



Chair Greg Anderson's Inaugural Address

December 11, 2017

Good evening fellow Trustees, members of Senior Administration, staff, and guests. I am very honoured to be your Chair for the upcoming year.

I've had the opportunity to have worked with all of the former Chairs of our Board and recognize that leading the Board is both an important and a demanding task. I am certainly up for this challenge and look forward to 2018. Before I go any further, I would like to thank David Dean for his diligent and thoughtful efforts as our Board Chair in 2016 and 2017. Thanks Dave!

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 our school board. We are entering 2018 with both provincial and municipal elections upcoming. This will bring change and very likely a different collection of Trustees sitting around this table in 2019.

We, as trustees, must continue to provide excellent governance for the Grand Erie District School Board. We are fortunate to have an excellent Director of Education and very capable Superintendents who lead a caring and knowledgeable staff. It is our duty to continue to see that the best possible education is provided to the students in all of our schools.

We, as trustees, must work together cooperatively and respectfully so that the decisions that we make are in the best interests of our students. To this end, it is my plan to meet on an individual basis with each Trustee prior to the end of January. The purpose of each meeting will be to find out your thoughts on the direction we are taking as a school board.

As well, I will be asking each of you for any advice for me on what you believe would enable me to be an effective Chair of the Board. I will contact each of you in the very near future and will meet on an individual basis at a place and time of your choosing.



As I look forward to 2018, I see cause for enthusiasm and optimism about how things are going in Grand Erie. Let me explain why:

- We will be completing construction of a brand new elementary school in Dunnville to complement the recently completed four room addition at Thompson Creek Elementary School.
- We will begin construction of a brand new elementary school in Simcoe to replace the aging Elgin Avenue Public School.
- We continue to see increased graduation rates in our secondary schools as well as improvements in our Mathematics instruction throughout K-12.
- Through our Safe and Inclusive Schools team, we see a focus on inclusion and care for our students at all levels. The new Ontario Education Equity Action Plan from the Ministry of Education will be embraced by our leaders in the system.
- We are fortunate to have many Indigenous students in our schools and our Board is a leader in efforts to support and nurture our students both on and off Reserve. We are also lucky to have Trustee Karen Sandy who provides guidance and information to our Board.
- We are blessed with hard-working, caring and talented individuals that do a myriad of jobs and tasks in many roles for the Grand Erie District School Board.

I believe that 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 vision include: Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology, and Community.

I am proud of our Multi-Year Plan and believe it identifies what we must be focused on.

I look forward to being your Chair in 2018 and wish to thank Vice-Chair Tom Waldschmidt, Committee Chair Diane Sowers, and OPSBA delegate Carol Ann Sloat for their efforts in advance.

On behalf of all Trustees, I would like to extend our thanks to all of our employees. Thank you for the support that you provide to our students and our system in so many ways. May you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends.

Greg Anderson
Chair of the Board