



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2019

Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: R. Collver – Committee Chair, G. Anderson, D. Dean, E. Dixon, S. Gibson, C.A. Sloat, C. Speers, D. Werden, J. Hsiao (Student Trustee), A. Hauser (Student Trustee),

Administration: Director - B. Blancher; Superintendents – D. Abbey, W. Baker, D. Martins, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – L. Howells

Regrets:

Trustees: B. Doyle, J. Richardson, C. VanEvery-Albert
Administration: L. De Vos

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 6:30 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Committee move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel matters at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, R. Collver at 7:15 p.m.



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

Presented as printed. L. Thompson requested E-1-h be removed from the agenda.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve, with regret, the resignation of Superintendent of Education, Dave Abbey, for the purpose of retirement effective August 31, 2019.

Carried

B - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

(a) **Elgin Avenue Public School Consolidation Report**

R. Wyszynski referred to the Elgin Avenue Public School Consolidation Report providing background and noting this report was brought to the Board at the November 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting and Trustees decided at that time to refer the report to Committee of the Whole in February 2019. R. Wyszynski noted that between May and November 2018, staff reviewed the five options previously noted and documented considerations for each option. R. Wyszynski noted many of the options identified are not recommended by Senior Administration and stated the Board is faced with exploring the possibility of two distinct scenarios; he also provided a high-level overview of the scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Forfeit the School Consolidation Funding and explore funding for a new school
- Scenario 2: Revisit the recommendations from the South East Norfolk Elementary Accommodation Review

R. Wyszynski noted, based on reasons mentioned, that Senior Administration is seeking direction from the Board and recommends the Board rescind the October 2, 2016 motion directing staff to close West Lynn PS and direct Senior Administration to explore an addition onto West Lynn PS, while closing Elgin Avenue PS.



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G. Anderson stated that he does not agree that the board should renovate Elgin Avenue Public School and recommends that we revisit the recommendation coming out of the South East Norfolk Elementary Accommodation Review to renovate West Lynn PS and close Elgin Avenue PS.

D. Dean stated that he is in agreement with G. Anderson. D. Dean further noted he does not believe it is a perfect outcome and realizes we would be moving the school outside of the core of Simcoe and would have ongoing transportation cost but believes West Lynn is the best option.

C. Speers commented that she would support the option to building a new school in Simcoe.

D. Werden asked for clarification regarding what is the line by line review the Ministry is completing. R. Wyszynski responded he believes it is the Ministry's way of prioritizing the release of funding. D. Werden stated his preferred option is to build a new school on the current Elgin Ave PS location providing we can get funding. R. Wyszynski responded that with the Ministry not supporting any Capital submissions at this time, the key piece is that the current funding is based on the Ministry decision for a rebuild of Elgin Ave.

C.A. Sloat commented that we have to recognize that there are greater pressures in other areas of the board that would take priority for a new school. C.A. Sloat noted that putting funds toward Elgin Ave PS is not the right choice and believes the best choice for the funding is to move it to an addition at West Lynn PS.

E. Dixon stated if the Accommodation Review recommendation was West Lynn PS then we need to consider that option.

G. Anderson noted his concern that a decision may bring turmoil to Simcoe and there is no guarantee that we will get the funding and indicated we need further clarification from the Ministry of Education/Finance if the funding is transferable. G. Anderson also stated he agreed with C. A. Sloat comment regarding new school priority in other areas of the board.

R. Collver removed herself from the chair. Vice-Chair C.A. Sloat assumed the Chair.

R. Collver commented that the Ministry is holding us hostage and we require more information. R. Collver further stated why would we make a decision when we don't know what we need to know and noted at this point in time, she cannot support moving to West Lynn PS and cannot support the Eglin Ave PS renovation but would support an Elgin Ave new build.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report on the Elgin Avenue Public School Consolidation as information.

Carried

G. Anderson stated that we cannot make a decision right now and if it is the will of the Board, as Chair he would write a letter to the Minister of Education seeking clarity regarding funding.

R. Collver commented that she does not feel that we will upset Simcoe families by taking the time to understand the issue fully and believes that the Simcoe community would expect Trustees to make the right decision when we have the right information.

D. Werden commented that at this time that we only have enough funding to complete half a project and we need more information, and supports receiving the report as information.

R. Wyszynski provided some further clarity stating no matter what decision is made the Ministry may close the window and the funding for the rebuild may be taken away.

R. Collver reassumed the Chair.

G. Anderson stated again that if it is the will of the board he would seek further clarity from the Ministry. D. Dean and C.A. Sloat recommend the letter be copied to both MPP Bouma and MPP Barrett.

D. Werden requested that we seek what the land cost would be by West Lynn PS.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board direct the Chair of the Board to write to the Minister of Education and copy MPP Bouma and Barrett regarding the issues around the funding for Elgin Ave PS.

Carried



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C - 1 Director's Report

Director's highlights:

- **Update on Indigenous Grad Coach positions** – the posting is just about ready, we have renamed the position as we wanted to ensure that this is different than other positions that we have. In Grand Erie the “Coach” positions are teaching jobs. This position is non-teaching, the title we are using is Cultural Mentor for Indigenous Students as this matches the mandate of the position and all the requirements as listed by the Ministry are all still in place.
- **Count Us In! Grand Erie's Student Census takes place March 18-29** – The goal of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. In order to achieve this, the Board must understand the needs of its students and their families. To assist the Board with this work, all students in Grade 4-12 will take part in Count Us In! Grand Erie's first-ever student census from March 18-29. This initiative is being led by Grand Erie's Safe and Inclusive Schools Team and is part of a larger initiative by the Ministry of Education and Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan. The census findings will help Grand Erie better understand student populations and school communities; identify and eliminate barriers to student success, inclusion and well-being; and establish effective programs to increase student services. For more information, visit www.granderie.ca
- **Elementary Professional Development** – In the message, regarding the pause on system-based PD the Director sent to the system on December 18th, it states that we are actively seeking ways to provide opportunities for PD that do not adversely impact our schools and our system. The Director shared the following things that are being put in place to support continued professional learning.
 - Principals have been asked about the impact of the pause – Principals have been connecting with support staff to determine what works best for their school
 - Coaches and Teacher Consultants are very busy - going into schools - co-planning and co-teaching; meeting at lunch and during prep as appropriate
 - In February, the Elementary Program Team is presenting another whole school math task to school administrators in preparation for the PD Day in April
 - Administrator sessions are being offered after school so that administrators feel confident in delivering the math task at the April PD day
 - The Elementary Program team is planning for optional Lunch & Learn sessions that will be offered
 - Elementary Teacher Consultants are planning for after-school learning sessions for mathematics and Kindergarten teams
 - Elementary Program will be creating pre-taped virtual learning sessions that educators can access and watch at any time
 - Spec Ed is moving to more website and virtual learning, along with some after school and onsite professional learning
 - Spec Ed is also providing “canned” PD modules that any staff member can access at any time.



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- New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) has moved the orientation and mentorship training to an afterschool session (Feb 19th) and is also offering optional PD sessions after school
- Ed Tech moving more to website and virtual learning
 - For Kindergarten iPad roll-out, modules being created
 - Modules being created for Parent Portal - pilot about to start doing some after school and some onsite professional learning when requested
 - Interested in partnering with other groups to do PD in the Virtual Learning Environment
- **Family Day** – February 18, 2019 – all schools and board offices are closed to observe this holiday.
- **Trustee Learning Session** – a reminder to Trustees of the learning session being held tomorrow night, February 12th.

G. Anderson stated that if we have an inclement weather day on February 12, the Trustee learning session will be added to the February 20 Pre-Budget session.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of February 11, 2019 as information.

Carried

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Draft Proposed School Year Calendar 2019-20

W. Baker referred to the Draft Proposed School Year Calendars 2019-20 report noting the School Year Calendar Committee met on January 22, 2019 to review and discuss the proposed elementary and secondary school year calendars developed in consultation with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

W. Baker provided a high-level overview of the Ministry of Education requirements and the Calendar specifications.

C.A. Sloat commented on Young Canada Day and the reason for the PA Day on October 8, 2019 but stated that she does not agree with it.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the calendars recommended by the School Year Calendar Committee in the report Draft Proposed School Year Calendars 2019-20.

Carried

(b) **Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report**

R. Wyszynski referred to the Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report providing background and noting at the November 12, 2018 Committee of Whole meeting, Trustees were presented with a report that outlined a plan to allocate \$650,000 and \$150,000 to the Pride of Place (POP) and Community Partnership Incentive Program (CPIP) respectively. R. Wyszynski reviewed the detailed listing of the projects recommended for approval for both POP and CPIP. R. Wyszynski noted that Senior Administration is recommending approval of an additional \$86,500 in the Facility Renewal Grant for a total of \$236,500.

D. Werden stated that in the past we were removing lockers from Elementary schools and asked if this has changed to installing lockers? R. Wyszynski responded that he will obtain more information and share with Trustees.

D. Dean noted the extraordinary amount of painting that will be completed and asked if we have an in-house painter? R. Wyszynski responded that we do not have an in-house painter and depending on the availability of staff we may need to contract out the painting. D. Dean further asked about the request for more video cameras and wanted to know if there is a security concern? R. Wyszynski responded that some requests are for increased sightlines to improve existing camera technology but most are for replacement of aging equipment.

Moved by: C. Speers

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report. For 2018-19.

Carried



D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) Early Literacy Intervention Report

L. Thompson invited L. Boudreault, Program Coordinator – Special Education to the table. L. Thompson referred to the Early Literacy Interventions (ELI) report noting that the Elementary and Special Education Program Support staff continue to gather data on the existing early literacy intervention programs being used/implemented in Grand Erie Schools in the 2018-19 school year. It was noted we have moved towards a narrower and targeted list of early literacy intervention tools for use in Grand Erie schools.

L. Thompson provided a high-level overview of the existing early literacy intervention programs, reviewed the new initiatives and the considerations for effective literacy intervention implementation and the next steps – what we will identify and commit to.

S. Gibson asked about the use of licenses and if there is follow up for unused licenses? L. Boudreault responded that for Lexia we monitor on a monthly basis and should we note a license is not being used we follow up or transfer the license to another user. S. Gibson further noted that the cost of some of these tools are in US dollars, have we looked at alternate equivalent software for CDN dollars? L. Boudreault responded that we have and feel these are the better options.

C. Speers asked if Sound Bite is implemented across all schools. L. Boudreault responded that it is. C. Speers further asked if it be considered to broadcast this information on the Grand Erie website?

C.A. Sloat asked do we have timeframe for collecting data? L. Thompson responded that we need to continue collecting data for another year and believes this time next year we should be able to provide more data around budget time.

R. Collver asked when you talk about time on literacy learning, do we have the conditions in place for students to meet with success? L. Thompson responded that the conditions are in place in many schools and the conditions can be improved in others. The key to the success of any program implemented in schools is ensuring that there is teacher buy-in and that the Administrators are able to monitor and follow up with teachers.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Early Literacy Interventions report as information.

Carried



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(b) Employee Assistance Program Annual Report

S. Sincerbox referred to the Employee Assistance Program Report – 2017-18 School Year providing background and a high-level review of the data with regards to:

- Cost of the Employee Assistance Program
- Utilization of the Program and Statistical Summary
- Presenting Programs
- Committee Activities
- EAP Participant Survey

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Employee Assistance Program Report, 2017-18, as information.

Carried

E - 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision Items

(a) FT13 Pride of Place

R. Wyszynski noted Policy FT13 – Pride of Place has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT13 – Pride of Place to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

(b) FT14 Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance

R. Wyszynski noted Policy FT14 – Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT14 – Environmental Standards for Facility Operations and Maintenance to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried



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(c) **HR1 Bereavements**

S. Sincerbox noted Policy HR1 - Bereavements has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and no revisions have been made.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy HR1 - Bereavements to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

(d) **HR8 Workplace Violence**

R. Wyszynski noted Policy HR8 – Workplace Violence has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy HR8 – Workplace Violence to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

(e) **SO21 School Food and Beverages**

In the absence of L. De Vos, B. Blancher noted Policy SO21 School Food and Beverages has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and no revisions have been made.

Moved by: C. Speers

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO21 – School Food and Beverages to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

(f) **SO29 Threat/Risk Assessment**

W. Baker invited C. Bibby, Safe and Inclusive Schools Lead to the table. W. Baker noted Policy SO29 – Threat/Risk Assessment has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO29 – Threat/Risk Assessment to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

(g) **BL38 Pregnancy and Parental Leaves for Elected Trustees**

B. Blancher noted Bylaw 38 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave is a new bylaw and is required as per the May 2017 amendment to the *Education Act, Section 228*.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 38 – Trustee Pregnancy and Parental Leave.

Carried

(h) **BL28 Trustee Code of Conduct**

B. Blancher noted Bylaw 28 – Trustee Code of Ethics has been revised due to Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act to include the requirements concerning Conflict of Interest effective March 1, 2019.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 28 – Trustee Code of Conduct.

Carried

E – 2 **Procedure Consideration – Information Items**

(a) **SO112 Appropriate Student Dress**

L. Thompson noted Procedure SO112 – Appropriate Student Dress has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO112 – Appropriate Student Dress to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried



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(b) **SO118 Opening and Closing Exercises at Schools**

L. Thompson noted Procedure SO118 – Opening and Closing Exercises at Schools has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO118 – Opening and Closing Exercises at School to all stakeholders for comments to be received by April 3, 2019.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

D. Werden provided a verbal report on the Public Education Symposium and noted that all material is available on the OPSBA website.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board received the February 11, 2018 OPSBA report as information.

Carried

G - 1 **Correspondence**

Nil

H - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, R. Collver