



## Committee of the Whole Board

October 6, 2014  
Education Centre, Board Room

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# MINUTES

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

**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: T. Waldschmidt

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, J. Angus, at 7:15 p.m.



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

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the agenda be approved as printed.

**Carried**

J. Angus noted that she will be bringing "peanut butter substitutes" to the next Chairs Committee meeting for possible discussion at the board table.

(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 following:

- Friday October 10, 2014 is a professional activity day
- Grand Erie's United Way Campaign Launch: Schools in Grand Erie are gearing up for this year's United Way fundraising campaign running from October 14 to 31 (Thanksgiving to Halloween). Last year, Grand Erie District School Board staff raised \$36,446 for United Way of Haldimand, Norfolk, and Brant United Way
- Young Canada Day: Young Canada Day is held on the opening day of the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show (October 7 – 13). Students gather to compete in friendly competitions and celebrate agriculture, literacy and the Arts
- School Council Orientation Session: Grand Erie welcomed School Council members from across Brant, Brantford, Haldimand, and Norfolk on October 1, 2014. Members of the School Council received the new Welcome to School Council Guide and a School Council Kit. Parents heard from Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Relations, Heather Carter, Mental Health Lead, and Christine Bibby, Social Worker-Safe Schools.



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- School Council Orientation Session Continued: Working sessions were also offered for parents to select two sessions from three topics: School Councils and Family Partnerships (Facilitated by: Rita Collver, Trustee); Engagement through Communications (Facilitated by: Shawn McKillop); and Healthy Conditions to Promote Student Success (Facilitated by: Heather Carter and Christine Bibby).

D. Werden requested that a report on student participation in the United Way campaign be shared.

B. Blancher explained that the upcoming professional activity day on October 10, 2014 is a day that schools are directed to review EQAO results and focus on the areas of weaknesses that can be improved as they prepare the learning cycles. Schools can also spend time on the new report card program in PowerSchool.

A. Nesbitt explained that the secondary schools will be generating their School Improvement Plan (SIP), key numeracy and literacy components for all staff members during the morning, and can choose key issues for the later part of the day.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of October 6, 2014 as information.

**Carried**

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

#### (a) Lakewood Child Care Capital Project

B. Blancher reviewed background, additional information, proposed project timelines, and Appendix A (stage).

B. Blancher confirmed that according to the existing Child Care legislation, known as the Day Nurseries Act (DNA) the location chosen for the child care centre fits the requirements. A Ministry licensed Licensing representative from the Early Years Division visited the site and confirmed that criteria is met.

She further explained that the location has 2413 square feet for the room, which will be a sufficient amount of space for the plan Today's Family has put forward.



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D. Werden inquired if the \$540,000 will cover washroom facilities, and J. Gunn clarified that there is not yet a complete scope of what the costs will be. The funds provided by ministry for the project and the project team will be used to define the scope. Our goal is to design within the budget.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the striking of a project team for the Lakewood Child Care Centre Capital Project.

**Carried**

### D – 2 New Business – Information Items

#### (a) Enrolment Update

J. Gunn reviewed the enrolment report as of Friday September 30, 2014.

The 2014-2015 projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) numbers for elementary show 17,349 with an actual of 17,574 which shows an increase of 225 students. 136 students are in junior kindergarten (jk)/senior kindergarten and 89 in grades one to eight.

The secondary schools show projected Full-time Equivalent (FTE) of 9,450 by October 31, 2014. The revised with September/14 actuals shows 9458 with an increase of 8 FTE students.

J. Gunn clarified the age group for students in grades one to eight is larger than projected by 45 students.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

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

**Carried**

#### (b) Data Report – EQAO Board Report

##### (i) Primary Division and Junior Division Assessment Results



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B. Blancher reviewed in detail the following presentation slides:

- Achievement – GEDSB and Provincial Trends
- Achievement over Time – Primary Division – Level 3 and Achievement over Time – Junior Division
- Primary and Junior Level 3-4 Plus Level 2.7. To 2.9
- Achievement Over Time – Gender
- Achievement Over Time – Gender/Primary Division
- Achievement Over Time- Gender/Junior Division
- Looking Ahead Elementary Program 2014-2015

B. Blancher addressed a concern about collaborative learning and disruptions to instruction program on regularly school days. Teachers will be pulled out of classrooms on fewer days by trying to combine sessions on one day (ie: education technology and Kindergarten professional learning sessions). SIM sessions involve three days in an entire team, with some release time back at the school. The challenge is that there are few professional activity days, and they are used for parent/teacher interviews and report cards.

In response to D. Dean's concern regarding the difference in achievement between girls and boys in writing, B. Blancher explained that the team will not be focusing on just the gender issue, but will be evaluating what approaches work best for all students. She recommended the publication "Me Read No Way", a practical guide to improving boys' literacy skills.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Data Report – "EQAO Board Report of the 2013-2014 Primary and Junior Division" as information.

**Carried**

### **(ii) Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics**

A. Nesbitt reviewed in detail the following presentation slides:

- Achievement Over Time - Grade 9 academic and applied Math
- Achievement by Gender – Grade 9 Academic and Applied Math by Gender
- GEDSB MFM1D and Math EQAO Results
- GEDB MFM1P and Math EQAO Results



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Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Data Report – “EQAO Board Report of the 2013-2014 Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics” as information.

**Carried**

### (iii) Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

A. Nesbitt reviewed in detail the following presentation slides:

- Achievement Over Time – OSSLT Grade 10 First Time Eligible and Previously Eligible Writers
- Achievement by Gender – OSSLT First Time Eligible and Previously Eligible Writers
- Achievement by Grade 10 English Course – Academic, Applied and Locally Developed
- Looking Ahead: Secondary Program

A. Nesbitt confirmed that the success rate for students taking academic math is good compared to the provinces' success rates for students taking academic program. Student Success will continue to work with teachers including grades 7 and 8 teachers regarding helping students and families make good pathway decisions. The board's learning profile is unique relative to the Province and it is important understand the profile.

C. A. Sloat inquired why locally developed grade 9 math students do not write the EQAO math assessment like the grade 10 students do. A. Nesbitt explained that EQAO math assessment is geared towards the end of grade academic or applied math expectations specific to each course. All students are required to write the OSSLT because it is a credential for graduation. Students who do not succeed at the OSSLT can then enroll in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

C.A. Sloat inquired if the assistive technology (AT) numbers are low and if we are working with them to use these devices. A. Nesbitt confirmed that students are using the AT however it continues to be a challenge to increase the use of AT. He has learned through discussions with principals during school visits, that the lack of willingness for some students to use the AT as is caused by apprehensiveness to use in front of peers.



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With Ed-Tech rolling out technology to all English classrooms last year it is anticipated that teachers and student will grow more comfortable with the use of the technology in the classroom.

Student Success has also made an eLearning coach available to Principals and their teachers to work directly with teachers and students in the classroom to gain confidence in the use of AT as part of their daily routine.

S. Sincerbox added that discussions with secondary administrators will help to determine how his department can support and increase the willingness to use these devices.

J. Angus recalled discussions from other boards that years ago, they would exclude students to ensure that the results show they are top of province in reporting.

She referenced our participation rate and it appears that we are not catching up to the province overall. A. Nesbitt clarified that it is a difficult decision for families and educators and that our philosophy has been that we should do what is in the best interest of the student. By deferring many students it would cause our overall success rate to increase however the question needs to be asked is that what we want to do? We know that if we defer students who take Locally Developed Compulsory Course (LDCC) courses our success rate would go up by 6%. However by deferring students it would delay their access to the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) and the opportunity to gain the necessary literacy skills. As a result principals and students (families) make a decision that is in the best interest of the student. There are some school boards in Ontario that have a very low participation rate for students who take coursework at the LDCC level.

D. Werden left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Scott Sincerbox reviewed in detail the following presentation slides:

- Looking ahead: Special Education

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Data Report – “EQAO Board Report of the 2013-2014 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test” as information.

**Carried**



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### (c) Major Construction Projects – Final Report

J. Gunn pointed out that the only difference in this report from the last Major Construction Projects Report is the financial piece now that all accruals are completed.

The target date for completion for River Heights has been moved to a later date prior to Thanksgiving. He explained that it would be our request that any surplus of money from the last Full Day Kindergarten program could be rolled over to the Coronation Project.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Major Construction Report – Final Report as information.

**Carried**

### (d) Data Report –School Climate Surveys (2013-2014)

W. Baker reviewed background, additional information, next steps and results of the survey for:

- Students' perception of where bullying happens
- Student attitudes about school rules
- Types of bullying that happen at schools
- Student perceptions about connectedness to school
- Number of student responses – 2012-2014 surveys
- Overall – Entire system
- One sub-group of students: Lesbian Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ)

W. Baker clarified that this survey was only sent to students.

C.A. Sloat inquired to who the survey team members would include for "Tell Them From Me". W. Baker explained that S. Landon, Safe School Representatives, elementary and secondary principals, with other groups also invited.

W. Baker addressed a comment from R. Collver about cyberbullying and how it has fallen off the list. He was pleased how with the support of the community and effort from the schools that a tremendous difference has been seen.





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J. Angus was pleased to see feedback on LGBTQ and agreed that more work is required to educate various groups. She referred to the results around general perceptions around bullying and questioned if it is better or worse that 45% of students feel that bullying is the same. There are still frequent calls from parents around bullying issues at schools.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: M. Macdonald

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "Data Report - School Climate Surveys (2013-2014)" as information.

**Carried**

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

#### (a) SO27 Acceptable Use of Technology

FT8 and FT102 will now be moved to school operations and has been given a new policy number SO27. Comments from FT102 has now been incorporated into SO27.

D. Abbey reviewed some comments received.

He highlighted comments 11 and 19 and spoke to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and that information technology is not limited to board owned devices.

M. Macdonald inquired about the agreement contained in the policy and direct instructions of who administers the agreement and the storage. D. Abbey clarified that it is the responsibility of principals, and is distributed at pre-registration for parents and students to sign. The document is are stored centrally in the school.

C.A. Sloat noted that it is important to list the retention of this agreement in the policy.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO27 – Acceptable Use of Information Technology, as amended.

**Carried**



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Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board rescind Policy FT8 and Procedure FT102 – “Acceptable Use of Information Technology”.

**Carried**

(b) **FT6 Student Transportation**

J. Gunn explained that FT6 Student Transportation and FT12 Courtesy Student Transportation be combined to allow for easier access regarding transportation information.

A. Everets spoke to some recent issues that have occurred concerning transportation for out of boundary students. J. Gunn addressed the difficulty in providing courtesy transportation.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT6 – “Student Transportation” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by December 19, 2014.

**Carried**

A. Everets left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

(c) **FT7 Inclement Weather**

J. Gunn explained that Administrative Procedure HR106 Board Employees-Inclement Weather is also scheduled for review and will be combined with FT7.

R. Collver asked that #4iii clarify that the weather zones refer to Grand Erie and not that of other board weather zones. It should be stated that we will go into other zones that are closed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT7 – “Inclement Weather” to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by December 19, 2014, as amended.

**Carried**

E – 2 **Administrative Procedure Consideration - Information Items**



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(a) **FT114 Employee Use of Board-Owned Property and Equipment**

J. Gunn reviewed one comment that required an amendment for clarification regarding restricting use of borrowing equipment.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure FT114 – “Employee use of Board Owned Property” as information.

**Carried**

(b) **FT119 Boundary Reviews**

J. Gunn reviewed the comment that requires clarification regarding a review when a new residential development would cause a boundary review to be considered.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure FT119 – “Boundary Reviews” as information.

**Carried**

(c) **HR112 Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

M. McDonald reviewed the comment regarding the information available electronically.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure HR112 – “Employee Assistance Program” as information.

**Carried**

(d) **HR124 Principal/Vice Principal Performance Appraisal**

M. McDonald addressed the comments received.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. Lefebvre



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THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure HR124 – “Principal/Vice-Principal Performance Appraisal” as information.

**Carried**

(e) **SO122 Behavior Management: Continuum of Strategies from Prevention to Intervention, Including Time Out**

S. Sincerbox referred to the administrative procedure and changes made.

C.A. Sloat referred to Developing a Behavior Plan and asked why it is shared with parents, not written in consultation with parents. S. Sincerbox explained that parents have insights that may create triggers.

C.A. Sloat suggested making an amendment to 5i to make it more parent friendly.

S. Sincerbox explained that in terms of how long a behavior plan exits, it can be changed over time based on student need and response, and is stored on a yearly basis.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Administrative Procedure SO122 – “Behavior Management: Continuum of Strategies from Prevention to Intervention” as information, as amended.

**Carried**

F – 1 **Other Business**

G – 1 **Correspondence**

H – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Carried**

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