



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

September 15, 2014
Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: J. Angus, Committee Chair, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, A. Everets, C. Lefebvre, M. Macdonald, C. A. Sloat, T. Waldschmidt, D. Werden, M. Brown (Student Trustee), E. Creed (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director — J. Forbeck; Superintendents – D. Abbey, W. Baker, B. Blancher, J. Gunn, M. McDonald, A. Nesbitt S. Sincerbox; Recording Secretary - D. Fletcher

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

A – 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, J. Angus at 6:30 p.m. for the purposes of conducting the In Camera Session.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:45 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, J. Angus, at 7:17 p.m.



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A welcome was extended to a student from Brock University, who was in attendance.

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

Item D-2-d Trustee Honoraria is an approval item and will now be listed on the agenda as D-1-c.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the agenda be approved as printed, as amended.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil.

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

Nil.

C – 1 Director's Report

The Director highlighted:

- The Smart Brantford Presentation will be held on September 16, 2014, Grand Erie will be sending 50 representatives to attend
- School Council Orientation Session: Grand Erie District School Board in partnership with the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee invite School Council Chairs, Home and School Association and Parent-Teacher Association Chairs, Administrators and Trustees to the 4th Annual School Council Orientation Session on October 1, 2014
- Lifelong Learning Week: Grand Erie is proud of our record to serve the adult community in Brant/Brantford, Haldimand and Norfolk through Grand Erie Learning Alternatives.



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The following are a few notes of celebration:

- Graduates in 2013-14: 270 Adult Learners (Age 21 and older) graduated
- Prior Learning Assessments: 299 assessments were complete in 2013-14 and this is to help get adults back on track to graduate
- Credit Programs: 141 student in Brantford Day School; 25 in Simcoe Day School and 15 in Haldimand
- Personal Support Worker Program: 26 learners in Simcoe and 30 in Brantford
- Night School: Approximately 75 Adult students
- Literacy Basic Skills (Bridges to Success): 9 learners in Brantford and 15 in Dunnville
- Independent Learning Courses (Booklets and/or eLearning): Approximately 1100 Adults are engaged in this program
- ESL (English-as-a-Second-Language): 45 students in a variety of sites across the Board including one new class starting in Dunnville

A. Nesbitt provided a verbal update on the Specialist High Skills Major. Grand Erie District School Board offers Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) to students in secondary schools. High school students enrolled in a Specialist High Skills Major are required to complete a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences and sector certifications to receive a special designation, also known as the red seal, on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Currently, 13 Grand Erie high schools offer 32 Specialist High Skills Major Programs in 12 different economic sectors. Congratulations also is extended to Delhi District Secondary School for receiving approval for the SHSM in the Transportation sector.

B. Blancher provided a verbal update on the New Childcare Centre at Lakewood Elementary School. Families will be pleased to know that Today's Family received the award for child care at the school. After a viability study, results returned to the Board demonstrating parent interest. A capital plan will return to Board in October for Trustee consideration. She clarified that the payment plan for families would most likely be the same as before and after programs run by the same provider. B. Blancher will contact the organization to confirm.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of September 15, 2014 as information.

Carried



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D – 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Fairview/Coronation Capital Project

J. Gunn reviewed background, additional information, project timelines and preliminary work in the report. Approval is being requested to strike a project team for the project.

He clarified that the project team will include the principal, community member, parent, superintendent, trustee and facility consultant. Vendors of record for projects are considered for projects that have a cost of under one million dollars, therefore an RFP for an architect is required.

In regards to the RCM currently at Fairview, he explained that there are pockets of enrolment pressures around the board that may require the RCM at some point in the future.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the striking of a project team for the Fairview/Coronation Capital Project.

Carried

(b) Municipal Elections Compliance Audit Committee

J. Gunn explained background and additional information in the report. With the upcoming municipal elections in October 2014, approval is requested to appoint the members to this committee.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the appointment of Brian Cochrane, Shannon McMannis and Martin Titmus to the Compliance Audit Committee for the purposes of Section 81 of the Municipal Elections for the period December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2018.

Carried



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c) **Trustee Honoraria (F4)**

J. Gunn referred to the background and budget implications in the report.

In response to a concern from C.A. Sloat, J. Gunn explained that through review of Honorarium regulation, it is stated that the temporary honoraria expires Nov 30 2014. A discussion with Wayne McNally (OPSBA) confirms that this is currently the law.

J. Angus noted that the amount doesn't truly reflect the work that trustees do, and compared how larger boards in the province receive a significantly higher amount doing the same work as other trustees.

Moved by: A. Everets

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Trustee Honoraria for the period from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2015 as presented.

Carried

D – 2 **New Business – Information Items**

(a) **Enrolment Update**

J. Gunn reviewed the enrolment report as of Friday September 12, 2014. This report indicates an early representation of enrolment for the school year. More confidence in elementary versus secondary enrolment.

The 2014-2015 projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) numbers for elementary show 17,329 with an actual of 17,546 which shows an increase of 197 students. 133 students are in junior kindergarten(jk)/senior kindergarten(sk). Numbers show that grade 1-3 are slightly down. Grades 4-8 shows an increase. A promising trend shows that there are larger cohorts in Jk to grade 3.

The secondary schools show projected Full-time Equivalent (FTE) of 9,450 by October 31, 2014. The revised with September/14 actuals shows 9,399 with a decrease of 51.2 FTE students.



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J. Gunn explained that the increase of 48 elementary students in special education is higher than budgeted. The number is expected to grow as the school year progresses, students are identified and transition to self-contained classes.

In regards to the actual students, there will be only minor adjustments made to staffing as teachers are not all assigned and we are currently compliant in all class size areas.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

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

Carried

(b) **Data Report – Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification (SO16)**

J. Forbeck reviewed the report by explaining the background and communication plan. The number of students in 2014 in elementary schools has increased by 67 from 2013. The number of students in 2014 in secondary schools has increased by 136 from 2013. A total increase of 203 students is shown from 2013 to 2014.

He was confident that that communication with secretaries last year has contributed to the increase in numbers. He explained that a change in grant structure allows every board receives a base amount of money depending on the number of students enrolled. An additional amount of funds is provided for each self-identification student. \$80,000 has been provided for initiatives over and above the budget. The Board will continue to look for creative ways to engage students in this program.

Our board is unique in the way that we are the largest First Nations population in Canada. Although there are challenges working with the federal government, there is great support from the provincial government for our initiatives.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: M. Macdonald

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Data Report - Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification” as information.

Carried



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(c) **Data Report – Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Annual Report (P104)**

A. Nesbitt reviewed the background information and data charts. He referred to the Cumulative Data Summary Analysis and how the total number of students in SAL has decreased from the previous year however those students enrolled have earned 74 more credits; this is seen as a positive trend.

D. Dean highlighted the importance of data in regards to males to females in the category of SAL where the boys outnumber girls every year by a significant margin. It was asked if something specific can be done to improve these statistics.

A. Nesbitt acknowledged the observations as accurate and true and how experiential learning does serve more males than females. Graduation rates and whole continuum of pathway are other measures than could determine the successes of students.

It was requested to provide the percentage of students taking non-credit or credit courses as an individual plan. A. Nesbitt explained that data is not available but will follow up and provide that data.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Data Report - Supervised Alternative Learning” as information.

Carried

(e) **Trustee Attendance Records**

D. Dean brought forth consideration to change current practice and to provide an attendance records report which will provide information to the public, readily available. The City of Brantford attendance statistics are included in the report as an example. Norfolk and Haldimand counties do not report on this.



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Trustees provided feedback:

- Questioned the value of students and the system
- Record should reflect attendance at all meetings (CW1, CW2, Board, and statutory and standing committees)
- Availability on standing and statutory committees is dependent on full time jobs
- City councillors earn significantly more money as a full or part time councilor
- The record should only record attendance for CW1, CW2 and Board meetings only
- Our trustees all committed and accountable to ourselves and people that we represent
- Uncomfortable making new rules for new board
- Attendance at a meeting doesn't reflect engagement at a meeting
- This is part of accountability of trustees and suggested it is implemented on CW1, CW2 and Board meetings
- Public knows those trustees who are vested
- Regulation requires that attendance is shown every year and questioned if expenses should be recorded and make public

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Trustee Attendance Records Report as information.

Carried

E – 1 **Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision Items**

(a) **BL33 Borrowing Bylaw: Financing Capital Projects**

Current versions of BL33 and BL34 were provided for reference.

C.A. Sloat questioned why all financing was not covered by flow through capital funding. J. Gunn explained that funding sources are identified at the outset of a project. Cobblestone for example included capital funding, funds from proceeds of disposition (property sales) and annual operating savings from consolidation. The OFA financed the approved capital portion with flow through of annual payments, the board is responsible for the share from operating savings.



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Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve BL33 Borrowing bylaw - Financing Capital Projects as amended.

Carried

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board rescind Borrowing Bylaw 34 – BL34 Bridge Financing-Cobblestone Elementary.

Carried

F – 1 Other Business

Nil.

G – 1 Correspondence

(a) **Ministry of Education re: 2014-2015 School Year**

(b) **Ministry of Education re: Professional Development Days**

(c) **Ministry of Education re: School Consolidation Capital**

C.A. Sloat inquired about the new direction that an ARC must be completed.

J. Gunn explained that in prior years, capital allocation were prioritized around growth, however now the new direction to continue in the future will to be to recognize capital to complete school consolidations. D. Werden added that the Ministry should recognize that there are timelines during an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process that may require funding.

(d) **Ministry of Education re: Parent Involvement Committees**

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: A. Everets

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.

Carried



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G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Chair, Jane Angus