



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 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

Administration: Director — J. Forbeck; Superintendents – D. Abbey, W. Baker, B. Blancher, J. Gunn, M. McDonald, A. Nesbitt, S. Sincerbox; Recording Secretary - D. Fletcher

Teleconference: E. Creed (Student Trustee)

Regrets:

Trustees: M. Brown (Student Trustee)

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: 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 Open Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, B. Doyle, at 7:21 p.m. He welcomed students from Brock University to the meeting.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

There is no OPSBA report, therefore item E-1-a OPSBA Report will be removed from the agenda.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the agenda be approved as printed, as amended.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil.

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

(a) **Haldimand East Elementary – Accommodation Update** (from March 17, 2014)

J. Gunn referred back to August 2013 and March 2014 when updated enrolment and utilization data was provided to the Board. A motion was approved to establish an Accommodation Review of the Haldimand East elementary schools to commence in the spring of 2015.

G. Anderson inquired why J.L. Mitchener and Rainham Central are included in the report. B. Doyle explained former trustee Arlene Everets was instrumental in adding them to provide a better overview of the whole Haldimand area.

G. Anderson also inquired why Seneca Central was not included.

D. Dean declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

J. Forbeck referred to the capacity and challenges around boundaries. J. Gunn added that the Quality Accommodations Committee reviewed a number of options and found Seneca Central to be almost at capacity. It doesn't have the enrolment surplus to offer up to the ARC because it would be unable to take students from other areas and was found to geographically reaching a little too far.

It was agreed to change the date to Wednesday March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. It would need to be confirmed with J. L. Mitchener for availability.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015

Education Centre, Board Room

D. Dean returned to the meeting.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the first meeting of the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review Committee be held on March 11, 2015 at J.L. Mitchener School.

Carried

C – 1 Director's Report

The Director highlighted:

- EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment – The window for students to complete the Grade 9 Math Assessment started on January 8 and will close on January 23. All questions are based on the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics for students in Grade 9 applied and academic programs. The assessment provides multiple opportunities for students to show what they know and what they can do in relation to the strands. The assessment has two components: multiple-choice and open response.
- Secondary School Exams: Director Forbeck wished all secondary students well on their Semester One final exams. Exams that start this Thursday, January 22 to January 28.
- Central Family Cooking Club: Families in the Central School community were invited to participate in a fun and informational cooking club for 6 weeks. In cooperation with our health nurse and the Brant County Health Unit, teachers have organized a cooking club to help families understand the importance of healthy nutrition and food safety, as well as learn some strategies for making home-made food that their children will enjoy on a limited budget. At the end of each club night, families take home the food they have prepared, as well as prizes to support their efforts at home
- Global Issues Summit at Echo Place School: The grade 6//7 and 7/8 classes from Echo Place School will be joined by the 5/6 class from Onondaga-Brant to view presentations on Global Issues on January 20. Students will explore topics related to social justice.
- Grade 8 Student and Parent Information Night: As many information nights come to an end, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre will host the final Grade 8 Student and Parent Information Night this Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- The Director received a gift from the Principal Norman Zhang, Principal of Victoria Academy on behalf of Henan Province of China.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

- CODE (Council of Ontario directors of Education) will be providing funding to boards through ministry grants of \$427,624.00 for technology, to be committed by March 31 2015. It will include professional development, hardware and a portion for research initiative. Grand Erie is currently in the fifth year of the Educational Technology project and is very well positioned spend the money

J. Forbeck explained the Victoria Academy's connection with BCI. Students from China will become part of the international school and through transition will be taking courses at BCI as tuition students. BCI is looking to offer a fifth period for students to learn the language of mandarin in the future.

D. Sowers spoke to an email received in regards to this purchase of this land. J. Forbeck explained that under Regulation 444/98, the Board has followed the correct process as outlined by the Ministry of Education.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of January 19, 2015 as information.

Carried

D – 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Set Pre-Budget Meeting Dates

The first meeting will provide an understanding to new trustees regarding where and how funding is provided to the Board. The meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board Grand Erie District School Board set the dates for Pre- Budget Consultation Meetings as follows as amended:

1. February 25, 2015
2. March 3, 2015

Carried

D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) Category III Trips



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

J. Forbeck referred to Administrative Procedure SO105 Out-of-Classroom Trips and Tours for Students; Insurance Requirements for Trips and Excursions and the significant amount of risk during out of classroom experiences.

He explained that a Category I trip is approved at school level by the principal, and Category II trips would be approved by the principal and superintendent. Category III trips which involve a higher level of scrutiny and require specific documentation, are approved by Director.

C.A. Sloat voiced a concern how some schools begin fundraising before Category III trips are approved by the Director. J. Forbeck agreed that trips should not be advertised to community and parents prior to getting approval from the Director. When SO105 comes up for review, this information will be included.

D. Sowers questioned if we are ensuring that these trips are open to all children and are funds available for all children to participate? J. Forbeck explained that Category III trips would not be using school funds. Schools do have funds for those students for Category I trips that are mandatory and curriculum based trips.

D. Dean pointed out the recent incidents in Europe and asked if the Board has insurance should the trip not happen? J. Forbeck explained that each company has different responses and we would work with the school and families should this situation arise. We continuously look at Canadian travel website to make sure travel is safe.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School receive the report "Category III Trips" as information.

Carried

(b) **Enrolment vs Capacity by School**

J. Gunn reviewed the annual report of information that comes to the Board. The table summarizes enrolment, school capacity and utilization as of October 31, 2014.

Schools highlighted in red are well under the capacity set out in the Board's accommodation guidelines of 75%. This data will be reviewed by the Quality Accommodations Committee.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015

Education Centre, Board Room

89% utilization is near optimal for an elementary school. Secondary schools present a different issues, with a review in the Haldimand area completed, the challenge will be to find partners to address surplus space in secondary schools.

G. Anderson inquired about McKinnon Park and if a cap has been put on it. B. Doyle explained that the school is basically capped with portables. J. Forbeck explained that Executive Council is in the process of creating a report that will review a number of strategies around suggestions of boundaries reviews, and partnerships to use surplus space.

J. Gunn clarified that the space for library and child care space committed to other members in the community at Lakewood, has been taken off the school capacity.

J. Gunn explained how the number for classroom capacity is different depending on the program (examples: Kindergarten (26), Junior (23), Special Education (9)).

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report "Enrolment vs Capacity by School" as information.

Carried

(c) **A Framework for French as a Second Language Update**

B. Blancher reviewed the report and highlighted the link for trustees to access the document "A Framework for French as A Second Language in Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12".

G. Anderson referred to goal #3 and asked if there is potential down the road to increase the number of French Immersion schools? B. Blancher confirmed this is not in the plan but understands the interest when these programs are promoted.

R. Collver commended B. Blancher on the report and was pleased that she and Jackie Smith attended a Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee meeting to speak to parents about the core French and French Immersion programs.

R. Collver inquired about the development of the survey and what references were used to develop the questions. B. Blancher explained that when the framework was being introduced, regional meetings were held and boards worked together to develop these questions.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015
Education Centre, Board Room

R. Collver referred to question #6 under French Immersion and why it was not included on the survey as well and was concerned that question #7 may be setting up expectations. B. Blancher agreed with #6 and will bring both of those concerns to the committee level.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the website and if it was up to date with this information.
B. Blancher explained that French Immersion will not just be given at registration but is planning on expanding to parents of any students in the French Immersion program.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: A. Felsky

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report "A Framework for French as a Second Language Update" as information.

Carried

(d) **Tutoring Pilot Program Update**

A. Nesbitt presented the program in the developmental stage and provided contextual information and background as to how this program was developed. This pilot program will provide support for those students who are experiencing difficulties in engagement, attendance and learning gaps. These students account for approximately 15% of the total body of students.

He discussed the challenges of creating a new employee group to align with other employee groups in collective agreement and that more time is required to work out issues to ensure a smooth implementation.

A. Felsky asked about key element #9 (Source/Hiring of Tutors) and if there were any concerns about qualified teachers with the Concurrent Education programs wrapping up at Nipissing Brantford.

A. Nesbitt responded that there is surplus of people who have graduated from the Faculty of Education programs who have not yet been able to get on the occasional teacher list. This would provide them experience and investment to their future and he discussed paid internships in the Faculty of Education program.



Committee of the Whole Board No.2

January 19, 2015

Education Centre, Board Room

J. Harris asked a series of questions regarding measurement of effectiveness and student /teacher involvement in program. A. Nesbitt clarified that our research department will help to define parameters. The SSI (School Support Initiative) includes teacher diagnostics to applied level math and English classes and can track progress of students over 10 weeks cycle by four cycles. He further explained that that this is a volunteer opportunity for teachers. Through discussions with other Boards, it was clear that teacher must be on Board for program success.

C.A. Sloat referred to the Board Improvement Plan brought to the Board in October 2014 and asked if the program would be leaning towards using teacher graduates. A. Nesbitt explained that other options could include those who have degrees in Math or English but do not have a teaching certificate.

D. Sowers inquired about key element #10 (Employment Information) and why is there a maximum of 12 hours per week per school. A. Nesbitt explained that there is not enough money to create a full time job for one person but by providing 12 hours per week, it would enable the person to work other jobs or shifts and the other reason is that the schools may not need 30 hours a week. An individual may be able to work in two schools.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the "Tutoring Pilot Program Update" as information.

Carried

E – 1 Other Business

F – 1 Correspondence

(a) Thames Valley District School Board

G – 1 Adjournment

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Carried