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

Regular Board Meeting
March 31, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:
Trustees: B. Johnston, Chair, J. Angus, S. Cann, R. Collver, B. Doyle, A. Everets, M. Hurley, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden; C. Bower (Student Trustee), S. Hanson (Student Trustee)
Administration: Acting Director — J. Gunn; Superintendents — B. Blancher, D. Pyper; Recording Secretary — J. Grincevicius

REGRETS:
Trustees: Nil
Administration: Director — J. Wibberley; Superintendents — G. Anderson, A. Nesbitt

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A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Invocation/Roll Call/Welcome**

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

D. Werden outlined the path which lead him to become a trustee. He stated that once his children were in school, he became involved in parent teacher groups, such as school fundraising, sports and school councils. He is also involved in Scouting. He enjoys seeing children learn. He believes children should learn in their home community. Being a trustee keeps him involved in education even as his children graduate from school.

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

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

(c) **Memorials**
Nil.

(d) **Presentations**
Nil.

(e) **Delegations**
Nil.

B – 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **February 25, 2008 (Regular Board Meeting)**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held February 25, 2008, be approved, as amended by adding "B. Johnston" under "Yeas" on page 9.
Carried

(b) **March 3, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 1)**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting, held March 3, 2008, be approved.
Carried

(c) **March 17, 2008 (Committee of the Whole No. 2)**

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting, held March 3, 2008, be approved.
Carried

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

C – 1 **Director's Report**

(a) **"Can Do" Customer Service Program — Joe Saldarelli, Marianne Detmar and Ruth Ann Grinton**

J. Gunn introduced Joe Saldarelli, Marianne Detmar and Ruth Ann Grinton. He noted that this Facility Services program has been very successful for the Board. Marianne Detmar and Ruth Ann Grinton are "Can Do" trainers. All new staff receive "Can Do" training.

J. Saldarelli indicated that the program was implemented in 2002 to: deliver a consistent message to Facility Service staff about providing the best possible service to customers; and to raise employee moral and confidence by recognizing staff contributions. Examples are: a newsletter; more staff input on products; and the RAP event to recognize contributions and successes of staff.

Other workshops offered to interested staff are: conflict management, team building and career development.

B. Johnston thanked the presenters.

(b) **2008–09 GSNs (Grants for Student Needs) — Highlights**

J. Gunn indicated that information regarding the GSNs has been released. This early release of the grants information will enable the Board to develop its budget for next year in a more timely manner. The grants contain: completion of prior funding commitments; funding of the last ten minutes of teacher preparation time; funding of safe schools initiatives; funding of 2007 benchmark adjustments; special education supplemental funding; a 1% increase for textbooks; additional transportation funding; and an increase for capital growth areas. The grant for community use of schools will increase to permit no or low cost rental of school facilities to community members.

Because the Board is operating its transportation system efficiently, it will receive another $1,103,500 and an additional $149,145 will be received this year to cover fuel costs.

Good Places to Learn Level 3 funding has been announced. Although school by school details are not available yet, Grand Erie will receive $6.4 million.

In response to a question from M. Macdonald regarding the First Nations supplement, J. Gunn noted that this is provided only for residents of the Board, not residents of a reserve attending Grand Erie District School Board schools. The criteria have not been detailed, but it is expected to be an annual grant.

In response to a query from S. Cann regarding the Board Administration and Governance grant, Grand Erie’s ADE is below 26,000; therefore, the Board will receive an additional base amount of $200,000.

It was noted that the Prohibitive to Repair PTR grants have already been deducted from the GPL3 grant.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of March 31, 2008 as information.
Carried

D – 1 Committee Reports

(a) Committee of the Whole No. 1 — March 3, 2008

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Report, dated March 31, 2008, as follows:

1. **Director's Report**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of March 3, 2008 as information.

2. **HR4 Health and Safety**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy HR4 — "Health and Safety".

3. **SO120 Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Administrative Procedure SO120 — "Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents" to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by May 30, 2008.

4. **SO121 Request to Attend a School Outside the Home School Area**
   THAT Administrative Procedure SO121 — "Request to Attend a School Outside the Home School Area" be forwarded to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by May 30, 2008.

5. **HR101 Threats, Intimidation & Assault of Employees by Visitors**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure HR101 — "Threats, Intimidation & Assault of Employees by Visitors" as information.

6. **HR105 Term Appointments — Central Support Staff**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure HR105 — "Term Appointments – Central Support Staff" as information.

7. **HR110 Hiring Procedures for Teachers and Department Heads**
   THAT Administrative Procedure HR110 — "Hiring Procedures for Teachers and Department Heads" be received for information.

8. **P101 Educational Programs in Government Approved Care, Treatment, Custodial and Correctional Facilities**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure P101 — "Educational Programs in Government Approved Care, Treatment, Custodial and Correctional Facilities" as information.

9. **SO105 Out-of-Classroom Trips and Tours for Students; Insurance Requirements for Student Trips and Excursions**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure SO105 – "Out-of-Classroom Trips and Tours for Students; Insurance Requirements for Trips and Excursions" as information.

10. **SO116 Pupil's Return from Absence**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Policy SO116 — "Pupil's Return from Absence" as information.

11. **Correspondence — BCIVS Alumni Foundation re BCIVS Rebuild Project**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.

12. **In Camera Report**
THAT Item A-1-a be approved.

D. Werden requested that Recommendation No.9 be separated from the main report.

A vote was taken on Recommendations No. 1 to 8 and 10 to 12.
Carried

D. Werden thinks because trustees have legal responsibility for students, there should be a policy for out-of-classroom trips and tours for students, not just an Administrative Procedure.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT Item No. 9 be referred to administration to develop a policy and accompanying procedure for out-of-classroom trips and tours for students for the May 5, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 meeting.
Carried

(b) **Committee of the Whole No. 2 — March 17, 2008**

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Report, dated March 31, 2008, as follows:

1. **Director's Report**
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of March 17, 2008 as information.

2. **BCIVS Rebuild Design and Costing**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Prohibitive to Repair Redevelopment project for a total budget of $23,905,505, pending Ministry of Education approval.

3. **School Year Calendar — Approval**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the proposed School Year Calendars for 2008-2009 for submission to the Ministry of Education.

4. **Parent Engagement Update**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Parent Engagement Update as information.

5. **Major Construction Update (FT2)**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Project Update as information.

6. **Library Function and Technicians in Secondary Schools**
   THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Function and Technicians in Secondary Schools report as information.

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

8. **In Camera Report**
   THAT Item C-1-a be received.

C.A. Sloat requested that Recommendation No.8 be separated from the main report.

J. Angus requested that Recommendation No.2 be separated from the main report to allow for a recorded vote.

A vote was taken on Recommendations No. 1 and 3 to 7.
Carried

Regarding Recommendation No. 8, C.A. Sloat indicated that in order to be in keeping with Bylaw 25 and to follow past practice, a statement that the Director's interim performance review has been completed must be stated in the minutes.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT Item C-1-a be received.
Amendment moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: D. Werden
That the Director of Education's interim performance review for 2008–09 has been completed.
Amendment Carried
Main Motion Carried

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Prohibitive to Repair Redevelopment project for a total budget of $23,905,505, pending Ministry of Education approval.

A recorded vote was taken with results as follows:

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

Carried

E – 1 **New Business**

(a) **Quality Accommodation/Facilities Services Overview (2007-08)**

J. Gunn reviewed the major sections of the report: starting point, high yield strategy, areas of significant success, and areas where challenges remain. It was noted that FT1, FT2 and FT5 require additional review and will be placed on the September 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 agenda.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Quality Accommodation/Facilities Services Overview (2007–08) as information.
Carried

(b) **Community Partnership Incentive Program Overview**

J. Gunn stated that the report provides an overview of this year's program. Schools are able to obtain facility items in partnership with community involvement and support. The program supported 32 out of 46 applications. Projects will be completed by June 2008. D. Werden noted that No. 23 is an outdoor play area.

The amount of surplus funds carried forward from last year was reviewed. Following last year's report to the Board, dollars allocated to three projects changed.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Community Partnership Incentive Plan Overview as information.
Carried

(c) **Shibley Righton Scholarship**

J. Angus stated that she won a $500 scholarship at a OPSBA meeting. She has determined that the one–time scholarship will be given to a graduating student from BCIVS this year. The criteria is a student: who has demonstrated good citizenship through positive contribution to life at school and/or the community; who has displayed a positive attitude towards his/her studies; and who will not be receiving any major awards.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding the Shibley Righton Scholarship as information.
Carried

(d) **Compensatory Education – 2008/2009 School Year**

D. Pyper indicated that compensatory education funds enable an equity of learning opportunities for schools with socioeconomic issues and has been in place for several years. This year's model for determining which schools qualify is based on the following three factors: median income, less than high school diploma and single parent households. These factors are consistent with many other boards. Last year's model included EQAO grade 3 and EDI results. The same schools comprised the top eleven no matter the model used. The last four schools were added based on knowledge of individual schools attained by senior administration.

It was noted that the staffing component of the Learning Opportunities Grant must be determined now in order to begin next year's staffing and remain within the requirements of the elementary collective agreement. Staffing levels must be determined for each elementary school by mid April in order to notify surplus teachers.

In response to a question concerning additional vice principal (1.0 FTE) and secretarial time (0.5 FTE), D. Pyper indicated that the schools affected often have challenging situations; have a large number of student transfers; parents come into school frequently; schools are locked so visitors must be let in by the secretary; and there are attendance issues. S. Hanson spoke in favour of locating vice principals at King George and Elgin Avenue Schools.

J. Gunn stated that all strategies listed in the report total $1.48 million based on 2007–08 budget rates. Next year's Learning Opportunities Grant is $3,468,078, an increase over this year.

A. Everets thinks EDI should be a factor; however, D. Pyper indicated that EDI is not a reliable statistic as it is intended to identify communities in need, not individual schools.

Some of the compensatory education schools are also OFIP (Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership) and/or AIP (Assessment for Improvement). Trustees requested that other programs affecting the compensatory education schools be contained in future reports.

R. Collver requested information on whether the strategies implemented under the compensatory education umbrella are assisting students.

M. Macdonald concurred that Houghton Public School should be a compensatory education school. Parents in that area tend not to complete census data and, therefore, will not show in the income data.

J. Angus indicated that some other studies show parents' education levels as the greatest risk factor. She asked that the rationale behind the implementation of the compensatory education strategies be related to student achievement.

B. Johnston expressed concern that the same factors were not applied to the final four schools in the list.

D. Pyper indicated that using EQAO as a factor penalizes those schools which improve their scores as it may result in losing the compensatory education status.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: A. Everets
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Compensatory Education staffing model.
Carried

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT administration bring further information to the April 14, 2008 or May 12, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting regarding compensatory education on: (1) ranking of schools; (2) details on how and why the schools were chosen for 2008–09; (3) the student results of compensatory education; (4) other supports being provided to compensatory education schools; (5) how many students are affected by compensatory education; (6) EQAO achievement results in compensatory education schools; and (7) value or use of EDI on students.
Carried

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the report regarding compensatory education be presented annually at the February Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting and include: (1) ranking of schools; (2) details on how and why the schools were chosen; (3) the student results of compensatory education; (4) other supports being provided to compensatory education schools; (5) how many students are affected by compensatory education; and (6) EQAO achievement results in compensatory education schools.

(e) **Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2008– 2009**

B. Blancher and K. Cottingham outlined the proposed allocation of self–contained classes for next year. K. Cottingham noted that many students are moving to secondary schools; therefore, there is a shift in the number and placement of special education classes. He noted that there is a trend towards a lower percentage of special education students in self–contained classrooms, as many students can be supported in regular classes.

In regard to the collapse of the self–contained gifted class, he noted that these students would attend an enrichment program every other week. C.A. Sloat expressed concern with the destination of the students currently in the gifted class as they will be in grades 7 or 8 next year. She also thinks the enrichment program is not sufficient to accommodate these students' needs.

J. Angus noted that this allocation has been discussed and approved by the Special Education Advisory Committee.

D. Werden is concerned with the collapse of self-contained classes. K. Cottingham indicated that there will be 300 identified students moving to secondary school, 80 of whom are currently in self–contained classes in elementary schools. Therefore, four additional secondary classes are required, resulting in four less elementary classes being needed.

C.A. Sloat noted that students' needs are changing and the Ministry of Education is promoting keeping students in regular classes.

K. Cottingham stated that not all students wish to attend a gifted class as they prefer to be at their home school. He noted that students have not been discouraged from attending. S. Cann thinks being labeled as gifted isolates some students.

S. Hanson thinks gifted classes are important as regular classes may not accommodate very gifted students. He thinks the Board needs to be more proactive in finding gifted students.

B. Blancher stated the Board believes in gifted education. However, if a gifted classroom remains, then it must be staffed. If the decision is to keep the gifted class, then the trustees will, in effect, be creating another self–contained class.

J. Angus thinks the enrichment model serves the needs of gifted students. She supports the integration of students in their home schools. Special education provides a continuum of service.

K. Cottingham indicated the reason to close the gifted class is the low number of students. It could be opened again, if required.

A. Everets stated that keeping the gifted class will require additional funding. B. Blancher noted that only five students are slated for the gifted class next year.

J. Angus believes more information is needed regarding the impact of collapsing the gifted class.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the location and number of self contained classrooms as outlined in the report "Allocation of Self–contained Classrooms for 2008–2009".
Amendment by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: R. Collver
That the location and number of self–contained classrooms be approved except for the collapse of the gifted class.

A recorded vote was taken with results as follows:

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

Amendment Carried

A recorded vote was requested on the amended motion with results as follows:

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

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the amended motion be referred to the April 14, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting to obtain further financial implications and program options.
Defeated
Main Motion Carried

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT administration be requested to prepare a report for presentation at the April 14, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting outlining: (1) how the gifted class at Centennial–Grand Woodlands Public School would function in consideration of staffing and other budget implications; and (2) alternative ways to provide program to the students currently in the gifted class.
Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: R. Collver
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) **Early Years Centres and the Use of GEDSB Schools**

J. Angus expressed concern about charging Early Years Centres for water flushing and custodial care costs during the summer when schools are closed. She noted that the Centres must consider closing their programs for the summer. She noted that most other school boards do not download these costs. Because of the attendance at these centres last summer, it is believed the impact on children would be considerable.

J. Gunn indicated that a process will be implemented whereby Early Years Centres' staff will conduct water flushing in schools.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT Administration be requested to present a report regarding the downloaded costs to Early Years Centres at the May 12, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting.
Carried

(g) **OPSBA Request for Comments on the Early Learning Initiative**

C.A. Sloat indicated that J. Gunn and B. Blancher are currently reviewing the document and preparing a submission. She requested that two trustees review the submission before it is forwarded.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding the OPSBA Request for Comments on the Early Learning Initiative as information.
Carried

(h) **BCIVS Rebuild — Information from the Alumni Foundation**

B. Johnston noted that an information meeting was held with representatives of the Alumni Foundation. The Foundation is prepared to provide funds to enhance exterior masonry work on the 1910 school. Even though the Foundation would like the rebuilt school to include a single use auditorium, the Board will not be changing the original drawings in this regard. The Board is prepared to accept items of upgraded scale, etc. Specific items to be enhanced must identified in order for the Alumni Foundation to start fund raising.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report regarding information from the BCIVS Alumni Foundation as information.
Carried

F – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Summary of Accounts — February 2008**
Deferred to the April 7, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting.

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

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the minutes of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, held February 28, 2006, as information.
Carried

(c) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes — January 2008**
Deferred to the April 7, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting.

(d) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes — February 2008**
Deferred to the April 7, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting.

G – 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **City of Brantford re Snow Ploughing**
(b) **Minister Kathleen Wynne re Trustee Remuneration**
(c) **Waterloo Region DSB re Escalating Cost of School Site Acquisition**
(d) **E. Wilson re Rebuild of BCIVS**

Deferred to the April 7, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1 Meeting.

H – 1 **In Camera Session**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss a property matter and personnel matters at 10:40 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 10:58 p.m.

H – 2 In Camera Report

No report.

I – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:59 p.m.
Carried

Board Chair, Bill Johnston