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

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Meeting
March 17, 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, C. Bower (Student Trustee), S. Hanson (Student Trustee)
Administration: Director — J. Wibberley; Superintendents — G. Anderson, J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt, D. Pyper; Recording Secretary — J. Grincevicius

REGRETS:
Trustees: Nil
Administration: B. Blancher

A – 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call/Welcome**

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

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

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Agenda be approved.
Carried

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

C – 1 **Director's Report**

J. Wibberley noted that senior administration has worked diligently with the architect to develop a plan for a BCIVS rebuild that is financially sound. Department heads have also been consulted in the development of these plans. He thinks some areas of the proposed rebuilt school have been designed better this time than the first design created a year ago.

He introduced Fei Wei and Barry Lehmann of The Walter Fedy Partnership and Adam Salehi of The Atlas Corporation.

Fei Wei reviewed the various aspects of project. He presented a number of renderings showing both the front and rear of the proposed rebuilt school, along with drawings of each level. The 1923,1927 and 1973 wings would be demolished, with the 1963 building being retrofitted. This wing currently houses the gymnasium and technical studies area. The facade of 1910 building would be maintained, but repaired. A major problem developing the plans was the thirty–foot drop from the front to the rear of the school and that there are only seven acres of property available. The resultant school will be comprised of five levels. The new main entrance would be between the 1910 and 1963 wings. In response to a question concerning the energy efficiency of the two–storey atrium, it was noted that the roof level must match 1963 building. The glass will be tinted and shaded. The two vice principals' offices will look out on the atrium area. The library and auditorium will be two stories high. The auditorium would have 330 movable theatre–style seats and can be used for two different types of activities at the same time. Because the cafeteria, at 4,000 square feet, is located next door, it can be used as a mezzanine area for the auditorium.

Should the auditorium and/or cafeteria be rented to outside groups, the rest of the school can be closed off, as can each level of the atrium and the gymnasiums.

The school will be barrier free and air conditioned.

Some efficiencies realized in this plan include locating the science labs in the new building (level 5), building 100 less student spaces; and using less ramping and, thus, achieving more usable space.

It was noted that the definition "net building area" is all useable space excluding circulation space (corridors and stairwells), and "gross building area" is the entire building footprint. A school still must retain office space, a library, cafeteria, and gymnasiums, etc. no matter the enrolment, all of which add space to the overall building.

The timing of demolition and construction will allow some of the historic aspects to be maintained; thus providing an opportunity for the BCIVS Alumni Foundation to work with the Board.

R. Collver thanked the architects and administration for the quality on development of plans

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: S. Cann
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of March 17, 2008 as information.
Carried

D – 1 New Business — Action/Decision Items

(a) BCIVS Rebuild Design and Costing [from December 17, 2007 Special Board Meeting]

J. Gunn provided highlights regarding the costs of the revised plan to rebuild BCIVS along with the processes to achieve this construction.

Electrical and mechanical systems would be replaced during the renovation of approximately 120,000 square feet of the 1910 and 1963 wings. This includes the gymnasiums. The new construction would result in 59,611 square feet.

To make the Victoria building ready for BCIVS students, computer wiring, lighting, etc. must be installed.

The ratio of total building space compared to net useable space will be 72%, an increase from the previous plan. One of the main reasons is the requirement for less ramping between building sections.

He noted that the period required for construction will be one semester shorter. This will lessen transition costs, e.g. transportation to bus students attending in shifts. Other cost savings are: not relocating the technological studies wing; and not having to purchase five portables for use during the transition.

Both BCIVS and the Victoria building would be used to house students during the construction. Students would attend from 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. in shifts.

In response to a question from S. Cann regarding the safety of students during construction, J. Gunn stated that major work would not be done in the 1963 wing. Demolition could start this summer. Before September 2008, it would be isolated from the construction site.

The project would utilize the construction management approach. The project moves along in phases so exact costs can be compared to the budget; thus determining if other aspects of construction need to be modified. This approach is overseen by the project team.

A report outlining accommodation of students during construction will be brought to a future meeting.

The Ministry of Education Prohibitive to Repair grant will be $23,806,829 with the additional $98,676 required for the project coming from the facilities renewal grant.

C.A. Sloat indicated that she hopes the Board will receive cooperation from the City of Brantford in expediting approval of the plans and permits. D. Werden hopes the City will assist financially with the building permits.

A. Everets believes timing is important with this project in relation to involvement of the BCIVS Alumni Foundation.

C.A. Sloat noted she thinks a new school in West Brant would cost same amount as this proposed renovation. S. Cann and M. Hurley think the school should be in West Brant; however, because of the opportunity presented by the Ministry of Education, BCIVS should be rebuilt on Brant Avenue. B. Johnston stated this is a wonderful opportunity to receive a new school in our Board.

J. Gunn indicated that the PTR submission would be made electronically to the Ministry of Education following final Board approval. A commitment of a two week turnaround for initial feedback from the Ministry has been received.

Moved by: J. Angus
Seconded by: B. Johnston
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

(b) **School Year Calendar — Approval**

G. Anderson reviewed the four proposed school year calendars for 2008–09. He noted that the system professional activity days are the same as our coterminous board.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the proposed School Year Calendars for 2008-2009 for submission to the Ministry of Education.
Carried

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

(a) **Parent Engagement Update**

J. Wibberley noted that many schools have taken advantage of the Parent Reaching Out grants provided by the Ministry of Education.

A Parent Forum is scheduled for later this Spring.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Parent Engagement Update as information.
Carried

(b) **Major Construction Update (FT2)**

J. Gunn indicated that the Best Start day care additions are nearing completion. Work on the Delhi District Secondary School science labs has commenced, with them being ready for students by September 2008.

In regard to the new elementary school being built in Paris, he noted that the Board is currently obtaining site plan approval. There will be a community meeting in early April. The site plan is going to the County of Brant in mid April for approval. It is anticipated that construction will start in May.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Project Update as information.
Carried

(c) **Library Function and Technicians in Secondary Schools**

A. Nesbitt highlighted the portion of the report regarding library teaching sections and library technicians staffing. OSSTF is consulted during the whole staffing process, which includes librarians.

B. Johnston stated that librarian technicians were introduced in 2001 as a cost cutting measure. He asked if the balance between the two groups is appropriate or should it be changed. A. Nesbitt indicated that teacher librarians think they should have more time in libraries to teach research skills, etc.; however, the current model keeps libraries open. Because of staffing caps, it is impossible to put more teaching sections in libraries and guidance. Credit tallies, not enrolment, are used to determine the number of sections for teachers and courses.

J. Wibberley indicated that about six years ago, OSSTF placed more emphasis on teachers in the classroom, resulting in lost teachers in library, guidance, etc.

Moved by: S. Cann
Seconded by: B. Johnston
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Function and Technicians in Secondary Schools report as information.
Carried

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

E – 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat noted that OPSBA membership fees and its budget will be discussed in April 2008. J. Angus thinks that OPSBA needs to restructure due to boards' declining enrolments and decreasing budgets. Trustees indicated that our Board needs to again consider the benefit of belonging to OPSBA.

In regard to copyright, the Canadian School Board Association believes an amendment is required to the Copyright Act to include material on the internet.

The next Central West Meeting is Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Hamilton–Wentworth DSB.

The deadline for OPSBA awards is April 18, 2008.

The deadline for policy resolutions is April 3, 2008 and Constitutional amendments being March 31, 2008.

Moved by: C. Lefebvre
Seconded by: M. Hurley
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: M. Hurley
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss a legal matter and personnel matters at 8:57 p.m.
Carried

Open Session reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

G – 2 **In Camera Report**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: M. Hurley
THAT Item C-1-a be received.
Carried

H – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: J. Angus
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:51 p.m.
Carried

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Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Chair, Rita Collver