportation decreases pathway opportunities and creates additional barriers for students with disabilities in accessing community-based opportunities such as cooperative education programs, apprenticeship programs, and volunteer opportunities. Gaps in access to transportation decreases individuals’ independence and opportunities for social involvement in the community, and further marginalises an already marginalized population. Although Durham Region Transportation has provided a much-appreciated reduced bus pass for students, if the service is not reliable or unavailable, the reduced rate is of no value.

At a recent meeting with DRT, hosted by the Town of Ajax for parents, caregivers, and community members, it became very clear that students were not a priority in providing transportation services when service planning is based on existing ridership data. It is a current cycle of impact where access to service challenges, such as those noted above, result in low ridership and then that data is used to make routing decisions based on ridership. It is important to note that after the community meeting, DRT did reinstate a single bus at both entry and exit bell times to service one of the high schools; this still does not address accessible public transportation at other times of the day.

Transportation issues are a barrier to accessibility for all people with disabilities in Ontario. From challenges to public transportation where available to public transportation being almost non-existent in rural areas, the impacts are limited opportunities and independence.



## Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

The DDSB Special Education Advisory Committee requests that:

- The Ministries of Education, Municipal Affairs & Housing and Transportation establish an action-oriented committee (coalition) of board associations, education, transportation, and membership inclusive of representation for people with disabilities. The Committee to develop a framework for moving accessible public transportation initiatives forward with the intended outcome of students with disabilities equitable access to choices and opportunities in educational pathways and programs available to their peers.
- The Ministry of Education take action on recommendations made in the [Education K-12 Standards Development Committee's recommendations](#), particularly, those that are related to transportation and increasing opportunities in educational pathways and programs, so that students with disabilities have equitable access to these pathways and programs available to their peers.
- The Ministry of Education take action to move forward the recommendations made by Mr. Rich Donovan in the 4<sup>th</sup> legislative review of the AODA.

Accessible public transportation benefits students with accommodation needs, their peers, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Eva Kyriakides

Chair, DDSB SEAC

c: Bruce Rodrigues, Deputy Minister

Rachel Osborne, Assistant, Deputy Minister (Acting)

Honourable Raymond Sung Joon Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility

Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation

Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Honourable Chandra Pasma – Official Opposition Education Critic

Peggy Blair, Chair, Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

John Henry, Chair & CEO, Regional Municipality of Durham

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