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

Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting
November 3, 2008, 7:17 p.m.

PRESENT:
Trustees: S. Cann, Chair, J. Angus, R. Collver, B. Doyle, A. Everets, B. Johnston, 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
Administration: Nil

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, S. Cann, at 7:17 p.m.

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

None declared.

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

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

B – 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Teeterville Home and School Association — Proposed Fundraising**

J. Gunn reported that he has had a meeting with Teeterville parent representatives and the principal, C. Luke. The Policy and Administrative Procedure regarding capital fund raising was reviewed along with administration's recommendations for renovations in the Norfolk West Accommodation Review area.

The parent representatives have determined it premature to propose any possible renovations to the gymnasium until they learn of the trustees' course of action.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding Teeterville Home and School Association as information.
Carried

(b) **Accommodation Recommendations for Brantford South**

J. Gunn indicated that the content of this report has been discussed at previous meetings, with the exception of Appendix D which provides what Administration sees as the minimum required building renovations for Bellview and Princess Elizabeth Schools.

In response to a question from D. Werden regarding the possible effect of the recent Provincial clawback on proposed renovations, J. Gunn noted that the renovations will be funded from operating savings due to the closure of Joseph Brant School.

A. Everets believes that renovations and other changes should be made to accommodate the infusion of students coming from the closed school. She thinks that, because the Board is entering into an uncertain economic climate, renovations that are not directly needed to accommodate the incoming students should not be completed. She is also concerned with the expected declining enrolment in the Brantford South area.

J. Angus thinks the Board must be fiscally responsible in light of expected declining enrolment at both schools. However, she does not think that just maintaining portables at Bellview will be accepted well by the community's parents. She questioned if it would be possible to add a module building to Bellview and then move it when it is no longer needed. J. Gunn indicated that it is possible to move a module building; however, the investment in the foundation would be lost. It would be more cost effective to fill in the corner with two walls and a roof; however, that would result in a permanent structure.

B. Johnston noted that the minimum renovation cost (using portables) would be $477,500. Building a permanent structure would cost approximately $300,000 more. This structure would likely only be needed for five years and then would result in excess capacity.

A. Everets believes the Board needs to build for the enrolment expected in the future.

C.A. Sloat noted that portables will accommodate the students for the short term until the enrolment declines.

R. Collver noted that research indicates the condition of a facility affects student outcomes; and that OPSBA recommends, during school closures, offering school accommodation better than what the students left.

B. Johnston noted that the accommodations outlined in Appendix D provide a new library and upgraded change rooms.

Moved by: B. Johnston
Seconded by: A. Everets
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board, in accordance with Board Policy FT5, approve a renovation project at Bellview Public School at a cost not to exceed $477,500 (as set out in Appendix D of the report); and that Administration be directed to proceed to issue a Request for Proposal for a Construction Manager in accordance with Board Policy FT1 following approval.
Carried

(c) **Accommodation Recommendations for Norfolk West**

J. Gunn indicated that the content of this report has been discussed at previous meetings, with the exception of Appendix D which provides what Administration sees as the minimum required building renovations for Delhi and Teeterville Schools.

A. Everets thinks the options contained in Appendix D provides what is required to accommodate incoming students from the closure of Windham Central School.

J. Angus also supports this level of renovations and while it would be ideal to have a gymnasium which accommodated all parents at once, most schools do not.

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board, in accordance with Board Policy FT5, approve renovation/addition projects at Delhi Public School as outlined in Appendix “D” and Teeterville Public School as outlined in Appendix “D” of the report at a combined cost not to exceed $925,000; and that Administration be directed to proceed to issue a Request for Proposal for a Construction Manager in accordance with Board Policy FT1 following approval.
Carried

C.A. Sloat suggested that standards for school facilities, e.g. gym floor, lockers, etc. need to be established. It was noted that the Ministry of Education has established a document outlining adequate standards for new buildings; however, they can be applied to established buildings too.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board begin discussion regarding the development of Grand Erie standards for school facilities at the January 12, 2009 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting.
Carried

C – 1 **Director's Report**

J. Wibberley indicated that good news stories are rotated on the Board's website home page, e.g. the anti bullying program at Simcoe Composite School. He noted that the character education initiatives will be reviewed at Board meetings in 2009.

He attended the "Danny in the Basement" play at Prince Charles. This production is an ETFO anti–poverty initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Education. Four more Grand Erie schools will be showing the play for their students.

R. Collver reported that an article in the "Simcoe Reformer" regarding the Turning Point Program at Valley Heights Secondary School was well written by Gloria Thomas.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of November 3, 2008 as information.
Carried

D – 1 **Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration — Action/Decision Items**

(a) **BL31 Borrowing By-Law re: Good Places to Learn**

J. Gunn noted this is the renewal of an existing Bylaw.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 31 "Borrowing Bylaw re: Good Places to Learn".
Carried

(b) **SO15 Student Trips**

J. Wibberley stated this new Policy is a companion to Administrative Procedure SO115.

He noted that regardless of a family's financial ability, a student should be able to go on a student trip which is required as part of the curriculum.

An addition to the Policy indicates that high needs students will participate in student trips whenever possible.

D. Werden thinks that all student trips should be curriculum based and, therefore, accessible to all students. J. Wibberley noted that many trips at March Break are not related to a specific course and, therefore, not as connected to the curriculum.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO15 – "Student Trips".
Carried

D – 2 **Procedure Consideration — Information Items**

(a) **P105 Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)**

B. Blancher noted there were four PLAR challenges last year.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure P105 – "Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition" as information.
Carried

E – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Interim Financing of Capital Projects**

J. Gunn noted that there are two major capital projects underway, i.e. BCIVS renovations and the building of a new elementary school in Paris. The Board needs to ensure that it does not encumber day–to–day operating budgets as the Board must financially carry these projects until funds are received from the Ministry of Education.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: B. Johnston
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board authorize the signing authorities of the Board to establish temporary credit facilities to permit the borrowing, on an interest only, revolving basis to finance the BCI-Redevelopment Project expenditures up to $14,300,000 to be repaid by OFA debenture financing under PTR Capital Funding no later than February 28, 2010.
Carried

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board authorize the signing authorities of the Board to establish temporary credit facilities to permit the borrowing, on an interest only, revolving basis to finance the Paris Elementary School Project expenditures up to $8,600,000 to be repaid by proceeds of disposition, FRG grants and OFA debenture financing under PCS Capital Funding no later than February 28, 2010.
Carried

F – 1 **Correspondence**
Nil.

G – 1 **In Camera Session**
Nil.

G – 2 **In Camera Report**
Nil.

H – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.
Carried

Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Chair, S. Cann