



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BOARD MEETING | APRIL 9, 2018

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>

Facility Renewal Plan 2017-18

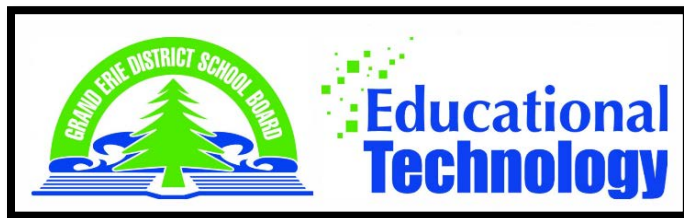
Trustees recommended for approval Grand Erie's 2017-18 Facility Renewal plan, which outlines capital-related work that will address important needs and other commitments at schools and board facilities. The plan features projects or initiatives identified through the Community Partnership Incentive Plan, Community Hubs Capital Funding and Pride of Place or other programs and funding. Major projects include: a community hub at Central Public School as well as an elevator and improved accessibility at both Major Ballachey Public School and Elgin Avenue Public School. Other initiatives include the creation of outdoor classrooms, electrical upgrades, roofing updates, health and safety improvements, LED lighting, landscaping, paving or aesthetic items (e.g. new paint, carpet, signage, etc.). This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and Success for Every Student through the following statement: "We will ensure that students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and work." For a complete list of projects and the full report, see pages 23-46 here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>.



Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan

Trustees approved Grand Erie's Multi-Year Final Recovery Plan submission to the Ministry of Education. A Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan is created jointly with the Ministry when a concern is identified. In Grand Erie's case, that concern is related to the requirement that each school board achieve a one per cent accumulated surplus balance as a percentage of its operating allocation. Grand Erie's allocation is approximately \$288 million, meaning a one per cent surplus (approximately \$2.9 million) must be achieved by August 31, 2019. A Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan is not uncommon for school boards. Currently, there are several boards working

with the Ministry on similar plans, while more have successfully completed these plans in the past. As outlined in the report presented to the Board on March 26, 2018 (see pages 63-65 here: <https://bit.ly/2G6WvFR>), Grand Erie has identified a number of steps that will be taken to successfully complete the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan. Those steps include: a hiring freeze on non-enrolment based positions, reduction of the capital debt, conservative enrolment numbers, and increased monitoring and improved mechanisms for mitigating difficult-to-predict expenditures such as utilities, sick day absences, emergency maintenance or repairs and snow removal. To review Grand Erie's submission to the Ministry of Education, see pages 7-15 here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>.



Educational Technology Plan Update

Each year, an update on the Educational Technology Plan is provided to Trustees. This year's report includes an update on hardware (e.g. student and teacher devices, etc.) and professional

development (e.g. demonstration classes, Digital Lead Learners, EdTech Student Crew, etc.). The report, which features both quantitative and qualitative data, also highlights next steps for the plan and identifies how Educational Technology will communicate the plan moving forward. This report supports the Technology indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following statement: "We will provide secure and reliable learning environments that will allow students and staff to use technology in an effective and seamless manner." To review the complete update report, see pages 69-79 here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>.

Quality Accommodations Update

The Quality Accommodations Review Committee is tasked with developing and maintaining a Quality Accommodations Plan that maximizes the benefits for all students as well as meets the following goal of the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan: "Make the best use of space in schools." Following a review of accommodations and projected enrolment, the Quality Accommodations Review Committee has identified two priorities moving forward for Grand Erie. The first priority, expected to take place in 2018-19, is a Pupil Accommodation Review of the Brantford Secondary Schools, with the scope of work to include possible re-distribution of speciality programming amongst schools as well as a boundary review to balance enrolment. The second priority, which is planned for 2019-20 and 2020-21, is a Pupil Accommodation Review of the following areas: Haldimand North and South Elementary Schools, Brantford Central and North Elementary Schools, and Haldimand Secondary Schools. The committee also reviewed the growing French Immersion enrolment at Caledonia Centennial Public School along with overall enrolment growth as a result of the McClung development. Based on this information, the committee recommended that French Immersion be split between Caledonia Centennial and River Heights School in 2018-19 to eliminate the need for additional portables at Caledonia Centennial. To review the complete report, see pages 47-56 here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>.

Education Week 2018

Education Week takes place annually with the goal of highlighting student excellence in learning. In 2018, Education Week is May 7-11. As Education Week falls during Mental Health Week, the themes are aligned to focus on, and promote, mental health. This year's theme is: *Feeling Well... Mind, Body & Spirit*. Grand Erie's annual Education Week Gala, which serves as a preview for the week-long celebration, is set for Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sanderson Centre. The Gala will feature artistic performances by 12 schools. This report supports both the Achievement and Well-Being indicators of Success for Every Student. Achievement is supported through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff." Well-Being is supported through the following goal: "Staff, students and parents will promote health and well-being and will know how to access supports when needed." For the full report, see pages 93-94 here: <https://bit.ly/2In2Evu>.

Upcoming Events and Activities

A number of upcoming events and activities were highlighted:

- Grand Erie Environmental Symposium – Wednesday, April 11, 2018
- International Day of Pink – Wednesday, April 11, 2018
- PA Day – Friday, April 13, 2018
- Community Open Houses – Fairview Avenue Public School and Grandview Central Public School – Saturday, April 14, 2018
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Spring Event: The Impact of the Legalization of Marijuana on Families – Wednesday, April 25, 2018

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Delegation: A delegation was received from Aaron Berta about Walsh Public School French Immersion.

Trustees received the following reports as information:

- Secondary Class Size
- International Students – Fee Structure
- Mileage Remuneration Review
- Education Services Agreement – Mississaugas of the New Credit
- e-Learning Annual Report
- Summer School Report
- Trustees' Expense Report
- Before and After School Programs 2018-19
- OPSBA Report