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

Regular Board Meeting
October 27, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Trustees: B. Johnston, Chair, J. Angus, S. Cann, R. Collver, B. Doyle, A. Everets, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden; 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: M. Hurley

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

C. Lefebvre indicated that each trustee brings a different perspective to the table; and, as a former employee, she also brings that knowledge. She enjoys contact with the students at the various events she attends and noted that students must be the reason for all decisions made by trustees. She recognizes that declining enrolment and, thus, fewer provincial dollars, will bring challenges in decision making over the next number of years. She thanked her colleagues for their guidance over the past almost two years.

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

None declared.

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

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.
Carried

(d) **Memorial — Dylan Shackell, Student**

The memorial statement was read by J. Angus.

(e) **Presentations**
Nil.

(f) **Delegations**
Nil.

B – 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **September 29, 2008 (Regular Board Meeting)**

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held September 29, 2008, be approved.
Carried

(b) **October 6, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 1)**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting, held October 6, 2008, be approved, as amended by changing "... the Chairs of the Brantford South ..." to "... the participating trustees of the Brantford South ..." in item B-1-d.
Carried

(c) **October 20, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 2)**

B. Blancher noted that a further report regarding the gifted program will be coming to the Board later this school year.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting, held October 20, 2008, be approved, as amended by changing "Due to short time lines for some courses, summer school ..." to "Due to short time lines for some courses, it is recommended that summer school ..." in item D-2-c.
Carried

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

(a) Early Development Instrument (EDI)

B. Blancher reported that she has spoken with Patti Moore, General Manager, Health and Social Services Department, Haldimand–Norfolk Health Unit, who indicated that there is active recruitment for a data analysis coordinator for Brant County occuring.

The data required to process the EDI is due by October 31st. The Haldimand–Norfolk data is ready to send and Board staff are working on the Brant data in case it is needed.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services will fund projected EDI costs at $16 per student, which is $16,496 in Brantford/Brant County and $11,312 in Haldimand–Norfolk. However, there are additional costs which must incurred. They are mileage and release time for teachers to complete the surveys. This results in a shortfall of $3,825 for Brantford/Brant County and $2,570 for Haldimand–Norfolk. This year, the cost to copy the training booklets for Haldimand–Norfolk is being covered by Best Start.

It was noted that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is willing to negotiate funding the additional costs, but there is no guarantee they will be covered.

C.A. Sloat is still concerned about the amount of personal information the EDI staff want about each student. B. Blancher listed what information is provided.

A. Everets believes the Best Start networks are good partners with Grand Erie. She thinks the Ministry of Children and Youth Services will make every effort to cover the costs associated with administering the EDI. She noted this Provincial initiative is designed to help school boards develop programs for students, especially in rural communities. She supports Option B presented in B. Blancher's report as it provides teachers with more time to administer the EDI to each student.

J. Angus noted that the EDI is a tool being used across Canada and she supports Grand Erie being involved. It is used to establish priority areas for early childhood programs and services. There is an impact in neighbourhoods where there are early years services.

J. Wibberley stated the difficulty for senior administration was the financial responsibility. He does not think the Board should be paying to administer the EDI.

Both D. Werden and R. Collver are concerned with the possible additional costs involved in this program and do not support it unless the Ministry of Children and Youth Services provides full funding.

J. Wibberley noted that the EDI helps students indirectly because of the community services which are provided. He stated that the EDI data was of little value in determining compensatory education schools.

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board move forward with Option B regarding the administering of the EDI for both Brant and Haldimand-Norfolk areas as outlined in report B-2-a;
THAT Administration indicate to the Best Start Networks that Grand Erie's costs must be fully covered in 2009; and
THAT Administration report on the status of these negotiations before implementation of the EDI process.
Carried

C – 1 **Director's Report**

(a) **Specialist High Skills Majors — Marlene Kennedy, Principal Leader — Student Success Program, and Sarah Compton and Anthony Whitman, Teachers — Hagersville Secondary School**

A Specialist High Skills Major lets students focus on a potential career that matches their skills and interests. Each major is a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications. Students who complete a major receive a special designation on their high school diploma. The Ministry of Education permits Specialist High Skills Majors in 14 different areas: Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Business , Community Safety and Emergency Services, Construction, Environment, Forestry, Health and Wellness, Hospitality and Tourism, Horticulture and Landscaping, Information and Communications Technology, Manufacturing, Mining and Transportation.

Grand Erie offers six different sectors with approximately 250 students being involved. The skills developed in high skills major courses are worked into contextualized units of other courses, e.g. English, mathematics and science.

These courses help students refine their skills and give students a sense of respect for their interests and abilities. These classes are sometimes run as a business so that the students can also learn these skills; thus, providing them with a better chance to find jobs or apprenticeships.

A DVD was shown outlining the hospitality and transportation programs at Hagersville Secondary School.

It was noted that additional funding is received for operating these programs.

B. Hladysh believes the program is valuable for many students.

B. Johnston is pleased to see that respect is being given to those students who are participating in trades courses.

(b) **Other**

J. Gunn reported that school boards' contribution to rectifying the Province's deficit is a significant cut to the capital funding budget in the form of a 20% one–time reduction to the facilities renewal grant. This amounts to $1 million for Grand Erie. The grant will go back to its original formula in future years. Fortunately, the impact of this cut does not directly and immediately affect students. The recommendations for facilities renewal will be modified and come to the Board in January 2009. The Good Places to Learn and Prohibitive to Repair funding is still in place; and Good Places to Learn, Level IV, is still being planned by the government. Budget development is expected to be difficult for 2009–10.

J. Wibberley noted that the 50th anniversary celebration held recently at Ada B. Massecar School was well attended.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of October 27, 2008 as information.
Carried

D – 1 **Committee Reports**

(a) **Committee of the Whole No. 1 — October 6, 2008**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Report, dated October 27, 2008, as follows:

1. **Accommodation Reviews — Additional Information**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Accommodation Reviews — Additional Information report as information.

2. **Norfolk West Accommodation Review — Administration Report**
   THAT Administration meet with the Teeterville Home and School Association at a convenient time to discuss the option of fund raising for an expanded gymnasium; and, if possible, bring a report to the Special Board Meeting scheduled for November 3, 2008.

3. **Role and Operations of Accommodation Review Committee**
   THAT an ad hoc committee with membership of Board Chair and the Chairs of the Brantford South and Norfolk West Accommodation Committees, be struck to review the Board's policy regarding accommodation reviews.

4. **FT9 Transition Committees**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT 9 – "Transition Committees", as amended, to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 9, 2009.

5. **FT108 Transportation Expectations and Responsibilities**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure FT108 – "Transportation Expectations and Responsibilities", as amended, to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 9, 2009.

6. **SO121 Flexible School Boundaries**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure S0121 — "Flexible School Boundaries", as amended, be received as information.

7. **Director's Report**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of October 6, 2008 as information.

8. **HR111 Personal Protective Footwear**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure HR111 – "Personal Protective Footwear" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 9, 2009.

9. **HR119 Progressive Discipline**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure HR119 – "Progressive Discipline" to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by January 9, 2009.

10. **BL26 Chairs' Committee**
    THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 26 – "Chairs' Committee".

11. **BL27 Electronic Meetings**
    THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 27 – "Electronic Meetings", as amended.

D. Werden requested that Recommendations No. 3 and 11 be separated from the main report.

A vote was taken on Recommendations No. 1 to 2 and 4 to 10.
Carried

A vote was taken on the following:

THAT an ad hoc committee with membership of Board Chair and the participating trustees of the Brantford South and Norfolk West Accommodation Committees, be struck to review the Board's policy regarding accommodation reviews.
Carried

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 27 – "Electronic Meetings", as amended, by changing 2(c) to "... In Camera session ...".
Carried

(b) **Committee of the Whole No. 2 — October 20, 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 October 27, 2008, as follows:

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

2. **Budget Transfer — BCIVS Athletics**
   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.

3. **Budget Transfer — School Effectiveness Framework**
   (i) 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.

   (ii) 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.

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

5. **New Paris Elementary School — Establish Transition Committee**
   (i) THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the establishment of a Transition Committee for the New Paris Elementary School.

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

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

7. **Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification**
   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.

8. **Gifted Program Update**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "Gifted Program Update" report as information.

9. **Leadership Development 2008–09**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report "Leadership Development – 2008–09" as information.

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

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

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

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

14. **Student Support Leadership Initiative**
    THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "Student Support Leadership Initiative" report as information.

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

16. **In Camera Report**
    THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Term Appointment of a Teacher Consultant for Aboriginal Education.

B. Johnston requested that Recommendation No.2 be separated from the main report.

D. Werden called a point of order indicating he believes that it requires a two–thirds majority to reconsider the re-allocation of the $21,700 contingency fund.

R. Collver requested that the motion regarding the Early Development Instrument (EDI) be added.

A vote was taken on Recommendations No. 1, and 3 to 16.
Carried

A vote was taken on the following:

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the following motion: "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." be reconsidered.
Carried by 2/3 Majority

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the reallocation $8,000.00 of the $21,700.00 transfer from contingency approved on September 29, 2008 to the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School athletics program.
Carried

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
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

E – 1 **New Business**
Nil.

F – 1 **Other Business**

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

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of September 2008, in the amount of $9,618,533.59, as information.
Carried

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

D. Werden noted that WHMIS labeling and training were not discussed at the October meeting. J. Gunn noted that WHMIS training will be discussed in November 2008 if there are training issues. Regarding WHMIS labeling, an Administrative Memo was presented to the principals last week. Violators will be referred to the Memo. The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee believes the Administrative Memo has solved the issue.

B. Doyle indicated that he recently read that there can be more contaminates in bottled water than tap water.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, held October 16, 2008, as information.
Carried

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

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held September 11, 2008, as information.
Carried

(d) **Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes — September 2008**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee, held September 24, 2008, as information.
Carried

(e) **Communications/Marketing Committee Minutes — September 2008**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Communications/Marketing Committee, held September 29, 2008, as information.
Carried

(f) **OPSBA Regional Meeting**

The upcoming Regional Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 at the Hamilton–Wentworth DSB office. Marilyn Gouthro, who is doing the OPSBA services review, will be present. Trustees were invited to be part of a focus group.

G – 1 **Correspondence**
Nil.

H – 1 **In Camera Session**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to approve In Camera Minutes and discuss a negotiations matter at 9:09 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 9:22 p.m.

H – 2 **In Camera Report**

No report.

I – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:23 p.m.
Carried

Board Chair, Bill Johnston