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

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting
November 10, 2008, 7:18 p.m.

PRESENT:
Trustees: D. Werden, Vice Chair, J. Angus, R. Collver, B. Doyle, 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, A. Nesbitt, D. Pyper; Recording Secretary — J. Grincevicius

REGRETS:
Trustees: S. Cann, A. Everets, M. Hurley
Administration: J. Gunn

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, D. Werden, at 7:18 p.m.

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

None declared.

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

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Agenda be approved.
Carried

(d) **Delegation — Paris Central Students re Safety Patrol**

Simon and Megan from Paris Central School shared their concerns regarding the busyness of the street in front of Paris Central School. They requested that trustees support their quest to have Broadway Street declared a school safety zone.

B. Johnston thanked students for making the delegation. He stated that he recently had the opportunity to meet with them and he supports the students' concerns. He noted that the crossing is located in a place where drivers cannot see the safety patrols and students crossing. At Paris District High School, a student was hit in front of the school, resulting in the street being designated a school safety zone.

B. Hladysh thanked the students for presenting this information.

M. Macdonald reminded trustees of the Board's Belief Statement — "We believe that our students should be considered first as the basis for our decision–making".

J. Angus requested the matter be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

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

C – 1 **Director's Report**

J. Wibberley indicated that Hagersville Elementary School's fiftieth anniversary celebrations are being held on November 16, 2008.

He recently attended a harvest lunch at Port Rowan School where community members cook a turkey dinner for the entire school. He believes this is a good example of community spirit.

At McKinnon Park Secondary School, the "Tools of Tolerance" program was held. A summary is currently profiled on the Board's website. A presentation was made by Matthew and Tim from Los Angeles regarding forgiveness and healing. It was very well received by the students.

He encouraged trustees to attend a Remembrance Day ceremony at their local school.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Johnston
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of November 10, 2008 as information.
Carried

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

(a) **Paris Central School Safety Zone**

J. Angus noted that the students were well spoken and their data spurs her to take some action. She suggested sending a letter to Brant County Council indicating the Board's support for their request. It was agreed to forward the letter immediately and provide a copy to students and school principal.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT a letter be written to Brant County Council indicating the Grand Erie District School Board's support for designating Broadway Street in front of Paris Central School as a school safety zone.
Carried

(b) **International Cooperative Education Program at Delhi District Secondary School**

G. Anderson indicated the International Cooperative Education Program was done as a pilot at Delhi District Secondary School last year. The school would like to run the program again in 2009–10 with students going to Ecuador for four weeks.

In response to a question from J. Angus, Cooperative Education teacher, Gerry Malo, indicated that fund raising will be held to assist students interested in going; however, students must be able to cover the costs of participating.

It was noted that Executive Council requested a staff member be present with the students during their time in Ecuador. To accomplish this, G. Malo will be assigned to these students as a class and it placed in the course calendar. There will be no cost to the Board for occasional teacher time. Students receive four cooperative education credits for participating in the International Cooperative Education Program.

D. Werden thinks all Delhi DSS students should have the opportunity to go and it should not be dependent on students' ability to pay the fees.

B. Hladysh noted that cooperative education students must provide their own transportation to job placements. However, J. Wibberley stated there is a fund to assist cooperative education students who are unable to provide their own transportation. B. Hladysh believes this program is a good opportunity for students.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the offering of the International Cooperative Education (ICE) program at Delhi District Secondary School in the 2009-2010 school year.
Carried

(c) **Report to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Six Nations of the Grand River**

G. Anderson indicated this report has been approved by the Native Advisory Committee.

M. Macdonald highlighted the report. She stated the Board could improve its services by:

— increasing the number of Aboriginal staff working in schools and for the school board
— structured Co-op for students under 17 years of age
— full-time Native Co-op Teacher
— on-reserve Native Turning Point Program for students 16 and over
— Native students with special needs are identified under the IPRC process prior to entering high school

She highlighted future initiatives, including aboriginal student self–identification, information on the Board's website regarding native issues and an elders program.

M. Macdonald noted that funding for 18 educational assistants to support native students will be requested from Indian and Native Affairs Canada.

Deneen Montour, Native Advisor, reviewed the school data. She noted that there were 548 tuition agreement students in 2007–08 who obtained three of four credits taken. The retention rate was 88%. Information about the success rates for English, mathematics and science has been shared with the elementary feeder school principals.

In response to a query from R. Collver, it was stated that the tuition agreement requires submission of student data only to INAC. However, several years ago, the Board requested that a more complete report be prepared each year as it provides a good overview of the programs for native students.

J. Wibberley indicated that the Ministry of Education has identified the education of native students to be a priority; however, there is not a parallel commitment from INAC.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Six Nations of the Grand River as information and forward it to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Six Nations of the Grand River.
Carried

(d) **Trustee Honoraria (F4)**

J. Wibberley noted that trustees' honoraria is partially based on enrolment. This has caused the honoraria to decrease this year.

B. Johnston requested a change in wording in the report for future years.

B. Johnston thinks trustee honoraria should not be dependent on enrolment as trustees in smaller boards have the same workload as trustees in larger boards.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Trustee Honoraria for the period from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009 as presented.
Carried

D – 2 **New Business — Information Items**

(a) **Trustees' Travel and Professional Development Expenses**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Report on Trustee Travel and Professional Development Expenses as information.
Carried

(b) **Student Suspension Report (SO6)**

G. Anderson noted the report summarizes the elementary and secondary school suspensions for the 2007–08 school year. As a result of changes to the Safe Schools Act that came into effect on February, 1, 2008, suspensions are reported for the first five months of the school year followed by suspensions for the second five months of the school year. Compared to the previous year, suspensions are down in the elementary panel by approximately 12% and down in the secondary panel by 3.5%. He stated that many factors affect the number of suspensions from one school to the next. Most suspensions are given for forms of physical aggression.

In response to C.A. Sloat, G. Anderson indicated that standardized processes on the need for suspensions are being developed. In future reports, the system–wide percentage of suspensions for identified students will be noted.

Regarding a query from J. Angus, J. Wibberley indicated that principals have been advised to not request students to just stay home instead of imposing suspension. This action puts the Board and principal in a precarious position.

J. Angus asked if the number of repeat students could be reported in the future. This would be one way to see if the new social and academic programs are having an effect.

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Suspension Report for 2007-08 as information.
Carried

(c) **Student Expulsion Report (SO7)**

G. Anderson indicated the rules that apply to expulsions changed effective February 1, 2008. For the first five months of the 2007–08 school year principals could expel a student for a limited period of time. Normally, this expulsion was for the duration of the semester or, in some cases, for the remainder of the school year. From February, 2008 to June 2008, the legislation governing Safe Schools within the *Education Act* removed the right of principals to expel students. As well, the terms Limited and Full Expulsions were removed meaning that expulsions could only be done by a committee of Trustees. For Grand Erie student expulsions this is a task of the Student Discipline Committee. During the first semester of the 2007-08 school year there were seven secondary students who received limited expulsions. During the second semester of the 2007-08 school year there were seven secondary students expelled. There were no elementary students expelled during the school year.

The new program has assisted many students achieve credits and also provides social supports. Both an elementary teacher and a secondary teacher work with students suspended for more than five days and expelled students.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Expulsion Report 2007-08 as information.
Carried

(d) **Enrolment vs Projections Update**

J. Wibberley noted that elementary enrolment is up about 20 from the last report while secondary enrolment is down slightly from projections. However, once the ONSIS reporting is completed, discrepancies will be shown which will likely result in slightly fewer students being shown. The deadline for ONSIS reporting is December 10, 2008.

R. Collver noted the report indicates prior years' enrolments as requested.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Enrolment vs Projections Update as information.
Carried

(e) **Health and Safety Annual Report**

Lena Latrielle, Health and Safety Officer, highlighted the Health and Safety Annual Report. She noted that Occupational Health and Safety Services operates to:

- offer advice to Senior Administration and Trustees on ways in which the Board can strengthen its efforts to provide a healthy and safe environment in support of the entire range of educational activities.
- coordinate the activities of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.
- liaise with regulatory agencies and other organizations to keep the Board informed of developments which could impact the Board's Health and Safety Program.
- ensure that policies and procedures are in place for inspections, testing and training and that they are carried out as required by legislation.

The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee considered the following major items last year:

- Ministry of Labour High Risk Initiative
- Indoor Air Quality including Mould
- Updating certification training for site safety reps and Joint Health and Safety Committee members
- Workplace Inspections
- WHMIS Regulations/Compliance with Material safety Data Sheets and Labels
- Slip, trips and falls prevention
- Preventing strains and sprains
- BCI health and safety concerns
- Health and Safety training for Administrators

Slips, trips and falls remain the main cause of accidents. Custodial staff now wear shoe grippers in snow and ice. They have also been provided for elementary teachers to use this winter.

Priorities for 2008–09 are:

- Slips, trips and falls, strains and sprains;
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System;
- Machine Guarding in Technology Classes;
- Employee Safety in Education;
- Training and Development;
- Chemical Management Program; and
- Ministry of Labour High Risk Program/Safe at Work Ontario.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: B. Johnston
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Health and Safety Annual Report as information.
Carried

(f) **Transportation Consortia Minutes — March 2008**

R. Collver requested that trustees receive a copy of the results from the Efficiency and Effectiveness Reviews.

(g) **Transportation Consortia Minutes — October 2008**

D. Werden noted that the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre–Sud has stated it will withdraw from the Transportation Consortia if it cannot operate effectively. It believes it can operate more efficiently on its own from a financial perspective.

Walking distances will have to be revised to meet Ministry of Education standards.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Transportation Consortia, held March 27, 2008 and October 24, 2008, as information.
Carried

D – 3 **New Business — Operating Plans**
Nil.

E – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat noted the next Central West meeting is January 10, 2009. She is still trying to get the final OPSBA declining enrolment report.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Doyle
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: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss a negotiations matter and a personnel matter at 9:30 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 10:02 p.m.

G – 2 **In Camera Report**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting continue past 10:00 p.m. to deal with the remaining items on the agenda.
Carried

No report.

H – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: B. Johnston
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:03 p.m.
Carried

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Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Vice Chair, D. Werden