



Inaugural Board Meeting

December 14, 2015

Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: D. Dean, Board Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, B. Doyle, J. Harris, J. Richardson, K. Sandy, C.A. Sloat, D. Sowers, T. Waldschmidt, M. Brown (Student Trustee), A. Martindale (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director — B. Blancher; Superintendents – D. Abbey, W. Baker, L. De Vos, J. Gunn, A. Nesbitt, L. Thompson; Recording Secretary — D. Fletcher

Regrets:

Trustees: A. Felsky

Administration: S. Sincerbox

A – 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

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

(b) 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 6:30 p.m.

Carried

Open Session reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

(c) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, D. Dean at 7:25 p.m.



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(d) **Chair's Inaugural Address**

D. Dean presented his Inaugural Address.

(e) **Reading of Trustee Code of Ethics**

In accordance with Bylaw 28, trustees read the Trustee Code of Ethics.

(f) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil.

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

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved as printed.

Carried

(h) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

That Item C-1-a be approved.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Board confirm Appointments to the Elementary Principals Pool.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board confirm Appointments to the Secondary Principals Pool

Carried



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Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Board confirm Appointments to the Secondary Vice-Principals Pool

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT Item C-1-g be approved.

Carried

(i) **Memorials**

Nil.

(j) **Presentations**

Nil.

(k) **Delegations**

Nil.

B – 1 Approval of Minutes

(a) **Regular Board — November 23, 2015**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held November 23, 2015, be approved.

Carried

(b) **Board Nomination — December 7, 2015**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Minutes of the Board Nomination Meeting, held December 7, 2015, be approved.

Carried



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(c) Board Organizational — December 7, 2015

Moved by: J. Harris

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Minutes of the Board Organizational Meeting, held December 7, 2015, be approved.

Carried

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

Nil.

D – 1 Director's Report

The Director highlighted:

- Celebrating the Season in Grand Erie: Schools across Grand Erie are participating and hosting various holiday-themed events and activities.
- Light a Smile Campaign: Trustees were thanked for their generosity to support a less fortunate family

(a) Draft Director's Annual Report — 2014-2015

B. Blancher presented the Draft Director's Annual Report as an online and interactive report for 2014-2015. The report highlights activities and accomplishments under the leadership of former Director John Forbeck.

The report was created by the Communications department based on regional success stories throughout the Board and will be shared through social media. In addition, a link will be provided to the Ministry of Education and communities.

Trustees expressed the importance of recognizing all three areas of the Board.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of December 14, 2015 as information.

Carried



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E – 1 Student Trustee Report

Nil.

F – 1 Committee Report

(a) Striking Committee Report

Presented as printed.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2016 Trustee Statutory and Standing Committees Representation.

Carried

G – 1 New Business

(a) Report to the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Six Nations of the Grand River

B. Blancher invited Deneen Montour, GEDSB Native Advisor for Grand Erie to present the report. The report will be submitted to Six Nations Council in 2016.

D. Montour reviewed the report and highlighted the following:

- Native Advisory Committee – member composition
- Aboriginal Educations Department
- Three initiatives: 1) Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Symposium –Uplifted and Away: Find Your Balance. 2) Two new Alternative education Programs to Help Six Nations Students learn about culture and earn credits (Ratiweientehta’s Alternative Learning Classroom and NuVision program)
- Six Nations Tuition Agreement Students Enrolment by Grade 2014-2015
- Credit Accumulation by Grade and Gender
- 2015 EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics
- 2015 EQAO Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
- 2015 EQAO Grade 9 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) by Gender
- Finding Our Voice Opinion Writing Toolkit



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D. Montour explained the report is based on aboriginal education and initiatives for all those students. Everyone needs to learn those perspectives to support student success. Students may include tuition agreement students, self-identified students, or both.

D. Montour explained that the Board is eligible for an amount of money through grants based on self-identification numbers. A board action plan for FNMI students is submitted to the Ministry based on the three pillars of achievement, environment and engagement outcomes to meet the expectations and performance measures in the Ministry's action plan. The grant funds are allocated in a way to meet the Board's outcomes.

B. Blancher clarified that the Educational Plan was developed by D. Montour and C. VanEvery-Albert with former Director J. Forbeck as a three year internal operational plan.

D. Dean thanked Deneen Montour for her leadership.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Six Nations of the Grand River as information and forward it to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and Six Nations of the Grand River.

Carried

(b) **Audit Committee Minutes – November 25, 2015**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Harris

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Audit Committee Minutes – November 25, 2015 as information.

Carried

(c) **Audit Committee Minutes – December 1, 2015**

Presented as printed in draft.



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Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Audit Committee Minutes – December 1, 2015 as information.

Carried

(d) **Audit Committee Annual Report**

R. Collver acknowledged J. Gunn and his team. The report will be amended under meetings to reflect that Richard Sroka was not in attendance for the November 25, 2015 meeting.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2015 Audit Committee Annual Report.

Carried

(e) **Consolidated Financial Statements – August 31, 2015**

J. Gunn invited Blaine Schell, Senior Partner of Millard, Rouse and Rosebrugh to review the Auditor's Report. He thanked Blaine and his staff and recognized the challenging role as an auditor.

B. Schell provided an overview and highlighted the following:

- * Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting
- * Independent Auditor's Report
- * Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
- * Consolidated Statement of Operations
- * Consolidated Statement of Cash Flow
- * Consolidated Statement of Change in Net Debt
- * Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

B. Schell formally thanked J. Gunn and C. Smith (Manager of Business Services) for their diligence and hard work to meet the ministry requirements on time and was pleased to report that this is one of the smoothest audits for the Board as there were no adjusting entries.



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C.A. Sloat thanked B. Schell for his patience and explanations for those who are not familiar with accounting.

D. Dean inquired about revenue for school fundraising of \$7,510,060. J. Gunn explained that the revenue includes collections of related activities for schools such as field trips.

The trustees were encouraged to read the notes, which are an integral part of financial statements.

D. Dean thanked the Audit Committee for their contributions.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Auditor's Report for the year ended August 31, 2015 as recommended by the Grand Erie District School Board Audit Committee.

Carried

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board direct the Board Chair and Vice Chair to sign the Consolidated Financial Statements dated August 31, 2015 on behalf of the Board; and THAT the Consolidated Financial Statements dated August 31, 2015 be forwarded to the Ministry of Education as required by the Education Act.

Carried

(f) **Signing Officers**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT (1) signing authorities for the Grand Erie District School Board, relative to General and Trust Accounts/ Legal Documents/ Contracts/ Bank Loans shall be one of the Chair of the Board or the Vice Chair of the Board, together with one of the Director of Education & Secretary or the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer; and (2) facsimile signatures of the Board Chair and Superintendent of Business & Treasurer shall be used for signing General Account cheques produced by the Board's financial accounting system.

Carried



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(g) **Borrowing Authority**

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board authorize the Signing Authorities of the Board to obtain loans at any one time up to a maximum of \$35,000,000 to cover current payrolls and general account payments, if required.

Carried

(h) **Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule report as information.

Carried

(i) **Revised Budget Estimates**

Revised 2015-16 Operating Budget Estimates are due for submission to the Ministry of Education on December 15, 2015. Revisions to the original budget include;

1. Updated enrolment estimates based on actual enrolment in schools on the October 31, 2015 count date and estimated enrolment at March 31, 2015 and grant revenue changes resulting from the updated enrolment estimate.
2. Staffing adjustments reported in the Workforce report presented to the Board in November.
3. Changes to actuarial valuation and in year expense for Retirement Benefits.

He reviewed the summary of the budget changes. Pending approval, the 2015-16 Revised Budget Estimates will be submitted to the Ministry of Education December 15, 2015.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2015-16 Revised Budget Estimates for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Carried



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(j) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the addition of Michelle Falkiner and Beth Caers as Community Representatives to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carried

H – 1 Other Business

(a) Summary of Accounts — November 2015

Presented as printed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Richardson.

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts for the month of November 2015, in the amount of \$8,835,610.32 as information.

Carried

(b) Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2015

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – November 19, 2015” as information.

Carried

(c) Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Minutes – November 9, 2015

J. Gunn noted that the transportation policies are posted for review. Any recommendations should be forwarded by Feb 9, 2016.



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D. Dean requested clarification about bus rides exceeding 75 minutes. J. Gunn –explained that some of the transportation involves Six Nations students attending to the New Start program and other transportation rides include those students in Houghton or Port Rowan area that choose to go to somewhere where two transfers are required.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Minutes – November 9, 2015” as information.

Carried

(d) **Draft Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Minutes – November 5, 2015**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Draft Grand Erie District School Board receive the “Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes – November 5, 2015” as information.

Carried

(e) **OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat briefly reviewed discussion topics of enrolment audits, community hubs, teachable project and PES January 2016.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA Report as information.

Carried

(f) **Annual Invitation from Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO)**

Trustees agreed to continue on with the invitation and suggested February 22, 2015 as an available date.



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I – 1 Correspondence

- (a) **The Corporation of the City of Brantford re: French Immersion Program**
- (b) **Ministry of Education re: Capital Priorities Grant**

J. Gunn explained that what the Ministry stated in the recommendation was slightly different than what was explained to him. It was explained that the Ministry would be supportive once the ARC is complete with Board approval. He explained that capital projects are often submitted more than once before final Ministry approval is received.

- (c) **Greater Essex County District School Board re: Honoraria for Board Members**
- (d) **Ministry of Education re: Syrian Refugee Settlement in Ontario**
- (e) **Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: D. Sowers

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

Carried

J – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. A. Sloat

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Carried

Board Chair, David Dean