GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Head Office, 349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 5V3

Regular Board Meeting
September 29, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Trustees: B. Johnston, Chair, J. Angus, S. Cann, R. Collver, B. Doyle, A. Everets, M. Hurley, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden; N. Chambers (Student Trustee), B. Hladysh (Student Trustee)
Administration: Director — J. Wibberley; Superintendents — B. Blancher, J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt, D. Pyper; Recording Secretary — J. Grincevicius

REGRETS:
Trustees: Nil
Administration: G. Anderson

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Invocation/Roll Call/Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, B. Johnston, at 7:00 p.m.

Reflections of a Trustee

M. Macdonald believes in putting students first and will continue to advocate for keeping native students in school to graduation. She thinks that schools need to provide a welcoming atmosphere for native students and to try to bring them into the programming the Board offers. She believes that teaching native languages in our schools, where appropriate, is important. She looks forward to understanding more about the work of the newly hired native consultant.

(b) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
B. Johnston declared that he may have a conflict of interest later in the meeting.

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

Moved by: M. Hurley
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.
Carried

(d) **Presentations**
Nil.

B – 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **August 25, 2008 (Regular Board Meeting)**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held August 25, 2008, be approved.
Carried

(b) **September 8, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 1)**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting, held September 8, 2008, be approved.
Carried

(c) **September 15, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 2)**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting, held September 15, 2008, be approved.
Carried

B – 2 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

B. Johnston reported that the membership for the upcoming Norfolk North Accommodation Review Committee is being established. The first meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2008. The trustees on the Committee are D. Werden and R. Collver, with S. Cann acting as alternate.

C – 1 Director's Report

(a) Risk Watch Safety Curriculum — Alan Gee, Haldimand Fire Prevention Officer, Karin Marks, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, Mark Foster, Norfolk OPP and Kara Duliban-Gee, LRT, Anna Melick Memorial School

Karin Marks and Kara Duliban–Gee made a presentation regarding the Risk Watch Safety Curriculum. It is an injury prevention curriculum for levels kindergarten to grade 8. There is a Risk Watch binder for each classroom at participating schools. The program is now available on CD and includes eight lesson plans for teachers to use in conjunction with the rest of the curriculum.

Representatives of the Haldimand–Norfolk Health Unit, the Ontario Provincial Police and the relevant Fire Department work with school staff to do presentations. Students take the knowledge they learn about safety home to their parents.

In response to the group's request to have the Risk Watch program implemented in all schools, J. Wibberley indicated that senior administration will discuss the possibility with elementary principals. It was noted that representatives of the OPP and Fire Departments are already offering many of the programs to schools.

It was noted that there has been no cost to the Board for this program as fund raising has provided the Risk Watch binders and CDs to participating schools.

The program is now being implemented in City of Brantford and Brant County schools.

(b) Other

J. Wibberley congratulated those responsible for the successful fiftieth anniversary event held recently at J.L. Mitchener School.

He noted that the reorganization of teachers and classrooms has gone very well this year and gave credit to the work done by J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt and the principals.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of September 29, 2008 as information.
Carried

D – 1 Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole No. 1 — September 8, 2008

Moved by: M. Hurley
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Report, dated September 29, 2008, as follows:

1. **Director's Report**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of September 8, 2008 as information.

2. **F106 Donated Appliances, Equipment, Furnishings and Supplies**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure F106 — "Donated Appliances, Equipment, Furnishings and Supplies" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

3. **FT1 Major Construction Projects**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT1 — "Major Construction Projects" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

4. **FT2 New School Construction Projects**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT2 — "New School Construction Projects" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

5. **FT3 Naming of Schools**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT3 — "Naming of Schools" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

6. **FT105 Playground Equipment**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure FT105 — "Playground Equipment" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

7. **SO108 Community Service Providers in Schools**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure SO108 — "Community Services Providers in Schools" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by November 28, 2008.

8. **SO14 Equity and Anti–Racism**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO14 — "Equity and Anti-Racism".

9. **BL24 Capital Expenditure Finance**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 24 — "Capital Expenditure Finance".

10. **SO120 Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure SO120 – "Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents" be received for information.

11. **SO121 Flexible School Boundaries**
THAT Administrative Procedure SO121 — "Flexible School Boundaries" be referred to Administration for revision and placement on the October 6, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting agenda.

12. **SO124 Use of Service Dogs in Schools**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure SO124 — "Use of Service Dogs" as information.

13. **OPSBA Regional Meeting — September 13, 2008**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA report as information.

14. **Transportation Concerns**
(a) THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding the enforcement of Administrative Procedure FT108 "Transportation Expectations and Responsibilities" as information.
(b) THAT Administrative Procedure FT108 "Transportation Expectations and Responsibilities" be placed on the October 6, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting agenda for review.

Carried

(b) **Committee of the Whole No. 2 — September 15, 2008**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Report, dated September 29, 2008, as follows:

1. **Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board write letters to area MPs and MPPs, with copies to leaders of all political parties and area municipal mayors, expressing concern with respect to the land claims issue and requesting governments to seek expeditious solutions.

2. **Director's Report**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of September 15, 2008 as information.

3. **Teacher Consultant — Aboriginal Education**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Teacher Consultant for Aboriginal Education position change from 0.5 to 1.0 FTE.

4. **Reorganization of Business Services**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the new supervisory position for Business Services.

5. **Enrolment Update**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the update regarding enrolment as information.

6. **Instructional Coach Model 2008-09**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Instructional Coach Model 2008-09 report as information.

7. **SALEP (Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils) Annual Report**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report, "Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), as information.

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

Carried

E – 1 **New Business — Action/Decision Items**

(a) **Accessibility Plan**

Wayne Hobbs, Executive Supervisor of Student Support Personnel, is Chair of the Accessibility Committee and was present to answer questions regarding the Plan.

C.A. Sloat noted there will be more accessibility issues to handle in the future and no additional funding has been provided, to date.

J. Gunn indicated that Board buildings are made accessible as renovations occur.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Annual Accessibility Plan for 2008-09
Carried

F – 1 **New Business — Information Items**

EQAO Reports

Lynn Abbey, Secondary Program Coordinator, and Nancy Norton, Elementary Program Coordinator, made a presentation regarding the 2008 EQAO results. Bill Valoppi, Principal Leader, Curriculum Assessment and Research, and Sally Landon, System Research Leader, were also instrumental in preparing the reports.

(a) **Primary/Junior Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics — 2008 Results**

It was stated that the trend is steady improvement which is mirroring the trend in the Provincial results.

The majority of students are achieving at level 3, but Grand Erie has more students at level 2 than the Province.

Curriculum staff are working with Special Education staff to provide accommodations for special education students completing the assessments.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the EQAO Report – Primary/Junior Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics – 2008 Results as information.
Carried

(b) **Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics — 2008 Results**

It was noted that the academic assessment students are close to the Provincial levels; however, staff are working to have more students performing at level 4. Unfortunately, the applied students are not doing as well and many are at level 2.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the EQAO Report – Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics – 2008 as information.
Carried

(c) **OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) — March 2008 Results**

The first time eligible student rates have leveled out at 80%. Previously eligible students not doing as well as in prior years.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the EQAO Report – OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) – March 2008 Results as information
Carried

G – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Summary of Accounts — August 2008**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of August 2008, in the amount of $3,659,119.85, as information.
Carried

(b) **Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes — September 2008**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, held September 18, 2008, as information.
Carried

(c) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes — June 2008**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held June 10, 2008, as information.
Carried

(d) **Major Construction Update (FT2)**

J. Gunn indicated that for both Brantford Collegiate IVS and Paris elementary school construction projects, the respective municipalities were very cooperative in obtaining the required clearances as expeditiously as possible. The demolition work is finished at BCIVS and the foundation is in at DDSS.

Lansdowne Public School is substantially completed and a tour is being arranged for Norfolk Accommodation Review Committee members and trustees as it is being recommended that the same type of construction be used at Delhi Public School.

The school walls are being erected this week at both Ryerson Heights and the new elementary school in Paris. Construction crews can access the Paris site from a side street since the main road is not constructed.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Update as information.
Carried

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT a letter be sent to the relevant municipalities expressing appreciation for their cooperation in meeting timelines in order to have schools open for September 2, 2008.
Carried

(e) **OPSBA re GST Payment by School Boards**

It was noted that school boards get 68% rebate on GST whereas municipalities get 100%. There is an element of unfairness. The Toronto District School Board has asked that this issue be presented to individual school boards by OPSBA representatives.

J Gunn thinks the Province would adjust the benchmark should Boards get 100% GST rebate.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA report regarding GST payment by school boards as information.
Carried

Trustee, S. Cann, left the meeting.

H – 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **Board Chair, Thames Valley DSB to Hon. K Wynne, Minister of Education, and Hon. J. Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing re Escalating Costs of School Site Acquisition**

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.
Carried

I – 1 **In Camera Session**

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss a legal matter, a negotiations matter and personnel matters at 8:28 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

I – 2 **In Camera Report**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the transfer of $21,700 from the contingency budget to fund an additional 0.5 FTE vice principal to the end of semester one in the 2008–09 school year.
Carried

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT Item C-1-c be approved.
Carried

J– 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:07 p.m.
Carried

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Board Chair, Bill Johnston