



# The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

REGULAR BOARD MEETING | OCTOBER 30, 2017

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2yPE0kS>

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

The recognition program is Grand Erie's way of honouring and celebrating students who have excelled in academics, arts, athletics or community involvement. Monday evening, Allan St. Pierre of Tollgate Technical Skills Centre, was presented with a certificate from Trustee Tom Waldschmidt and Director of Education, Brenda Blancher.



### Allan St. Pierre – Community Involvement

Allan's secondary school career has defined perseverance and integrity, overcoming academic and personal hurdles along the way. Now in Grade 12, he has so much to be proud of. Beginning in self-contained special education classrooms, he successfully moved on to completely integrated for-credit classes. His strong desire to understand and participate in his cultural heritage has been a guiding inspiration. This fall, Allan was elected to the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board's Indigenous Youth

Advisory Committee – one of 10 students selected, and the only one from this region. In this important role, he will help plan educational and employment programs for Indigenous youth. Allan has been a tremendously positive influence in the Tollgate community, developing the leadership skills that will carry him in his new role, and into a bright future.

## MCKINNON PARK BOUNDARY REVIEW UPDATE

Trustees withdrew an earlier motion, approved at the September 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting, initiating a boundary review for the catchment area of McKinnon Park Secondary School. The boundary review was linked to the results of the 2014 Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Process that referenced strategies to help distribute



secondary students more equally in Haldimand. The purpose of the boundary review was to relieve current and on-going enrolment pressures at McKinnon Park. Upon review of the data, it was concluded that a boundary review to establish new boundaries for current attendance areas of McKinnon Park would not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Grand Erie will revisit the original Haldimand Secondary Accommodation Review Committee recommendations. The Board will also work with other Haldimand secondary schools, specifically Hagersville and Cayuga, in recruiting more students through program offerings and supports. Finally, Trustees approved a motion to strike a committee to consult with members of Six Nations in an effort to address these matters with the community. To review the complete report, see pages 49-57 here: <http://bit.ly/2yPE0kS>.

### **GRAND ERIE'S STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN: SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT**

The Annual Operating Plan for Achievement was presented. It reflects all students within Grand Erie's Board and their journey from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The plan identifies the links between what the board does, and how it does it, with a focus on impacting overall achievement. The plan also demonstrates the cyclical nature of school improvement, and aligns with the Board's professional learning collaborative initiatives. To review the Annual Operating Plan for Achievement, see pages 75-76 here: <http://bit.ly/2yPE0kS>.

### **RURAL AND NORTHERN EDUCATION FUNDING**

In June 2017, the Ministry of Education announced new funding for school boards to further improve education for students from rural communities. The funding must be used to support rural education, based on local needs. Grand Erie, which received \$583,173, will use the funding for a variety of initiatives, including: the installation of Ultraviolet Purification Systems at six elementary schools, principal and vice-principal relief, additional secondary school programming for the second semester, and distribution of additional funds to all schools identified on the Ministry's Rural and Northern Funding list. This report ties directly to both the Community and Environment indicators of the Multi-Year Plan. To review the complete list of funding initiatives, see pages 45-47 here: <http://bit.ly/2yPE0kS>.

### **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN**

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new five-year strategic direction. At the centre of this plan is Success for Every Student. Communicating Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan to all internal and external audiences is crucial to its overall success. In 2017-18, the Communications Strategy for the Multi-Year Plan will focus on three key areas: building awareness and understanding of the plan; demonstrating progress made throughout the first year of the plan; and, ensuring all internal audiences (i.e., employees) recognize how they fit into the plan and contribute to its long-term success. To review the communications strategy, see pages 39-43 here: <http://bit.ly/2yPE0kS>.



## **Upcoming Events and Activities**

A number of upcoming events and activities were noted, including:

- Take Our Kids to Work Day, November 1
- Holocaust Education Week, November 2-9
- Treaties Recognition Week, November 5-11
- Remembrance Day, November 11

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**Memorial Statement:** A memorial statement was read to honour Jayne Nixon who worked at Walpole North Elementary School.

**Delegation:** A delegation was received from Shannon Noonan, Paris District High School, for Transportation from South End.

**Approval of minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of September 25, 2017 (Regular Board) and October 16, 2017 (Committee of the Whole) meetings.

**Student Trustee Report:** Trustees provided an update on the first Student Senate meeting, which took place on October 24, 2017.

## **Trustees received the following as information:**

- Committee of the Whole – Committee Report – October 16, 2017
- 2016-17 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement Outcomes
- Summary of Accounts – September 2017
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – September 14, 2017
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – September 21, 2017
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – September 12, 2017
- Compensatory Education Committee Minutes (Draft) – September 21, 2017
- Safe and Inclusive School Committee Minutes (Draft) – October 5, 2017