



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

September 21, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: B. Doyle, Committee Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, A. Felsky, 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, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson; Recording Secretary - D. Fletcher

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil.

Administration: Nil.

A – 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, B. Doyle 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: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss legal matters at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, B. Doyle 7:15 p.m.



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

Item C-1-a was added to the IC agenda.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the agenda be approved as printed.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil.

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

(a) **French Immersion Accommodation – Community Consultations (From June 8, 2015)**

J. Gunn explained how the Board has recognized accommodation pressures from the growth in French Immersions program enrolment and approved recommendations to present a number of options to the school community for feedback.

A meeting to share French Immersion boundary options will include a formal presentation from Senior Administration and allow time for questions from the community.
The date was scheduled for October 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. (Joseph Brant Learning Centre).

J. Gunn recommended using the draft version of “FT5 – Pupil Accommodation Review” to guide this accommodation review. A meeting cannot be held until October 28th at the earliest with a minimum of two meetings to be held with 40 days apart.
A decision could be determined in early January 2016.
The date was scheduled for November 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. (Paris Central).

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the French Immersion Accommodation-Community Consultations report as information

Carried

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve a boundary review for the French Immersion Program boundaries for Brantford/Brant County.

Carried



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J. Gunn clarified that the current version of FT5 can no longer be followed as the Ministry has developed new guidelines which are now included in the draft version out for stakeholder feedback. The revised version of FT5 will be approved at the Regular Board Meeting agenda on October 26, 2015.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board initiate an Accommodation Review for the Paris Area Elementary Regular and French Immersion program.

Carried

C – 1 Director's Report

The Director highlighted:

- Delhi Public School held a 125th celebration on September 19, 2015
- Lifelong Learning Week celebrates Grand Erie's mission to engage, support and inspire all learners to achieve and success. Grand Erie is proud to serve the adult community in Brant/Brantford, Haldimand and Norfolk through the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives division of the Board
- Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are used to encourage parents to become involved in their children's education and to help support student learning. This year 20 Grand Erie schools will receive grants.

A. Nesbitt shared that the Student Success branch through the Children Youth in Care Program has provided a budget of \$100,000 to Hagersville Secondary School to provide a program for students that are currently under the care of CAS or have previously been under the care of CAS. Key elements of the program are to balance the counselling and support needs of the students with their academic program.

He explained that counselling occurs during the instructional day to provide balance for the student while they receive their educational programming. In terms of consent for participation, there are clear guidelines to follow through the protocols.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of September 21, 2015 as information.

Carried



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D – 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Bill 8 – Ombudsman

B. Blancher explained the role of the Ontario Ombudsman and as of September 1, 2015, the Ombudsman can begin accepting, resolving and investigating complaints about school boards under Bill 8 the *Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, 2014*.

It was agreed that the current concerns protocol provided was not strong enough in terms of what might be needed for the Ombudsman and it was recommended that our Board create a policy to reflect the Board's beliefs and the importance of answering concerns from parents and communities. Also having a policy puts this information into a review process.

This item was referred to the October 5, 2015 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting.

(b) Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee – Membership

B. Blancher reported that the membership has been slightly revised since coming to the board on January 26, 2015 and is seeking approval the changes made to parent representation for J.L. Mitchener Public School and Thompson Creek Elementary School.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Sowers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the membership of the Haldimand East Elementary School Accommodation Review Committee.

Carried

D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) Enrolment Update

J. Gunn reviewed the enrolment report as of Friday September 18, 2015. Elementary numbers present as stable, as seen in the past five years and appears optimistic with 17,537 (Actual) and 17,341 (Projected), showing an increase of 196 students.



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The enrolment for secondary schools will be reported at a later date.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: R. Collver

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

Carried

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

B. Blancher reviewed the report which has been coming to Board for the past four years. As noted in Policy SO16 Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification, the Board is required to collect data to ensure programs are successful. She highlighted that self-identification and tuition agreement elementary students have increased by 108 students from 2014 to 2015 and self-identification and tuition agreement secondary students have also increased by 45 students from 2014 to 2015. Secondary shows an increase of 181 students over the past two years.

The current grant structure means that every board receives a base amount of money depending on the number of students and additional for self-identification students.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

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

Carried

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

A. Nesbitt presented the annual report and explained that students participate in this program for reasons such as family dynamics, anxiety, and problematic attendance. Once the school has explored all other possibilities, the student is recommended to be placed on the SAL Program. The most common ages are 15-16 however 14-18 year olds can be on the program. The most common strategies are access to credit courses, counselling and access to part time employment.

Three positive data trends were identified. The number of student that accessed SAL last year showed a reduction of almost 100 students.



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The total number of credits that were earned last year in SAL is up by approximately 130 credits. Students on average earned over a .5 credit more than students did three years ago.

He explained that no specific dynamics are seen when comparing the number of boys to girls, and that it shows an equal representation of those who experiences the struggles.

In terms of parent attendance at the SAL meetings, he clarified that most of the decision making is done at the school level for students to apply to this program, which may be the reason parents are not seen at the meetings as much as they were during the SALEP program, however parents are welcome at every stage of the process.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

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

Carried

E – 1 Other Business

Nil.

F – 1 Correspondence

(a) Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: G. Anderson

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

Carried

G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Carried