



*Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Board Room*

## Committee of the Whole Meeting | October 5, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2GJSf03>

### Modified School Year Calendar – Ad Hoc Committee Report

In February, Trustees approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to explore the option of a balanced school year calendar that would begin in August, rather than September. There are many benefits to a balanced school year calendar, including: reduction in summer learning loss, increased time on task, reduced stress, reduced absenteeism, and improved student achievement. Some of the challenges with a balanced school year calendar include: weather (summer heat in August), professional development for staff, sports scheduling, modified report cards, change in tradition and staffing considerations.



Through their work, the ad hoc committee explored the benefits and challenges of a balanced school year calendar. In their report to Trustees on Monday night, the committee recommended the establishment of a pilot elementary school in Brantford with a balanced year calendar. Following discussion of the report, Trustees agreed with the committee's findings and recommended for approval the establishment of a working group to manage the logistics of creating the pilot for the 2022-23 school year.

This report supports the Well-being indicator of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#) and *Success for Every Student* through the following statement: "We will create environments that are healthy and that recognize the well-being of mind, body, emotion and spirit of students and staff. To read the full report, see pages 3-7 here: <https://bit.ly/2GJSf03>.

### Trustee Replacement Process

On October 1, 2020, Trustee Christina Speers (County of Brant and Norfolk County – Wards 3 & 7) resigned. The resignation results in a trustee vacancy for Grand Erie. The Board has two options to replace the vacancy: by-election or the appointment of a qualified person. In appointing a qualified person, the Board has two options: select the third runner-up from the 2018 election or advertise the vacant trustee position and request qualified individuals declare an interest.

Following discussion of the report, Trustees directed the secretary of the board (Director of Education, JoAnna Roberto) to move forward with filling the vacancy by requesting qualified individuals to declare their interest. At the October 26, 2020 Board Meeting, a schedule of the process and timelines moving forward will be presented to the Board by Roberto. To read the report, see pages 9-12 here: <https://bit.ly/2GJSf03>.

## Additional Items

---

### Trustees also received the following reports:

- Visit with the Honourable Toby Barrett, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk
- Director's Report
- Trustee Replacement Process
- Contract Award – Lexia Licences
- Learner Invention Tracking for Excellence (LITE)
- Public Consultation Plan for Special Education Annual Report
- Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification
- OPSBA Report
- Student Trustee Report

### The following Bylaws and Policies were recommended for approval:

- Bylaw 19 – Use of Board Logo and Grand Erie Name
- Bylaw 26 – Chairs' Committee

### The following Policies and Procedure will be sent out for comment:

- SO9 Cyberbullying
- SO25 Visual Identity
- SO31 Accessibility
- HR110 Hiring Procedures

## Multi-Year Plan Stories

---

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

### Achievement

- Thank you to Grand Erie's Custodial Workers on National Custodial Workers' Day
  - <https://bit.ly/3d35BAO>

### Equity

- Statement on behalf of the Grand Erie District School Board
  - <https://bit.ly/33xiolq>
- Grand Erie Honours Orange Shirt Day and Marks First Year of English Course Focused on Indigenous-Authored Works
  - <https://bit.ly/3l0f5iT>