



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Head Office, 349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 5V3

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting October 20, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Trustees:

R. Collver , Chair, J. Angus, B. Doyle, A. Everets, M. Hurley, B. Johnston, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat; N. Chambers (Student Trustee), B. Hladysh (Student Trustee)

Administration:

Director — J. Wibberley; Superintendents — G. Anderson, B. Blancher, J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt, D. Pyper; Recording Secretary — J. Grincevicius

REGRETS:

Trustees:

S. Cann, D. Werden

Administration:

Nil

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

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

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

B. Johnston indicated he would have a conflict of interest during the In Camera session.

M. Macdonald indicated she would have a conflict of interest during the In Camera session.

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

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B – 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**(a) Clarification of Motions re Administration Reports for Norfolk West and Brantford South ARCs, Dated October 6, 2008**

R. Collver indicated there are no recommendations regarding accommodation from Administration going to the November 3, 2008 Special Board Meeting; only recommendations regarding closures and consolidations.

C – 1 Director's Report

J. Wibberley invited trustees to attend the fiftieth anniversary at A.B. Masecar School on October 26th.

The Ministry of Education has awarded Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships to 180 Grand Erie secondary students. Students who maintain an 80% average post secondary will receive up to \$3,500 per year for up to four years.

ETFO has an Education and Poverty Program to help education children in alleviating poverty in Ontario. Prince Charles School was selected to participate in the project. The award winning play, *Danny, King of the Basement*, which has toured elementary schools as part of ETFO's Education and Poverty Project, will be shown at Prince Charles to bring poverty issues to light for the students. The school receives \$10,000 which will be used to bring theatre and artistic opportunities which they may not otherwise have to students. A snack program will also be implemented.

J. Wibberley thanked the Board's bus drivers when he noted that October 20th was School Bus Driver Recognition Day.

Moved by: C. Lefebvre

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of October 20, 2008 as information.

Carried

D – 1 New Business — Action/Decision Items**(a) Budget Transfer**
(i) BCIVS Athletics

J. Wibberley reminded trustees that \$21,000 had been transferred from the contingency budget to provide BCIVS with an additional 0.5 FTE vice principal for Semester I's construction period. Because this position was not filled until recently, not all of this fund will be used. Because there is no cafeteria this year, the revenue generated there is not available to support the athletic program.

Due to the attendance of students in shifts, outdoor lighting in the back field is required to operate the athletics program in the evening. The school has investigated other locations, but none are available.

Moved by: M. Hurley

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the reallocation \$8,000.00 of the \$21,000.00 transfer from contingency approved on September 29, 2008 to the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School athletics program.

Carried

(ii) **School Effectiveness Framework**

J. Wibberley indicated that the Ministry of Education has provided only part of the funds required this year to operate the School Effectiveness Framework — a mandated program. Administration did not learn of this shortfall until recently. The funds are required to provide release time for School Improvement Teams to meet with the System School Improvement Team.

It was noted that funding from the Ministry of Education for this initiative will cease as of 2009–10. Some trustees expressed concern with the Ministry of Education downloading the program and then not funding it.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the transfer of \$9,000.00 from the contingency budget to fund support of the School Effectiveness Review process for the 2008-09 school year.

Carried

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education noting the value of the School Effectiveness Framework process but expressing disappointment over the lack of funding for the program.

Carried

(b) **Norfolk North Accommodation Review Committee — Membership**

J. Wibberley highlighted the membership of the Norfolk North Accommodation Review Committee as set out in Policy FT5.

It was noted that even though ETFO will have an individual shadowing the union's representative, only one vote is allocated to the group.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the membership of the Norfolk North Accommodation Review Committee.

Carried

(c) **New Paris Elementary School — Establish Transition Committee**

Moved by: C. Lefebvre

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the establishment of a Transition Committee for the New Paris Elementary School.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board initiate the naming of the school process as outlined in Policy FT3 "Naming of Schools".

Carried

(d) **Funding for Elementary Library Staffing Plan**

B. Blancher indicated that this funding will be received from the Ministry of Education for at least the next four years. It is to be used to hire teacher-librarians or library technicians. It is expected that the \$148,235 will cover the cost of a librarian technician for the full year in the future.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Funding for Elementary Library Staffing Plan.

Carried

(e) **Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification**

J. Wibberley noted the concept of aboriginal self-identification has been discussed provincially for some time as part of the aboriginal policy framework. This is one of the key objectives for the Ministry of Education.

The Board has reliable numbers for students who live on reserves and for which the Board receives tuition fees, but not for those living off reserve.

The process to implement voluntary aboriginal self-identification requires considerable consultation with a number of stakeholders. The Ministry of Education has provided \$35,000 to develop such a process.

M. Macdonald noted that the Aboriginal Leadership Committee believes the process will be a positive one as self-identification will give the Board additional funding from the Ministry of Education to provide specific supports for native students. The process is seen as a two-year one, with providing information to the community the first year and then gathering data the second year. Students and their parents will have an opportunity each year to voluntarily self-identify.

J. Wibberley stated that the person hired to conduct the consultation, develop a draft policy and implement the self-identification process needs to have a good understanding of aboriginal communities and have their respect. He/she must be seen as credible.

Trustee, J. Angus, arrived.

The Ministry of Education will provide \$35,000 for this process. This will fund a part-time employee this year; however, the position will also be required in 2009-10.

Our coterminous board is interested in working with Grand Erie on this project.

B. Johnston expressed concerned about the gathering of information by the Provincial Government along racial lines.

A. Everets also expressed similar feelings and noted the timing is troublesome. She is concerned that the process will exacerbate the Caledonia issue.

M. Macdonald reminded trustees that the self identification is voluntary.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the administrative recommendations for the development of a voluntary Aboriginal self identification policy and process at a cost of \$35,000 for 2008–09.

Carried

D – 2 New Business — Information Items

(a) **Gifted Program Update** [from April 14, 2008 CW2 Meeting]

Kim Cottingham, Principal–Leader, Special Education and Student Support Services, was present to answer questions regarding the gifted program.

In response to a query from C.A. Sloat, he noted that the Board is moving towards having parent nominations for students to be placed in the gifted program.

He also noted that staff is looking at having all grade 3 students participate in the CCAT (Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test) to determine suitability for gifted programming.

B. Blancher indicated an updated report will be presented to trustees later this year.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Gifted Program Update” report as information.

Carried

(b) **Leadership Development 2008–09**

D. Pyper noted that a mentoring program for new principals and vice principals has been implemented.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report “Leadership Development – 2008–09” as information.

Carried

(c) **Summer School Summary Report — 2008**

D. Pyper indicated that summer school operated a cooperative education program and a Reach Ahead program this year.

Our coterminous board did not operate a summer school program but Grand Erie provided courses for some of their students.

Due to short time lines for some courses, it is recommended that summer school teachers not from Grand Erie were required to bring police check documents to their interviews.

A. Everets expressed concern with the drop in the number of Haldimand students attending summer school. D. Pyper indicated that Norfolk students attended classes in Brantford instead of Haldimand to make more efficient use of busing. She was also concerned with what may be an inefficient use of resources for a small number of students taking summer school courses in Haldimand. It was noted that only grade 9 and 10 courses were offered in Haldimand, whereas all grades were offered in Brantford.

R. Collver was concerned that Norfolk students may not have been best served by travelling to Brantford.

D. Pyper indicated the process will be reviewed for next year.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "Summer School Summary Report — 2008" as information.

Carried

(d) **Enrolment Update**

J. Gunn noted that as of September 30, 2008, the elementary enrolment is still slightly higher than projected. The secondary numbers are higher than on September 15th but will drop by March 31, 2009.

A. Everets and B. Johnston requested that the previous year's enrolment be included in the report for future as it provides a truer picture of trends.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the update regarding enrolment as information.

Carried

(e) **Facility Renewal Update**

J. Gunn highlighted this progress report on Good Places to Learn, Stages 1 and 2 facility work; and work completed under the Facility Renewal Grants.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Facilities Renewal Update as information.

Carried

(f) **School Effectiveness Framework — District Review Model for 2008-2009**

B. Blancher indicated that the 2008–09 District Review Model will include a two–tier approach. Tier 1 schools will have full scale reviews using the process developed last year. These schools become Tier 2 schools in the second year and receive mini reviews for the purpose of celebrating growth. Both Thompson Creek and Oakland–Scotland Schools have been completed so far this year.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the School Effectiveness Framework – District Review Model for 2008-2009 report as information.

Carried

(g) **Student Support Leadership Initiative**

G. Anderson noted the Student Support Leadership Initiative was implemented in February 2008 as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This program provides extra support for expelled students through social service agencies. Haldimand–Norfolk REACH is the lead community agency and the Student Support Coordinator has been hired to work through the backlog of students.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Student Support Leadership Initiative” report as information.

Carried

(h) **Early Development Instrument (EDI)**

B. Blancher indicated that since August 2008 a number of new developments have occurred regarding the administration of the Early Development Instrument. Because of staffing changes in Brant, the EDI would only be administered in Haldimand–Norfolk. In addition, it was learned that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will not be fully funding the implementation of the Instrument.

J. Angus noted she spoke to a Ministry of Children and Youth Services representative recently and J. Angus let her know of the funding issues. Apparently the Ministry is willing to reconsider the funding provision.

A. Everets thinks a more formal contact should be made with the Brant Best Start and the Haldimand–Norfolk Best Start Networks regarding this issue.

J. Wibberley indicated Executive Council does not believe the Board's budget should be used to support other agencies' programs. If there were sufficient funding to conduct the EDI, then the Board would support its implementation.

C.A. Sloat expressed concern with the type and amount of information the Best Start Networks want in order to conduct the EDI, possibly without full parental consent. She believes the EDI is not an individual diagnostic tool but one to look at the school within its neighbourhood.

A. Everets agrees the Board should not be responsible for additional costs to conduct EDI, but she thinks the Best Start Networks must be given another opportunity to provide the additional funding.

B. Johnston is concerned about the amount of administration time the issue has consumed.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: A. Everets

THAT Administration be requested to contact the Brant and Haldimand–Norfolk Best Start Networks and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services with the outcome of the discussions being reported at the October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.

Carried

D – 3 New Business — Operating Plans

Nil.

E – 1 Other Business**(a) OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat noted that trustees and administration will receive a member satisfaction survey to complete in the near future.

She will forward OPSBA's report on declining enrolment to trustees as soon as it is finalized.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Angus

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

Carried

F – 1 Correspondence

Nil.

G – 1 In Camera Session

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss a property matter, a negotiations matter and a personnel matter at 8:46 p.m.

Carried

Open Session reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

G – 2 In Camera Report

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Term Appointment of a Teacher Consultant for Aboriginal Education.

Carried

H – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Carried