



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Head Office, 349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, ON N3T 5V3*

**Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
September 19, 2011, 7:15 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Trustees: D. Werden, Chair, J. Angus, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, A. Everets, B. Johnston, M. Macdonald, C.A. Sloat; B. Featherston (Student Trustee), P. Fleetwood (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director — J. Forbeck; Superintendents — G. Anderson, W. Baker, B. Blancher, J. Gunn, M. McDonald, A. Nesbitt; Recording Secretary — D. Fletcher

REGRETS:

Trustees: C. Lefebvre

Administration: Nil

A – 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

(c) In Camera Session

Nil.

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, D. Werden, at 7:15 p.m.

D. Werden welcomed all guests and supporters of the Superintendents.

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

Nil

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: B. Johnston

THAT the Agenda be approved.

Carried

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

(a) Nil

C – 1 Director's Report

J. Forbeck is pleased to focus his report this week on Environment – Safe Schools Team and has asked Superintendent G. Anderson to introduce the Safe School Team members. G. Anderson discussed how our Safe School Program is of great interest in the province. Its effectiveness lies in the fact that staff go to the student, as opposed to the student coming to a centralized office.

The Safe Schools Team has utilized venues such as public libraries and arena halls to meet the students in their own community; it not only provides service but also provides the needed comfort level.

G. Anderson introduced the team: Christine Bibby – social worker, Tina Vankuren - elementary teacher, Todd Martindale – secondary teacher, Michelle Hodges- child youth worker, and Tanya Haist - child youth worker.

G. Anderson explained the suspension process and how each member of the team would be involved depending on the length of the suspension. The team works closely with the Student Discipline Committee also.

In response to B. Johnston, G. Anderson explained the Restorative Justice system and how well it can work when these highly trained individuals are confronting a bullying and victim. It is often used particularly for student re-entering into home school. The most formal state would include victim, offender, parents, school and sometimes police.

In response to D. Dean, G. Anderson explained that this is by ministry standards a voluntary program and when a student does not meet the expectations of the program, a student will not be able to return to school. He confirmed almost 100% of students voluntarily attend.

In response to E. Dixon, meetings are held in school environments, and rarely occur in the student's homes.

D. Werden is pleased that we are now mandated to help the students, and as a member of the Student Discipline Committee, sees a very large number of students return to the system even after expulsion.

Superintendent J.Gunn arrived at 7:27 p.m.

The director continued his report by discussing how the joint training session held last week including Elementary Principals and Union Stewards which involved discussions around labour relations, problem-solving and collective agreements. This is the first in-service of this nature to be organized by OPC and ETFO in the province of Ontario.

An invitation is extended to all trustees for the Official Grand Opening Reception for Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School on Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the main atrium.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of September 19, 2011 as information.

Carried

D – 1 New Business — Action/Decision Items

(a) Annual Accessibility Plan 2011-2012

W. Baker invited W. Hobbs, Chairman of the Accessibility Committee to discuss the Annual Accessibility Plan.

W. Hobbs discussed the plan, noting a number of compliance dates that govern the school board with regards to training. He explained how the AODA Multi Year Plan will direct how these integrated standards will be met. He highlighted improvements that have taken place in schools in the last few years.

The committee proposal is to bring back a draft report September 2012, revised report in November 2012 to prepare for final report January 2013. W. Hobbs referred to site plan.

In response to E. Dixon, W. Hobbs confirmed the conference held on October 17, 2011 is to increase awareness and is open to staff, SEAC committee members and parents. One of the goals is to increase awareness. The conference is by Dr. Gabor Mate “Kids in Chaos: How resilience is lost and how it is fostered”.

In response to B. Johnston, W. Hobbs pointed out that as a requirement of the annual report under the ODA, we will consult with people with disabilities. He detailed that one committee member is blind and has brought an invaluable perspective to the committee as a member. An example was provided with regards to locating transportation information on the website.

In response to C. A. Sloat, W. Hobbs confirmed various community stakeholders were involved.

R. Collver is pleased with the positive nature of D. Pitt’s letter to the ministry and finds this hopeful. D. Werden also acknowledged this as a huge monumental task, and unfortunately there is no flexibility for money.

Moved by: R.Collver

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Annual Accessibility Plan for 2011-2012.

Carried

D – 2 New Business — Information Items

(a) Enrolment Update

J. Gunn discussed enrolment report as of Friday, September 16, 2011, an early representation of enrolment for the school year.

He showed the projections and actual for Elementary schools and noted there are 98 more students then projected, with 50% of those in JK/SK. The Secondary schools are more complex in nature, showing projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of 9880.4 and actual Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of 9921, increase of 40 students.

D. Werden complimented J. Gunn on his accuracy in estimates, and felt it was a great start in the budget process.

Moved by: D. Dixon

Seconded by: E. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Enrolment Update” as information.

Carried

J. Angus arrived 7:58 p.m.

(b) 2010-11 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement Goals

B. Blancher discussed how the Board Improvement Plan for 2010-2011 was created in a different format. It was requested that the goals and results were presented for last year.

She discussed the smart goals for elementary schools.

In response to D. Werden, B. Blancher confirmed that the EQAO does change tests year to year, and it is still valid in what they are testing. She noted the EQAO has embedded field test questions that are not part of the student's score but validates if they are getting the information they want. It is a different co-hort – different group of students writing the tests every year.

In response to D. Dean, B. Blancher agreed that the observations show our results continue to mirror the province. She explained that increases in the provincial standards tie in with trends over time.

In response to C. A. Sloat, B. Blancher discussed how the province introduced a collaborative schools inquiry, the high level strategies make a difference in the achievement of students. Areas of math are a little different because math has not been a focus in the Board Improvement plan.

D. Dean commented on the results in grade 6 math and is pleased to see the Board Improvement Plan addressing this. He also queried the term “Capacity Building”. B. Blancher explained the term refers to “the learning of a group of people to implement an initiative”.

In response to B. Johnston, B. Blancher elaborated on the target setting process, and noted it is one of the most challenging tasks. She referred to a model created by Dr. Douglas Reeves, and how targets are developed by looking at EQAO results and report card data.

A. Nesbitt discussed Student Success/Secondary Program data and three smart goals.

He explained the dynamics of missing credits in grade 9 and how the success rates of completing high school drops to 52% when a student only completes 7 credits in grade 9. Completion of 5 credits in the first year has a 43% success rate of graduation.

In response to J. Angus, A. Nesbitt confirmed that if a student has started a course, then are including in those numbers.

A. Everets would be interested in looking at the progress of secondary level to reap the gains of goals set in the elementary levels and the changes in grade 3 and 6 and roll out of the full day learning curriculum.

In response to D. Dean, A. Nesbitt believes that data is available for success rates between semester 1 and semester 2.

D. Dean noticed that it is a good sign when the increase in number of credit accumulation in grade 9 and 10 is supported by improvement of EQAO scores.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “2011-11 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement Goals” as information
Carried

(c) 2011-12 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement

B. Blancher introduced her team: Lori Barkans, principal leader – school effectiveness, Bill Valoppi – principal leader – elementary program, and Nancy Norton – program coordinator- elementary program.

B. Blancher explained there is no template given from the ministry, and the multi year plan is very helpful in having very clear achievement goals for this team.

In response to J. Angus, B. Blancher explained how the Niagara School Board was involved in CIL-Man prior to us, and that this program didn’t get off the ground until November so it would be too early to see results.

J. Forbeck discussed how a subset of students requires different strategies, and these strategies with flow within various strategies within the Board Improvement Plan.

In response to C.A. Sloat, J. Forbeck explained the “Good News” project was developed as an initiative from a grant proposal involving classrooms from King George and other schools in the province. It involves sharing art work using technology.

A. Nesbitt introduced his team: Paul Kostelny – new principal leader for student success, Lynn Abbey, program coordinator for secondary program.

A. Nesbitt outlined the secondary schools goals and strategies for the Board Improvement Plan.

W. Baker introduced his team: Wayne Hobbs – executive supervisor of student support personnel, Carol Mackenzie - Principal Leader - Special Education and Faye Adams – program coordinator for special education.

W. Baker explained how all initiatives will benefit the special education students.

In response to R. Collver, W. Baker explained the measurement of the special education student's progress will be included in the total measurement.

C.A. Sloat asked if there is no baseline for the special education students, how we can monitor their progress. W. Baker noted that the team will be attending a meeting September 27, 2011 in London and will be discussing what other boards are doing.

J. Angus is pleased that there is some merit to finally including the special education students in the overall expectations of all of our students. She did note that we need to be cautious and not lose them in the results.

J. Forbeck is pleased to receive feedback in the next six weeks.

D. Werden recognized there are good goals here for overall population of students, and also inquired how we will measure the success for special education students. F. Adams explained how the LITE Program will be implemented for learning resource teachers in next few weeks, and this will allow them to track special education students. The LITE Program will allow us to track the progress of Special Education Students.

In response to J. Angus, B. Blancher acknowledged that principals and teachers will be released from their classrooms for mandated training and an intermediate school committee has been developed to help with this. There will be programs for example educational technology training that will affect grade 6 and 8 teachers.

B. Blancher discussed how this would be minimized.

A. Everets voiced a concern about the number of class trips for students with aggressive educational plans put in place. She also likes the layering approach.

M. Macdonald asked where the French immersion portion fit into the student achievement plan as French immersion classes have been expanded throughout the jurisdiction. J. Forbeck suggested this is one of the underlay sections in the plan.

In response to C.A. Sloat, J. Forbeck explained the communication plan would include discussions with many different stakeholder groups, including the meeting on September 27th with other boards. He discussed how our plan will be the foundation for principals in developing their own school improvement plan.

J. Forbeck discussed how the executive council will be reviewing and revising the plan in the next 3-4 weeks and will bring back to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on October 17, 2011.

In response to C. A. Sloat, D. Werden confirmed that Bill 177 notes that trustees are accountable for student achievement and that this report should come to the board for approval prior to submission to the ministry.

P. Fleetwood and B. Featherston left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

R. Collver would like to see the Mission, Vision and Beliefs included in the plan.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: J. Angus

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Draft 2011-12 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement” as information.

Carried

(d) Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Annual Report – Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk (P104)

A. Nesbitt explained how this report last year made the transition from SALEP. He explained the two charts.

D. Werden commented that the report is well laid out and on a percentage basis compared to the government, it shows we are doing a good job.

Through discussions with Rob Andrews, Director of Student Success-Learning to 18, A. Nesbitt did note that GEDSB showed higher numbers in comparison to other boards.

Moved by: J. Angus

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Annual Report – Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk (P104)” as information.

Carried

E – 1 Other Business

Nil.

F – 1 Correspondence

(a) Letter from OPSBA

C.A. Sloat noted that our letter regarding membership fees is not part of the agenda for OPSBA meeting to be held this Saturday, September 24, 2011, and D. Werden is representing Grand Erie District School Board.

D. Werden offered his assistance to those who wish to view the OPSBA agenda online, he will provide the necessary information.

G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Macdonald

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Chair, Don Werden