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

Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
August 18, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

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

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Collver, at 7:00 p.m. She introduced new student trustees, Nolan Chambers and Brontie Hladysh.

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

None declared.

(c) **Delegation — Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition**

Advance notice of a delegation by the Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition regarding First Nations was received after the Thursday noon deadline on August 14, 2008; however, a copy of the presentation material was received by August 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.(as per Board Bylaw BL11).

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: B. Johnston
THAT the delegation by the Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition regarding First Nations be heard.
Carried

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

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

(e) **Delegation — Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition**

Representatives of the Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition, Vincent Geerdinck, Brian Porter and Steve Charest, provided information on a newly–formed group concerned about solving the Six Nations land claims. They are looking for the support of the Board to lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments.

A. Everets questioned if Haldimand County has been made aware of the Coalition. The Coalition noted that the Mayor of Haldimand County had attended a meeting.

In response to J. Angus, it was noted that the Coalition is seeking endorsement by the Board, along with participation in meetings and input in future directions. It is not looking for financial support. Members want the Board to lobby various levels of government through letter writing.

S. Cann noted that the current situation has affected the area economically.

B. Johnston indicated that school boards have no vested interest in the Coalition. However, he agrees that the economic health of the area affects the families of our students.

Coalition members believe a school board should set the moral tone in the community through its leadership.

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

C – 1 **Director's Report**

J. Wibberley noted that the summer has been calm and uneventful for the most part. He reminded trustees there a number of construction projects underway.

J. Gunn provided the following details:

BCIVS: 80% of the demolition is complete. Services to the 1963 wing will be done by September 2nd.

DDSS: 80% of the demolition is complete. The science lab project is complete.
Ryerson Heights: The foundation for the addition is complete. Opening to students is expected by early November 2008.
Lansdowne: The portapac has been completed at the factory and is ready for installation, which is expected before September 2, 2008.
Elementary School in Paris: The wall sections will be raised in early September and closed in by November.

J. Wibberley stated that a recent Ministry of Education memorandum indicates that $148,000 in library funding is arriving soon. It can be used for library staffing, such as teachers, technicians or other support staff. Executive Council will develop an implementation plan.

Another Ministry memorandum states that Parent Involvement funding will continue, with the Board receiving $47,000 .

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of August 18, 2008 as information.
Carried

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

(a) **Community Use of Schools Report**

J. Gunn indicated that the community use of schools funding has been part of the grants for several years. For 2008–09, Government funding has been increased from $267,632 to $459,728 due to increased demand for school rental. He stated that over the last three years, the Board has incurred a greater expenditure than the funding covers. This grant is applied against the waived fees of Category 2 permit holders.

He noted that there is a reporting function required to apprise the Ministry of Education of rental usage.

It is proposed to continue waiving fees for Category 2 permit holders along with water testing fees. In addition, $75,000 would be set aside for facilities renewal costs for high–use schools.

It was noted that the new web based rental system will make renting school space more accessible.

A. Everets expressed a concern that some elementary schools are being bumped from renting secondary school space for graduations, etc. This will be reviewed with principals.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the allocation of funds for Community Use of Schools.
Carried

(b) **FT4 Use of School Facilities**

J. Gunn indicated that Categories 1 and 2 and the related fees must be shown, even though the fees are waived, in order to provide data for the accountability report completed for the Ministry of Education.

It was agreed to delete 4(j) on page 4 of the Policy.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT Policy FT4 – "Use of School Facilities" be forwarded to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by October 24, 2008.
Carried

(c) **Brantford South Accommodation Review**

(i) **Committee Report**

J. Angus highlighted the Committee's recommendations.

A. Everets expressed concern with the relatively small enrolment of Princess Elizabeth Public School by 2017. She believes further consolidations may have to be considered in the future.

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Brantford South Accommodation Review Committee report as information.
Carried

(ii) **Administration Report**

J. Gunn stated that Administration agrees with the proposed recommendations of the Brantford South Accommodation Review Committee.

He noted there is no need to add space to Princess Elizabeth. A four–classroom addition is proposed for Bellview. By adding two walls, two classrooms can be created. The current library, which is small for the enrolment, can be divided to make two classrooms. Then a new library would be constructed. The estimated cost is $797,500 which could be funded from operational savings of the Joseph Brant closure. There would be an 11–year payback. The Board may also decide to dispose of Joseph Brant in the future, the proceeds of which would shorten the payback period.

J. Angus hopes that Princess Elizabeth will be updated, as required, to accommodate the incoming grade 8 students. J. Gunn noted that the Transition Committee will consider these items, as necessary.

A. Everets believes a template for Transition Committee deliberations is required to make all accommodation reviews as equitable as possible.

D. Werden expressed concern with the future excess capacity at Princess Elizabeth and Bellview. J. Gunn noted that other partners are using space in both schools which gives the appearance of under utilization. He also noted that housing development is anticipated in this area. J. Gunn stated that it is more economical to construct an addition at Bellview than to add a portapac due to the physical layout of the building.

B. Johnston indicated that the Ministry of Education may be providing funding for downsizing accommodations.

The Transition Committee will be established at the October 27, 2008 Board Meeting.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board, in accordance with Board Policy FT5, defer the approval of:

(a) the closure of Joseph Brant Public School, effective June 30, 2009;
(b) the reorganization of Bellview Public School to become a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, while retaining its current boundaries, effective July 1, 2009;
(c) the reorganization of Princess Elizabeth Public School to become a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, while retaining its current boundaries, effective July 1, 2009;
(d) consideration to congregate Joseph Brant students at Princess Elizabeth Public School for their final grade 8 year during the transition process.

to the October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
Carried

J. Wibberley indicated that the 60–day deferral is required by Ministry of Education policy. This timeframe provides the community an opportunity to make delegations and respond to the Accommodation Review Committee's and Administration's proposals.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board, in accordance with Board Policy FT5, defer the approval of a renovation/Addition project at Bellview Public School to the October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meeting; 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.
Defeated

(d) **Norfolk West Accommodation Review**

(i) **Committee Report**

D. Werden highlighted the Committee's report.

Moved by: M. Hurley
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Norfolk West Accommodation Review Committee report as information.
Carried

(ii) **Administration Report**

J. Gunn reviewed the alternatives considered in upgrading the facilities.

The structure currently being built at Lansdowne Public School would be the type to be used at Delhi Public School. A tour of Lansdowne will be arranged for trustees. Instead of adding to the gymnasium at Teeterville, Administration proposes adding a multi-purpose room.

The construction costs would be funded from operational savings of the Windham Central closure.

J. Angus hopes that Administration will develop plans for any additional required changes to the Brantford South schools. She questioned if there are different needs in the Norfolk West schools. J. Gunn noted that the request to enlarge the Teeterville gymnasium is different than construction requirements at Bellview and Princess Elizabeth. He indicated that he did not look for other details except to ensure the students are appropriately accommodated with items such as washrooms, etc.

J. Wibberley indicated that the recommendations from the Accommodation Review Committee were reviewed by Administration but are not the starting point for Administration's recommendations. They may be the same for some items but different for others.

J. Wibberley suggested further discussing Administration's recommendations regarding construction options in October 2008.

A. Everets expressed concern with closely tying the closure of a school with the renovations to other neighbouring schools. She thinks the Board must consider school upgrades compared to accommodations at all Board schools to see if the requests are reasonable.

In response to a query from S. Cann, J. Gunn noted that a top up grant is received from the Ministry of Education for schools operating under capacity. However, when a school operates closer to capacity, then the top up grant is reduced.

D. Werden thinks portables should not be used for long term needs. J. Gunn indicated that portables and RCMs (relocable classroom modules) are becoming very similar. Information regarding the life expectancy of each will be made available at a future meeting.

A list of gymnasium and library sizes will be made available to trustees at a future meeting.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board, in accordance with Board Policy FT5, defer the approval of:

(a) the closure of Windham Central Public School in June 2009 and the return of Grade 8 students to their respective schools (ie., Delhi Public School or Teeterville Public Schools); and

(b) the return of Grade 8 students in the Bloomsburg area to Townsend Central in September 2009

to the October 27, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
Carried

Moved by: A. Everets
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT discussion of the proposed construction/renovation projects of Bellview Public School, Princess Elizabeth Public School, Teeterville Public School and Delhi Public School be deferred to the October 6, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 1.
Carried

Student Trustee, N. Chambers, left the meeting.

(e) **OPSBA Membership Fee — 2008–09**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2008/2009 OPSBA Membership Fee for payment.
Carried

(f) **Approval of 2008–09 Committee and Board Schedules of Agenda Items**

(i) **Committee of the Whole Board No. 1**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Proposed Schedule for the Committee of the Whole No. 1 for 2008-09.
Carried

(ii) **Committee of the Whole Board No. 2**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the proposed 2008-09 Schedule for the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2.
Carried

(iii) **Regular Board**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Proposed Schedule for the 2008–09 Regular Board Meetings.
Carried

(g) **Updated Borrowing Authority**

Moved by: B. Johnston
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board authorize the Signing Authorities of the Board to obtain loans at any one time up to a maximum of $55,000,000, to cover current payrolls and general account cheques, if required.
Carried

(h) **Construction Management Proposal for Science Lab Renovations at Hagersville Secondary and Valley Heights Secondary Schools**

J. Gunn stated the contract will be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Moved by: M. Hurley
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board award the contract for construction management services to Bestco Construction (2005) Ltd for the proposed Science Lab renovations at Hagersville Secondary School and Valley Heights Secondary School at a fee of 4.95% for construction value between $2.0 million and $2.5 million, or 4.25% for construction value between $2.5 million and $3.0 million, or 3.75% for construction value between $3.0 million and $3.5 million, respectively.
Carried

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

(a) **Approval of IPRC (Identification, Placement and Review Committee) Composition**

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Identification, Placement and Review Committee structure and jurisdiction as set out in the IPRC Terms of Reference included in Bylaw 8.
Carried

(b) **Early Development Instrument (EDI) — 2009 Administration**

In response to a question from C.A. Sloat, B. Blancher indicated the Board will not be conducting a parent survey. Informed consent will be sought from parents before collecting students' personal information when conducting the EDI.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report on the *Early Development Instrument* (EDI) – 2009 Administration as information.
Carried

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

E – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition**

J. Angus thinks the group has good intentions and that the Board has some responsibility to provide a voice for our students. She thinks the Board should consider sending letters to the Federal and Provincial Governments stating that a settlement must be sought due to the effect the situation is having on students and staff.

D. Werden thinks the group is not all inclusive and is comprised primarily of Brantford–based business people. The Board should only consider lobbying if it will benefit students.

B. Johnston indicated that although he, personally, can embrace the ideals of the Coalition, he does not think the Board should be involved. The group seems to be having success in moving discussions forward; however, the Coalition's agenda is not that of the Board.

S. Cann agrees with the ideal of working together to come to an appropriate conclusion.

M. Hurley believes the Board can not be seen as taking sides in this situation.

A. Everets noted this is the first time a group has asked the Board to be involved in the First Nations land claim. The situation has impacted our students. She supports the group's principles but it needs to do more work in involving the municipality of Haldimand and Haldimand business people.

It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the September 15, 2008 Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting.

(b) **Transportation Administrative Procedure — FT108**

A. Everets questioned if the transportation procedure is being enforced across the Board with students being picked up and dropped off at same locations each day. She indicated this is creating hardship for some parents.

J. Gunn indicated that both Boards are enforcing this procedure as Transportation Services is now a consortium. There is concern with young students, in particular, being dropped off at incorrect locations. However, Transportation Services will accommodate a set schedule, where possible.

F – 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **Friends of PDCS re Students Attending a School Outside the Catchment Area**

In response to a question from D. Werden, J. Gunn indicated that students can be transported from the Walsh area to Port Dover Composite School, Delhi District Secondary School or Simcoe Composite School. J. Gunn stated that if some students are experiencing difficulty, their names should be forwarded to him for review of their situation.

It was noted that the Quality Accommodations Committee is currently reviewing transportation in this area.

(b) **Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) re Continuity of Additional Funding for French Second Language Programs 2008–2013**

(c) **Haldimand Tract Good Neighbours Coalition re Proposal to Provide an Interim Agreement to Native Land Claims**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.
Carried

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Committee of the Whole Board meeting continue past 10:00 p.m. to deal with the remaining items on the agenda.
Carried

G – 1 **In Camera Session**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C. Lefebvre
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss property matters and personnel matters at 10:10 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 10:27 p.m.

G – 2 **In Camera Report**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board remove the acting designation from Mike McDonald's and Jay Kyle's positions.
Carried

H – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:28 p.m.
Carried

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Committee of the Whole Board Chair, R. Collver