



## Committee of the Whole Board No.1

April 4, 2016  
Education Centre, Board Room

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# MINUTES

**Present:** T. Waldschmidt - Committee Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, B. Doyle, J. Harris, J. Richardson, K. Sandy, C.A. Sloat, 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; Recording Secretary – D. Fletcher

**Teleconference:** D. Sowers

**Regrets:**

**Trustees:** A. Felsky

**Administration:** L. Thompson

**A – 1 Opening**

**(a) Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

**(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 personnel and legal matters at 6:30 p.m.

**Carried**

**(d) Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, T. Waldschmidt at 7:15 p.m.

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

Item D-1-a BL15 Trustee Expenses will be discussed as the last agenda item.



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Moved by: B. Doyle  
Seconded by: G. Anderson  
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.  
**Carried**

(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat  
Seconded by: B. Doyle  
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the term appointment for Principal Leader of School Effectiveness.  
**Carried**

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

C – 1 **Director's Report**

The Director highlighted:

- Director Blancher, Trustee R. Collver, and Native Advisor D. Montour met with The Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, and Dave Levac, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brant, and visited Six Nations Council Chambers to meet with educators and local leaders from Six Nations. Grand Erie was invited to celebrate the exemplary relationship between the Six Nations community and our school board. The Minister acknowledged the relationship and suggested this is a model for other boards of Education
- The School Council Spring Session will be held at Branlyn on April 6, 2016. Parents and school council members across Grand Erie will come together to learn how they can inspire and lead in their school to support parent involvement
- National Volunteer Week will be celebrated from April 10-16, 2016. Many parents donate time to assisting in the classroom and school activities and play an important role in our schools
- South East Norfolk Elementary Accommodation Review Committee: The second meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Lakewood Elementary School
- The Special Education team and Grand Erie District School Board invites the community and parents to information nights about the programs and services provided to student with Special Education needs. The meetings are scheduled for: April 12, 2016 (6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. @ Agnes Hodge Public School) and April 26, 2016 (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. @ Caledonia Centennial)



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- 2016 Summit on Children & Youth Mental Health: Heather Carter, School Mental Health Lead and Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations will be presenting on Communications and Mental Health: Planning for Strategic Success which will include highlights of the Be Well Campaign. A group of Grand Erie staff will also be attending.

R. Collver formally thanked Deneen Montour for her presentation and speaking to the successes seen through collaboration with Grand Erie and Six Nations. She acknowledged former Native Trustee Marion Macdonald was present and added valuable input from her role as trustee. R. Collver is looking forward to the positive outcome of the meeting.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of April 4, 2016 as information.

**Carried**

### D – 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration - Action/Decision Items

#### (a) **BL15 Trustee Expenses (This agenda item was discussed after G-1-b)**

(Superintendents were not present for this agenda item)

B. Blancher referred to BL15, which was initially reviewed in November 2015. An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed with trustees who met to review BL15 and provide further suggestions.

D. Dean acknowledged the committee members: R. Collver, A. Felsky, and C.A. Sloat.

Two issues that could not reach consensus included Expenses of the Chair and Internet Expenses.

Trustee feedback included:

- Expenses of the Chair should be approved by the Superintendent of Business, a process followed in four other Boards (Currently the Vice-Chair approves)
- Chairs of the four boards polled indicated they felt this is a more accountable way
- Why change the process if currently the SO of Business provides the final signature on all expense forms for trustees and Chairs?
- If the Chair can sign independently all other expenses, the Vice-Chair should be able to
- Accountability to the public is important
- The bylaw and the expense form must align



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B. Blancher briefly reviewed the process that is followed when an infraction occurs when an appropriate expense is submitted.

D. Dean explained that the Trustee Expense Report this is provided twice yearly does not show internet expenses on it, although it does provide expenses incurred for professional development, mileage and conference expenses.

He suggested that we move towards further transparency for these expenses and establish a budget not to exceed \$80.00 monthly for internet and/or phone.

Trustees agreed public disclosure is important and discussed the possibility of internet/phone expense be considered as budget discussion item. They inquired how other school boards provide for this.

B. Blancher explained that staff who are provided with cell phones pay a certain amount of the cell phone expense because they are used on a personal level as well.

Trustees agreed that cell phones may align more with being more available to the public and requested if J. Gunn could look into the cost of cell phones for trustees.

The challenge of available WIFI in certain areas was addressed, and additional money spent on a data package to ensure that emails are responded to in a timely manner.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board refer BL15 Trustee Expenses to the Committee of the Whole No. 1 meeting scheduled on May 2, 2016.

**Carried**

(b) **FT10 Green Schools Construction**

J. Gunn explained that this policy has been rewritten to combine FT10 and Procedure FT117 Green School Construction and Renovation. Current versions of FT10 and FT117 were provided for reference.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT10 – “Green School Construction and Renovation” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by September 9, 2016.

**Carried**

(c) **FT11 Community Planning and Facility Partnership**

J. Gunn explained that the current policy was approved in September 2014 with a review date of October 2017.



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The Ministry has released a new Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG) and requested that Boards review and amend their existing facility partnership policies to reflect the changes incorporated into the new CPPG (see 2015:B09).

R. Collver recommended the policy statement be revised to read “The Grand Erie District School Board supports and encourages cooperative and collaborative partnerships for Facility Sharing”.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT11 – “Community Planning and Facility Partnerships” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by September 9, 2016, as amended.

**Carried**

### (d) **SO2 School Councils**

B. Blancher reviewed minor changes made prior to going out for stakeholder comment.

R. Collver recommended the policy statement be revised to read “The Grand Erie District School Board supports School Councils”.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO2 – “School Councils” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by September 9, 2016, as amended.

**Carried**

### (e) **SO4 Advertising and Material Distribution in Schools**

B. Blancher reviewed minor changes made prior to going out for stakeholder comment.

The policy statement will be revised to read “The Grand Erie District School Board permits the advertising of goods and services to its students by corporate citizens, within established guidelines.”

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO4 – “Advertising and Material Distribution” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by September 9, 2016, as amended.

**Carried**

D – 2 **Administrative Procedure Consideration – Information Items**  
Nil.



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### E – 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

#### (a) International Students – Fee Structure

J. Gunn explained that Grand Erie receives a number of applications from students outside of Canada to attend our schools each year. He referred to the chart that outlines the international students' enrolment at our secondary schools over the past five years.

He recommended that no changes are made to the tuition fees for 2016-2017.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2016-2017 Tuition Fees for International Students.

**Carried**

#### (b) Mileage Remuneration Review

J. Gunn explained how the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure data indicates the annual average cost in Southern Ontario for regular unleaded gasoline in 2015 was \$1.047 per litre, a decrease of \$0.221 per litre from \$1.268 per litre from the same period in 2014. First quarter prices for 2016 are substantially lower at \$0.893 per litre.

The Board used the CAA published driving costs as a reference for the remuneration rate. He referred to the table that summarized the costs of operating a vehicle in Ontario using \$1.05 as the average price of fuel for a compact care, midsize car and minivan.

Due to the data presented, it is being suggested that the mileage rate be reduced by \$0.02 per kilometer effective September 2016.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the mileage rate of \$0.45 per kilometer, effective September 1, 2016, subject to final budget approval.

**Carried**

### E – 2 New Business – Information Items

#### (a) Trustee Expense Report (F3)

J. Gunn presented as printed.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: G. Anderson

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



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Carried

(b) **Data Report- eLearning Report**

A. Nesbitt introduced Charleen Clark-Pearce, Teacher Consultant, Student Success District eLearning Contact who was in attendance.

He referred to the Data Report and briefly reviewed the following:

- Current eLearning Programs – Consortium-Based Asynchronous eLearning
- Technology Enabled Learning
- Considerations and New Developments for 2015-2016

J. Harris requested clarification regarding:

- When are measurements introduced?
- What is the importance of the alignment between Educational Technology and eLearning?

A. Nesbitt clarified that first steps would include a meeting with Greg Rousell, System Research Leader to develop a model to determine how to measure the impact that technology is having on student learning.

It is anticipated that the annual report presented next year should be able to provide a data set. Educational Technology is being aligned with eLearning. These portfolios have met to identify initiatives and where to deploy staffing resources to ensure efficiencies are identified.

He reported that the principal of eLearning is the principal at GELA, Scott Johnson.

He reviewed the history of synchronous eLearning from its implementation to the present. Issues were identified that resulted in the reduction of the synchronous eLearning program.

B. Blancher explained that the Senior Team hope to explore Learning Commons through professional development or visiting boards using this model.

R. Collver requested that trustees be informed of any new research of value regarding Learning Commons to help them in their roles.

A. Nesbitt clarified that 297 students include all students enrolled in the eLearning courses, however 76 of those students are from other boards.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Data Report - eLearning Annual Report as information.

**Carried**

### F -1 Other Business

#### (a) Truth and Reconciliation Commission Statements

B. Blancher explained that in 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) concluded its work resulting in 94 far reaching Calls to Action, including a number specifically focused on education, in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canada reconciliation.

Bylaw 2 Role of the Board outlines that the *Grand Erie District School Board recognizes it has an important duty to first and foremost act in the best interest of students and reflect the community it serves.*

Appendix A outlines TRC Statements for Trustee Consideration.

Trustees provided feedback on the report:

- The motion should be crafted to state an action or approval of what we will do
- Appendix A should be broader, curriculum building falls under the Ministry of Education
- How will this be placed in the Boards' governance model (ie: policy, procedure, bylaw)

B. Blancher suggested that she will discuss further with her team and the Native Advisory Committee and bring back.

Trustees agreed that there should be clear understanding of this and it should be brought back to the CW1 meeting in May 2016.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board refer the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Statements Report to the Committee of the Whole No. 1 meeting scheduled on May 2, 2016.

**Carried**





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### G – 1 Correspondence

#### (a) Brantford Police Service

B. Blancher explained that this letter is received annually. This outing will be covered as a field trip with the parents being informed of the PG13 rating.

#### (b) Ministry of Education

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

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

**Carried**

### G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

**Carried**

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Committee of the Whole Board No.1 Chair, Tom Waldschmidt