



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Grand Erie Releases Final Video in Series Highlighting Equity

Brantford Ont. – During the 2018-19 school year, Grand Erie District School Board has been demonstrating its Multi-Year Plan through a four-part video series focused on Equity, a key pillar of the Board’s strategic plan. The videos tell the story of four Grand Erie students who have overcome adversity and challenges to achieve success.

The final video highlights Maria Zacharia, a member of the Low German Mennonite community who was struggling to move forward in life, lacking the education she desired.

Through the Moms & Tots program, facilitated by the Norfolk Help Centre, she was able to get the support she needed to succeed. Zacharia completed secondary school through a Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) program.

The Moms & Tots program provides child care so mothers are able to work on their education. Zacharia is currently employed at the Norfolk Help Centre, where she works as a facilitator, helping people with translation, as well as accessing health care. Watch her video here: <https://bit.ly/2Be6gNV>.

“Equity is a part of everything we do at Grand Erie,” said Brenda Blancher, Director of Education. “From the supports we provide to students and staff, to the events and activities we honour and celebrate, equity is, and continues to be, our guiding force.”

In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work the school board is doing. At the centre of this plan is the goal of *Success for Every Student*. Equity is one of six indicators in the Board’s Multi-Year Plan. Others include: Achievement, Well-Being, Community, Environment and Technology.

- 30 -

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