



## Committee of the Whole Board No.2

February 9, 2015  
Education Centre, Board Room

---

# MINUTES

**Present:** B. Doyle, Committee Chair, R. Collver, D. Dean, A. Felsky, J. Harris, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, D. Sowers, M. Brown (Student Trustee), E. Creed (Student Trustee)

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

**Regrets:**

**Trustees:** G. Anderson, K. Sandy, T. Waldschmidt

**Administration:** B. Blancher, J. Gunn

**A – 1 Opening**

**(a) Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

**(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil.

**(c) In Camera Session**

Nil.

**(d) Welcome to Open Session**

The Open Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, B. Doyle, at 8:31 p.m.

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

Item E-1-a OPSBA Report was removed from the agenda.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the agenda be approved as printed, as amended.

**Carried**



## Committee of the Whole Board No.2

February 9, 2015  
Education Centre, Board Room

(f) **In Camera Report**

Nil.

C – 1 **Director's Report**

Nil.

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

Nil.

D – 2 **New Business – Information Items**

(a) **Educational Technology Initiative Evaluation**

D. Abbey introduced the Education Technology (Ed Tech) team: Jeff Dumoulin (Teacher Consultant – Information Technology), Mark Windle (Manager of Information Technology Services (Acting), Norma Bingham and Chris Bates (Itinerant Teachers).

D. Abbey reviewed background, educational technology Initiative – 5 year plan, key findings, recommendations, and summary of the report.

Appendix I – IBM recommendations outline implementations in Year – 5 and planned for years 6 -10. Appendix II – Budget Implications.

The report on the Evaluation of the Educational Technology: Yr 1-5 – Draft of Findings was presented.

### **Key Findings**

- There is corroborating evidence that teachers are using technology across a wide variety of levels along a continuum from entry level to full integration
- Most teachers report they need a job-embedded, local, relevant learning & support model for professional development
- There is a gap between classroom technical needs and available support
- Students see a marked difference in their classroom learning experiences before and after the Educational Technology Initiative
- Connectivity and bandwidth remain a barrier in some areas of the board
- 54% of teachers state that their device is already in need of replacement with something more current



## Committee of the Whole Board No.2

February 9, 2015

Education Centre, Board Room

- 72% of teachers believe that Ed Tech should be embedded across all curriculum areas
- There is a high need for training on the pedagogy of technology integration and access to skilled supports
- Students expressed an interest in becoming more involved in Ed Tech training and 83% of teachers support the idea of establishing Ed Tech programs for students in schools

### **The following recommendations were presented:**

- Professional Development
- Hardware & Software Refresh
- Infrastructure
- Staffing

D. Abbey stated that a more detailed plan would be provided closer to budget time.

C.A. Sloat was pleased to see the difference technology is making in the classroom and the positive effect of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). She inquired about the need and importance to have the most current equipment for classrooms. Trustees would like to see information regarding disaster recovery on the next Ed Tech plan.

D. Abbey explained how important is to have up to date equipment when software programs continue to be upgraded and added as this puts a bigger load on hardware.

J. Harris asked a series of questions regarding decisions related to upgrades, break fix issues on technology we currently have and coming into the system, infrastructure, and staffing support for IT issues. He was pleased and impressed with our ability to respond to the changing landscape of the use of technology.

D. Abbey explained that we will continue to use existing equipment to replace defective hardware where possible. While a three year cycle is industry standard we are able to recycle some devices from earlier years to adjust to the longer replacement cycle.

Regarding break fix issues for device, are handled by ITS work order system taking account warranties. The bigger issue is around quickly and efficiently repairing aging projectors in the system and the need to determine who is responsible for replacing them (centrally or in schools).

D. Abbey referred to infrastructure and structures throughout the system, costs could be up to \$6,000 per school depending on such things as replacing copper lines with fibre.



## Committee of the Whole Board No.2

February 9, 2015  
Education Centre, Board Room

The Information Technology (IT) department has a job prioritization system of responding to emails or calls regarding support for IT services. The IT and Ed Tech team continues to review the process and work on it.

R. Collver thanked the committee and recognized the challenges and finding opportunities to adjust.

D. Dean commended the team on the report and inquired about the gap between classroom technology needs and available support and if progress is being made for connectivity and bandwidth.

D. Abbey stated how Michael Suski, Supervisor of Infrastructure and Support (ITS) has been a valuable asset. He talked about the need for regular review of the support model and structure.

Moved by: D. Sowers

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School receive the Educational Technology Initiative Evaluation as information.

**Carried**

(b) **Draft Proposed School Year Calendar 2015-2016**

W. Baker reviewed the proposed calendars. These calendars have been developed in collaboration with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. The professional development days align between the two boards to reduce the cost of transportation.

Moved by: A. Felsky

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the calendars recommended by the School Year Calendar Committee in the report "School Year Calendars 2015-16".

**Carried**

(c) **Employee Assistance Program Annual Report (HR112)**



## Committee of the Whole Board No.2

February 9, 2015  
Education Centre, Board Room

M. McDonald reviewed rationale/background, additional information, cost of the Employee Assistance Program, and utilization of program, statistical summary presenting problems, committee activities and EAP participant survey.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Employee Assistance Program Report, 2013-2014 as information.

**Carried**

(d) **Public Meeting Schedule for Special Education Annual Review**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Harris

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the report "Public Meeting Schedule for Special Education Annual Review" as information.

**Carried**

E – 1 **Other Business**

F – 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **Poverty Action Partnership of Haldimand and Norfolk (PAP-HN)**

G – 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: J. Harris

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

**Carried**

---

Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 Chair, Brian Doyle