



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

Inaugural Board Meeting | December 10, 2018

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2Uw3wDU>

Chair's Inaugural Address

In his inaugural address as Board Chair, Trustee Greg Anderson focused on the importance of the Board's Multi-Year Plan: "I believe *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. I am proud of this plan and I believe that it identifies what we must be focused on."



He also said the "upcoming year will bring new and varied challenges" including:

- "Decisions about pupil accommodations must be made and be well thought out. Significant new housing developments in West Brantford, Paris, and Caledonia need addressing."
- "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."

Anderson told Trustees we "must work together cooperatively and respectfully so that the decisions we make are in the best interests of our students." Similar to last year, he confirmed his intent to meet with each Trustee on an individual basis before the middle of January with the purpose of these meetings being an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the thoughts and vision Trustees have on the important issues facing the board.

He said the Board was "fortunate to have an excellent Director of Education and very competent Superintendents who lead a caring and knowledgeable staff." He reminded Trustees of their duty to "see that the best possible education is provided to our students at each of our schools."

Finally, Anderson said he was "humbled and very appreciative" of the continued support from his fellow Trustees and that he looked forward to the year ahead. This will be Anderson's second year as Board Chair. He was acclaimed last week during the Board's annual Nomination Meeting. Anderson was Board Chair in 2018 and served as Vice-Chair of the Board in 2017. Find Chair Anderson's complete Inaugural Address here: <https://bit.ly/2EpeN4a>.

Trustee Code of Ethics

As they do at each Inaugural Board Meeting, all Trustees stood and read the Code of Ethics together. The Trustee Code of Ethics can be found on page 3 here: <https://bit.ly/2Uw3wDU>.

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2017-18

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A Message from the Director of Education, Brenda Blancher

I'm pleased to present the 2017-18 Annual Director's Report for the Grand Erie District School Board. Each year, the Annual Director's Report provides an opportunity for us to share and celebrate with our community the many accomplishments, events, activities and initiatives that took place throughout our board during the past 12 months.

The 2017-18 school year marked the second year of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan. Launched in 2016, the four-year plan guides the work that our school board is doing. At the centre of this plan is the goal of Success for Every Student. We will achieve this goal in a culture of high expectations, with a focus on students and staff. The six indicators that support our Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

While our Multi-Year Plan provides the road map for where we want to be in 2020, it is our staff that drive Success for Every Student on a day to day basis. As a result, a key deliverable for 2017-18 was ensuring all Grand Erie staff understood the Multi-Year Plan and could see their role within it. To demonstrate this point, four videos were created to highlight the work of staff within the board. The videos featured: John Carmel, Barb Guest, Jeannie Martin and Israel Segura-Romero.

I'm incredibly proud of the work we completed in 2017-18 and I am excited to share with you some of our stories from the past year within the framework of our Multi-Year Plan indicators.

[Click here to view Grand Erie's 2017-18 EQAO results.](#)

In 2017-18, the Ministry of Education required all school boards across Ontario to provide an update on a number of equity-focused items with their Annual Director's Report. Find Grand Erie's response [here](#).

Sincerely,
Brenda Blancher

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- ## Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations.

The six indicators that support the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

Achievement

- Trustee Greg Anderson to Serve as Grand Erie District School Board Chair in 2018-19
 - <https://bit.ly/2rqXk2v>

Community

- Community Partners Help Fuel Student Learning at Graham Bell-Victoria Public School
 - <https://bit.ly/2QEtk1j>