

Chair's Inaugural Address

December 10, 2018

Good evening fellow Trustees, members of Senior Administration, staff and guests. I am very honoured to be your Board Chair once again this year.

I believe our Multi-Year Plan: *Success for Every Student* summarizes what we stand for at Grand Erie. By focusing on students and staff in a culture of high expectations, we can achieve success. The six indicators that support our goal include: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology, and Community. I am proud of this plan and I believe that it identifies what we must be focused on.

This upcoming year will bring new and varied challenges. Decisions about pupil accommodations must be made and be well thought out. Significant new housing developments in West Brantford, Paris, and Caledonia need addressing. Additionally, the Board must carefully review all options regarding possible renovations or a rebuild of Elgin Avenue Public School. We must make a final decision that can be acted upon so that the Simcoe community has clear accommodation direction.

A changing political climate at Queen's Park will likely impact our Board in 2019 as well. We, as Trustees, must work together cooperatively and respectfully so that the decisions we make are in the best interests of our students.

Again this year, my intention is to meet with each Trustee on an individual basis before the middle of January. The purpose of these meetings will be to gain a deeper insight into the thoughts and vision Trustees have on the many important issues facing our Board in the year ahead. I believe it's critical that all Trustees have a voice in decision

making and engaging in a one-on-one dialogue will help to facilitate this.

Success for Every Student and a culture of high expectations must always be our collective goal as we serve the various communities that make up Grand Erie. We, as Trustees, must continue to provide strong governance for the Grand Erie District School Board.

We are fortunate to have an excellent Director of Education and very competent Superintendents who lead a caring and knowledgeable staff. It is our duty to continue to see that the best possible education is provided to our students at each of our schools.

I am humbled and very appreciative of your continued support and I look forward to the year ahead. We are very fortunate to have four past Board Chairs serving important roles this year. Thank in advance to Board Vice-Chair David Dean, Committee of the Whole Chair Rita Collver, OPSBA Delegate Don Werden, and OPSBA Provincial Executive Member, Carol Ann Sloat for their work on behalf of Grand Erie.

I would also like to extend a hearty thank you to all Grand Erie employees who provide support to our students and system in so many ways.

Finally, in closing, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

Board Chair
Greg Anderson