



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting May 12, 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, D. Werden, C. Bower (Student Trustee), S. Hanson (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

Administration:

Nil

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

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

Cameron Bower introduced 2008–09 Student Trustee — Nolan Chambers. Bronte Hladysh was not able to attend.

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

None declared.

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

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B – 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**(a) Early Years Centres — Use of Schools During Non-School Days [from March 31, 2008 Board Meeting]**

J. Gunn reported that currently Early Years Centres pay for the Board's out-of-pocket costs on non-school days, such as water flushing and custodial overtime. Some of the Centres want to use school facilities during the summer and March Break. Should these spaces be made available on non-school days in March and during summer break, costs for custodial support and well water testing would be assessed for an average of \$360 per site per year. Should EYC operators choose to not take on responsibility for the daily flushing on any non-school day, additional charges of approximately \$255 per site per year would be assessed. The annual budget impact of this support would be \$5,800 to \$9,800 dependant upon the operator's ability to take on responsibility for the daily flushing on non-school days. Recently, a process has been established to permit operators to perform the required water flushing associated record keeping.

Starting in September 2008, trustees suggested taking these related costs from the new community use of schools funding. A. Everets believes the Board should support the EYCs as, hopefully, they serve our future students. She thinks the program offers a valuable support to the community.

D. Werden noted that FT4 "Use of School Facilities" is being considered at the June 2, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 meeting and questioned if it could be amended to cover other groups.

B. Johnston believes that the Provincial Government's expectation is that community use of schools funding be used to pay such fees.

R. Collver supports the Early Years Centres, but believes there is a broader issue. She indicated the Board's mandate is children in grades K to 12. She hopes the EYCs are also seeking new funds to cover these costs.

J. Gunn noted that during budget meetings, trustees can discuss where the community use of school funding is being used.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report on Early Years Centre – Use of Schools During Non-School Days as information.

Carried

Moved by: B. Johnston

Seconded by: A. Everets

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board earmark up to \$9,800 from community use of schools funds to support costs charged to Early Years Centres which are open on non-school days.

Carried

(b) **Compensatory Education Schools (information other than staffing) [from March 31, 2008 Board Meeting]**

J. Wibberley reminded trustees that the staffing model for compensatory education was approved at the March 31, 2008 Board Meeting. This report contains additional information requested at that time.

He reviewed the compensatory school identification index for last year and the current year, highlighting the items used for ranking purposes. No matter the model used, the top 11 schools do not change.

This year, a three-factor model including median income, level of education and single parent household, was used as EQAO and EDI were not useful factors in determining compensatory education schools. The problem with using EQAO scores is if a school improves then it may fall off the list when all other factors indicate it is still a compensatory education school.

The statistical model captures most schools but the intensity, duration and frequency of interventions that are required with students and parents in the area of interpersonal, personal, instructional and organizational skills differentiate compensatory schools from other schools. For this reason, most of the resources that go into these schools are staff resources. For example, the statistical model does not identify Houghton Public School, but it is definitely a compensatory education school.

A. Everets questioned if some of the schools which receive additional funding from other sources should also be compensatory education schools. Possibly some different schools be included instead. She believes there are more contributing issues for rural families due to lack of access to resources such as a library, etc. She stated EDI looks at what resources are available in the community and identifies the at-risk ones. She wondered if some of the resources funding could be used for a clothing and nutrition allowance for students.

J. Wibberley indicated that the 0.5 FTE learning resource teacher is in the compensatory education schools budget to provide extra assistance to students.

B. Johnston noted that all factors used this year are socio-economic and inter-related. He wondered if 15 is the right number of schools. He agrees with top 11 schools and then have Senior Administration determine the rest.

D. Werden thinks trustees must rely on Administration to determine the correct number of schools.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Compensatory Education Schools report as information.

Carried

(c) **Viability of International Student Program** [from April 14, 2008 CW2 Meeting]

J. Wibberley indicated that if international students have weak English language skills, they require additional resources at the schools attended. This places a strain on the resources the balance of the students receive. Senior administration believes the Board should not be actively seeking out international students.

Port Dover Composite School has a history of hosting international students. This year, the Mandarin students were congregated at the school as there are two Mandarin speaking teachers on staff. The increase in the number of international students helps with staffing at the school.

D. Werden noted that last year the international students were grandfathered at the schools which they already attended. He thinks that having international students at Port Dover Composite School is positive for the school and its students.

C. Bower thinks the international student program should be open to students other than just Mandarin speaking persons. J. Wibberley stated that international students draw resources away from our community's students. The Board does not have the funds to provide English-as-a-Second Language resources. Therefore, it is better not to be in the international student business with the exception of Port Dover Composite School. It is also better to congregate all Mandarin students at Port Dover with Mandarin speaking teachers.

B. Johnston indicated there are no staff dedicated to recruitment of international students and the Board has few resources to dedicate to them.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Viability of International Students Program report as information.

Carried

C – 1 Director’s Report

J. Wibberley indicated that a certificate from Lloyd St. Amand congratulating students on their contributions to Earth Day has been received.

The parent conference, held last Saturday, was well attended. R. Collver congratulated D. Pyper and the organizing team on a successful event.

J.L. Mitchener performed the play “Beauty and the Beast” over seven performances with a total of 1,500 in attendance.

BCIVS is getting ready for the rebuild with a celebratory closing of the library to prepare for renovations.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of May 12, 2008 as information.

Carried

D – 1 New Business — Action/Decision Items**(a) Port Dover Composite School Staffing**

A. Nesbitt reviewed the enrolment history of Port Dover Composite School. The various staffing components are: classroom, library, guidance, learning resource, special education and other. In 2008-09, a special education class will be added.

He reviewed the challenges of staffing a small secondary school such as: ❶ difficulty in meeting program needs of students; ❷ difficult timetabling which must be done manually; ❸ one-teacher departments; ❹ incomplete pathways for students as all the requested choices cannot be offered; and ❺ grouping of some courses to maintain course offerings. Next year, it will be very difficult to staff to meet students’ needs. Executive Council has considered several options.

J. Angus questioned what the implications would be for the staffing of Waterford District High School should some students be transported from that catchment area to Port Dover Composite School. A. Nesbitt thinks the impact would be minimal and suggested that the two principals could plan to offer courses in alternate years.

A. Everets expressed concern that Port Dover Composite School does not have sufficient critical mass to offer adequate programming for students. She does not believe that adding staff is a long term solution. The decline in enrolment in Port Dover is sharper than originally predicted. The area contains several other relatively small secondary schools, so she thinks an accommodation review for Norfolk secondary schools should occur sooner than planned.

D. Werden stated that staffing caps have put extra restrictions on timetabling in small schools. In regard to transporting students from Simcoe to Port Dover, he thinks having the pick up point at Simcoe Composite School will increase the number of students willing to go to Port Dover.

D. Werden noted that Walsh Public School students have a choice of attending Simcoe Composite School, Delhi District Secondary School or Port Dover Composite School. D. Werden thinks some students attending Simcoe Composite School from Port Dover are not going for programming needs. He thinks more should be encouraged to attend Port Dover. A. Everets believes if the Board had not offered busing for Walsh students to attend Simcoe Composite School, some may have been lost to the coterminous board.

M. Hurley indicated that, at some point, Port Dover Composite School will be too small to appropriately serve students.

B. Johnston recognizes that Port Dover has serious challenges due to declining enrolment and the problem can no longer be ignored. Students will not be served appropriately if adequate programming cannot be provided.

J. Angus thinks the Board needs to ensure appropriate programming for Port Dover students. She supports commencing an accommodation study sooner than planned. She also thinks promoting e-learning and teleconferencing at small schools is necessary.

C.A. Sloat supports allocating additional sections at PDCS for next year but not on a long term basis.

C. Bower is concerned with busing some students away from Port Dover Composite School.

R. Collver indicated she supports small schools but there comes a time when the Board must review the situation.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve an allocation of six additional sections to Port Dover Composite School for the 2008-09 school year.

Carried

(C. Bower registered his approval vote.)

D. Werden assumed the Chair.

R. Collver noted that she would like to see the bus pick up point to take students from Simcoe to Port Dover to be at Simcoe Composite School.

R. Collver assumed the Chair.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve additional busing to Port Dover Composite School from Waterford District High School on a trial basis for the 2008-09 school year.

A recorded vote was taken with results as follows:

Yeas:	J. Angus	Nays:	A. Everets
	R. Collver		M. Hurley
	B. Doyle		B. Johnston
	M. Macdonald		C. Lefebvre
	D. Werden		C.A. Sloat

Tied Vote, Therefore Defeated

(C. Bower registered his approval vote.)

J. Angus thinks Administration should provide timelines as to which studies should be completed next year as it was previously agreed that only two accommodation studies should be undertaken in a school year.

D. Werden stated that any motion regarding Norfolk secondary schools should be considered in light on the Quality Accommodations report being considered later in tonight's agenda. A. Everets indicated that the Quality Accommodations Committee did not have the information contained in the Port Dover Composite School report available to them when making their accommodation studies' recommendations.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board initiate and complete a Board Accommodation Review for Norfolk secondary schools in 2008-09.

Carried

(b) **Reorganization Plan for Information Technology Services**

In order to fulfil the ever-increasing data and technology needs of the Board, the Manager of Information Technology Services believes a reorganization of staff is required. There are currently two vacancies. The proposal is to not fill the two vacancies and create a supervisor position.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Information Technology Services Reorganization Plan.

Carried

(c) **Mileage Remuneration Review**

Administration has reviewed the 2008 data from the Canadian Automobile Association showing the total driving costs for a representative vehicle. It was noted that fuel is 72% of the cost of driving a vehicle. The rates of surrounding boards and other agencies were reviewed. Increasing the rate by \$0.02 per kilometer would increase the mileage budget by approximately \$30,000 next year.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board increase the current mileage rate of \$0.40 per kilometer to \$0.42 per kilometer, effective September 1, 2008, subject to final budget approval.

Carried

(d) **Approval of Next Year's Meeting Schedule**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2008-09 Committee/Board Meeting Schedule.

Carried

(e) **Implications of Friday, June 13, 2008 on Port Dover CS and Doverwood PS**

The plan to handle the influx of persons in Port Dover on Friday, June 13 is the same as last time. It was noted that school staff can get into Port Dover before the roads are closed at 9:00 a.m.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report on the Implications of June 13, 2008 in Port Dover as information; and
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Option 3: Cancel transportation/Close Schools/Staff report to home school.

Carried

(f) **Delhi District Secondary School Prohibitive to Repair Construction – Final Budget Approval**

J. Gunn indicated that the scope of this construction has been completed and the project has gone out for tender and final budget. The construction will proceed once final Ministry of Education approval has been received. It was noted there was supposed to be a two week turnaround period. M. Macdonald suggested asking the local MPP to put pressure on the Ministry as timing is critical.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Delhi District Secondary School – Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) Renewal project for a guaranteed maximum price of \$ 1,623,027.34, subject to final Ministry of Education approval.

Carried

D – 2 New Business — Information Items

(a) **Student Trustee Selection**

The Student Senate met on April 29, 2008. Student Trustee candidates were asked questions by other members of the Student Senate on why they wished to be a student trustee.

B. Doyle thanked C. Bower and S. Hanson for chairing the Student Senate meeting.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Senate's report on the appointment of the following Student Trustees for 2008-09:

Grand Erie North: Bronte Hladysh (North Park Collegiate and Vocational School)

Grand Erie South: Nolan Chambers (Valley Heights Secondary School)

Carried

(b) **Student Senate Report**

S. Hanson and C. Bower highlighted the items discussed at the April 29, 2008 Student Senate meeting.

It was noted that many students are not aware there are student trustees.

A First Class conference for the Student Senate members has been set up.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Senate report of May 12, 2008 as information.

Carried

(c) **Human Resources Annual Report**

A. Nesbitt reported that the automated dispatch system has been launched.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Human Resources Services Annual Report as information.

Carried

(d) **Major Construction Update**

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Update as information.

Carried

(e) **French Immersion Administrative Study Summary Report**

D. Pyper indicated there appears to not be enough interest in Haldimand and Norfolk areas for French Immersion classes at this time.

Executive Council supports giving a one time allotment of \$5,000.00 to each of the elementary French Immersion schools (\$10,000 in total) to provide a catch up allowance for the purchase of teaching materials in two languages in the budget process for 2008-09. Executive Council also recommends adding a yearly increase of 10% to the supplies budget of each elementary French Immersion school, commencing in 2008-09.

Executive Council has discussed the long term accommodation needs of the elementary French Immersion program and determined that steady growth seems apparent in this program over the next ten years. As a result, a recommendation has been given to the Quality Accommodations Committee to consider the accommodation needs at the Fairview School site as the priority area for growth. The options of establishing a third site for a dual track program at a school in the Brant County area to accommodate the growing county population accessing this program and to mitigate growth pressures at both Fairview and Dufferin will be investigated.

Regarding the secondary French Immersion program at BCIVS, efforts will be made to ensure that a minimum of 10 credit options be available to students in the French Immersion program on a yearly basis.

D. Werden expressed concern that the French Immersion survey was not readily available to all parents. However, D. Pyper noted that announcement of the survey was placed in all schools' newsletters and the survey was available on the Board's website and in paper copy for those parents who requested it.

S. Hanson indicated that he attended elementary French Immersion and thought the experience was worthwhile.

D. Pyper noted that, should a class be started in Haldimand or Norfolk it would utilize the dual track model as there would not be enough students to have a French Immersion school.

There can only be 20 students in kindergarten and grade one to start a class due to the class size cap. With only enough numbers to start one class and due to expected attrition the class would become too small to operate. Students cannot enter French Immersion in the higher grades.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "French Immersion Administrative Study Summary Report" as information.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Committee of the Whole Board meeting continue past 10:00 p.m. to deal with the remaining items on the agenda.

Carried

(f) **Summer School 2008 — Preliminary Report**

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Summer School 2008 — Preliminary Report” as information.

Carried

(g) **Enrolment Update for 2007–08**

Moved by: C. Lefebvre

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the enrolment update as at March 31, 2008 as information.

Carried

D – 3 New Business — Operating Plans

(a) **MISA Update**

It was noted that there is a Research Advisory Committee which reviews all requests to complete research in the Board.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

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

Carried

(b) **Quality Accommodations Update**

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT consideration of the Quality Accommodations Update be deferred to the June 9, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting.

Carried

E – 1 Other Business

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat indicated trustees need to determine how to deal with the issue of outstanding membership fees as OPSBA may deem Grand Erie to be a “board not in good standing”.

B. Johnston stated he wrote letter on behalf of the trustees last year to OPSBA outlining a number of outstanding issues. Trustees had questioned the constitutionality of how the fees were proportioned. OPSBA has now reviewed this matter and developed a new formula, which is a better solution than last year. The Executive Director of OPSBA is writing a letter outlining solutions to trustees' concerns. B. Johnston thinks Grand Erie should not place itself in a position of being a member "not in good standing".

D. Werden supports paying the balance of the current year's membership fees, but under duress.

C.A. Sloat stated that B. Johnston is running as a Regional Vice President but the Board must be in good standing.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board pay the outstanding balance of the OPSBA membership fee for 2007-08.

Carried

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

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

Carried

F – 1 Correspondence

(a) **BCIVS Alumni Association re Landscaping at BCIVS**

J. Wibberley stated the intention is to maintain this landscaping through the construction process and make any necessary repairs. He will send a response.

(b) **Ted Oliver re BCIVS Auditorium Seating**

B. Johnston indicated there was a group of persons who did fund raising to purchase the seats located in the current auditorium at BCIVS. They would like to see the Board store the seats so they could be used somewhere in the future. J. Gunn stated that all useable furniture from BCIVS will be stored at former Riverview School. A response will be sent.

G – 1 In Camera Session

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Hurley

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel matters at 10:25 p.m.

Carried

Open Session reconvened at 10:35 p.m.

G – 2 In Camera Report

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding elementary administrative positions as information.

Carried

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the One-Year Term Extension for the Principal Leader, School Effectiveness Framework.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding secondary administrative positions as information.

Carried

H – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Carried