



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2026

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

### AGENDA

#### A - 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) In-Camera Session **(6:30 pm)**
  - (i) Personnel
  - (ii) Legal
  - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement  
The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.
- (e) Mohawk Teaching (C. VanEvery-Albert)
- (f) Call to Order
- (g) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Agenda be approved."*
- (h) Memorial
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Award (J. Roberto) (I)
- (j) Student Showcase – Dunnville Secondary School, Broken Spoke Program (J. Roberto, K. Graham) (I)
- (k) Delegation

#### B - 1 Consent Agenda

##### **Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Board accept the January 26, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."*

- \* (a) Approve the minutes of:
  - (i) Annual Board meeting dated November 24, 2025
  - (ii) Regular Board meeting dated November 24, 2025
- \* (b) Receive the minutes of:
  - (i) Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 6, 2025
  - (ii) Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 4, 2025

#### C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- \* (a) [Special Education Advisory Committee Report](#) dated January 8, 2026 (L. Thompson)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"That the Board approve the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services."*
- \* (b) [Policy and Program Committee Meeting Report](#) dated January 12, 2026 (B. Doyle)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Board approve the draft School Year Calendars 2026-27."*



# Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2026

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

## AGENDA

### **Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Board approve the following draft policies:*

- (i) *Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05)*
- (ii) *Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04)*
- (iii) *Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07)*
- (iv) *Harassment/Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05)*
- (v) *Health & Safety Policy (HS-01)*
- (vi) *Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11)*
- (vii) *Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04)*
- (viii) *Fundraising Policy (SO-01)."*

### **D - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

#### **E - 1 Report of the Director**

- (a) [Director's Report – January 2026](#) (J. Roberto) (I)

#### **F - 1 Student Trustees' Report**

- \* (a) Student Senate Report (P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson) (I)

#### **G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items**

- \* (a) Strategic Plan Update 2026-2030 (J. Roberto) (I)
- \* (b) Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member Report (R. Wyszynski)

### **Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Board approve the re-appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2029."*

### **H - 1 Appointments to the OPSBA Board of Directors and Identification of (Voting) Delegate**

- (B. Doyle)
- (a) Appointment of Scrutineers ( K. Graham, J. White) (I)
- (b) Method of Naming (I)
- (c) Nominations for OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate (I)
- (d) Motion to Destroy Ballots

### **Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the ballots be destroyed."*

### **I - 1 Adjournment**

#### **Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."*



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2026

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

### AGENDA

#### FEBRUARY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
02	03	04	05	06
			Special Education Advisory Committee 1:00 p.m.	
09	10	11	12	13
Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.				
16	17	18	19	20
			Indigenous Education Advisory Committee 3:30 p.m.	
23	24	25	26	27
Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.			Six Nations Advisory Committee 1:00 p.m.  Governance Committee 5:30 p.m.	



## Annual Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

**Present:** Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, B. Doyle, L. Passmore, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, E. Thomas, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton, Student Trustees: P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Associate Director: L. Munro Senior Manager R. Strang, Senior Executive Assistant C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Regrets:** Trustee S. Gibson

A - 1 **Opening  
(a) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Director Roberto, as Secretary of the Board, at 6:03 p.m.

(b) **Roll Call**

Director Roberto confirmed that roll call had been completed.

(c) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Trustee Passmore read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Selection of Slate of Officers for 2026**

(a) **Appointment of the Scrutineers**

R. Vankerrebroeck and J. White were appointed Scrutineers.

(b) **Method of Nominating**

Nominations for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the 2026 Board were made by email submission.

(c) **Nominations for Board Chair**

Trustee Waldschmidt nominated Trustee Doyle who accepted the nomination. Trustee Bradford and Trustee Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the Board 2026 be closed.

**Carried**

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.

Trustee Doyle was declared elected as Chair of the Board 2026.

Chair Doyle assumed the Chair.



## Annual Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

(d) **Nominations for Board Vice-Chair**

Trustee Doyle nominated Trustee Gibson who accepted the nomination. Trustee Waldschmidt nominated Trustee Whiton who accepted the nomination. Trustee Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board 2026 be closed.

**Carried**

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.

The Board vote resulted in a tie between Trustee Gibson and Trustee Whiton.

Ballots were redistributed, collected, and tabulated.

The second vote resulted in a tie. The tie was resolved by drawing straws in accordance with General Working Bylaw 2.3 (o).

Trustee Gibson was declared Vice-Chair of the Board 2026.

(g) **Motion to Destroy the Ballots**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

**Carried**

C - 1 **Presentation to the 2025 Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

On behalf of the Board, Director Roberto presented Vice-Chair Waldschmidt with a token and words of appreciation for both Chair Gibson and Vice-Chair Waldschmidt.

D - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Annual Board meeting be adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

**Carried**

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Chair B. Doyle

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Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

B-1-a-ii

7:15 p.m.

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton, Student Trustees: P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Associate Director: L. Munro Senior Manager R. Strang, Senior Executive Assistant C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Regrets:** Vice-Chair: S. Gibson

**Guest:** M. McNally, Millards

A - 1 **Opening (6:52 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Doyle confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:54 p.m.)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

**Carried**

(d) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Trustee Passmore read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Thanksgiving Address**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert read a Thanksgiving Address.

(f) **Call to Order**

Chair Doyle called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

(g) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

(h) **Memorial**

(i) Rob Petrella

The memorial of Rob Petrella was read by Trustee Thomas.

(i) **In-Camera Report**

The In-Camera report was presented when the Board reconvened at 9:35 p.m.



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Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

Moved by: R. Collver  
Seconded by: L. Whiton  
THAT Item D-1-c be approved.

**Carried**

(j) **Learn Lean Inspire Award**

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to two teachers at Onondaga Brant Elementary School. Robin Perry, a core French teacher, was recognized for going beyond the curriculum, fostering an inclusive learning environment, and demonstrating innovative, student-focused teaching. Christopher Bailey, whose visionary leadership in educational technology has revolutionized learning by ensuring students are engaged and equipped with the skills they need for a rapidly evolving world.

(k) **Student Showcase** - Nil

(l) **Delegation** – Nil

(m) **Chair's Address**

Chair Doyle presented his Inaugural address.

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board accept the November 24, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Regular Board meeting dated October 27, 2025

(b) Receive the minutes of

(i) Student Senate dated May 1, 2025

(ii) Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 4, 2025

(iii) Audit Committee dated September 11, 2025

(iv) Special Education Advisory Committee dated October 2, 2025

(c) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Simcoe County District School Board dated November 17, 2025

(d) Receive the:

(i) Director of Education Highlights

**Carried**

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Governance Committee Meeting Report dated November 10, 2025**

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the amendments to the Borrowing By-Law.

**Carried**



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

B-1-a-ii

7:15 p.m.

### MINUTES

(b) **Finance Committee Report dated November 10, 2025**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for Agnes G. Hodge Public School, Edith Monture Elementary School, Walter Gretzky Elementary School, and the new school boundary for Blanche E. Williams Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2026.

**Carried**

(c) **Audit Committee Meeting Report dated October 20, 2025**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the 2024-25 Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Carried**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2025.

**Carried**

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings – Nil**

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

(a) **Director's Report – November 2025**

Presented as published.

(b) **Director's Annual Report**

Presented as published.

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

(a) **OSTA-AECO Report**

Presented as printed.

G - 1 **New Business - Action / Information Items**

(a) **Trustees Expenses Report**

Presented as printed

(b) **Year End Report**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the use of operating reserves in the following manner:

- \$499,900 draw on the IT Reserve to enhance technology and software development
- \$75,029 draw on the Financial Software Reserve to complete the implementation of the platform





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7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

- \$209,848 draw on the Accumulated Surplus to support the Banbury Childcare Expansion Project

**Carried**

(c) **Reporting of Wrongdoing**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Borrowing Authorities**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board authorize the Signing Authorities to obtain loans at any one time up to a maximum of \$35,000,000 to cover current payrolls and general account payments, if required.

**Carried**

(e) **Trustee Committee Representation 2025-26**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the Committee Representation 2025-26.

**Carried**

H - 1 **OPSBA Report**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert provided information regarding the following:

- Bill 33 discussion including Community Support offices
- Reduction in OPSBA Board members
- December 18, 2025 Board of Directors meeting

The Board reconvened in-camera at 8:46 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and presented the in-camera report at 9:34 p.m.

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 9:37p.m.

**Carried**

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Chair B. Doyle

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Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### MINUTES

- Present:** Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: R. Collver, E. Thomas,  
Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman
- Administration:** Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Thompson, Principal  
Leader J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program  
Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar
- Absent with regrets:** Trustees: B. Doyle, L. Whiton Community Representatives: K. Kelly Local  
Organizations: C. Stefanelli, T. West
- Absent:** Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local  
Organizations: S. Jennions
- Visiting Trustees:** Trustee C.A. Sloat

#### A - 1 **Opening**

##### (a) **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Superintendent Thompson called the November 6, 2025 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

##### (b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

##### (c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: L. DeJong

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the November 6, 2025 agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

#### B - 1 **Timed Items**

##### (a) **Student Showcase**

Superintendent Thompson shared a video showcasing two Grand Erie students being presented with the Ignite Award, sponsored by LearnStyle.

##### (b) **SEAC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections**

L. DeJong was acclaimed as Chair of SEAC for 2025-26. K. Jones was acclaimed as Vice Chair of SEAC for 2025-26.

#### C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

##### (a) **Virtual Meeting Guidelines**

Superintendent Thompson reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines with SEAC members.



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday November 6, 2025

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

B-1-b-i

6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

(b) **SEAC Speaker Event**

The flyer was shared for the SEAC Speaker Event taking place on Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. This flyer will be promoted throughout Grand Erie. SEAC members are encouraged to send questions for the guest speakers to J. Valstar ahead of the event.

D - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: R. Collver

(a) Approve the Minutes of:

(i) SEAC meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2025

(ii) SEAC meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2025

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide**

Superintendent Graham shared Grand Erie's Grade 7-8 Pathways Planning Guide. It was clarified that this is an adaptable guide for the use of grade 7 and 8 students.

(b) **Special Education Plan Review – Standard 10 – Individual Education Plans**

L. Miedema reviewed Standard 10 of the Special Education Plan with SEAC members. There was discussion around eligibility and the process for initiating an Individual Education Plan (IEP), and the communication process with families. An IEP summary Resource Sheet created for use by educators & parents when IEP discussions are to occur was shared.

(c) **Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan – 2024-25 Update**

Superintendent Thompson presented an update on Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024-25.

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Policies out for comment**

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **System Updates**

Director Roberto shared the October 2025 Director's Report with SEAC members.

(e) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 **Community Updates**

P. Found shared an event called Creative Workforce Solutions Symposium being held Thursday November 27, 2025 at the Norfolk General Hospital.

H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

(a) Role of the System Staff



**B-1-b-i**

## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

**Thursday November 6, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### MINUTES

- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)
- (d) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (e) Skill Building and Hub Programs

#### I - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday December 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

#### J - 1 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### MINUTES

**Present:** Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, L. Passmore,  
Local Organizations: L. Campbell, C. Gilman

**Administration:** Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: K. Graham, L. Munro, L. Thompson, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

**Absent with regrets:** Trustee: T. Sault Community Representatives: K. Kelly, L. Nydam Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found

**Absent:** Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto Local Organizations: S. Jennions, C. Stefanelli, T. West

**Visiting Trustees:** Trustee C.A. Sloat

**A - 1 Opening**

**(a) Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair L. DeJong called the December 4, 2025 meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

**(c) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval - Nil**

**B - 1 Timed Items**

**(a) Secondary Program Review**

Superintendent Munro gave an update of the Secondary Program Review.

**C - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

**(a) SEAC Speaker Event**

Chari DeJong reminded SEAC members about the virtual Speaker Event being held this evening, Thursday December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

**(b) Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)**

Superintendent Thompson gave an overview of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education and their purpose.

**D - 1 Consent Agenda – Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting**

*THAT SEAC accept the November 6, 2025 consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.*

**(a) Approve the Minutes of:**

i. SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025

**(b) Receive the correspondence from:**

i. Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday December 4, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### MINUTES

#### E - 1 **New Business**

##### (a) **Appointment to SEAC**

*"That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC and the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval."*

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting

##### (b) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board's General Model for Special Education**

Deferred to the January 8, 2026 meeting.

#### F - 1 **Information Items**

##### (a) **Policies out for comment**

- (i) [Community Planning and Facility Partnership \(FA-11\)](#)
- (ii) [Community Use of Schools \(FA-04\)](#)
- (iii) [Conflict of Interest Related to hiring Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees \(HR-07\)](#)
- (iv) [Emergency Planning \(SO-05\)](#)
- (v) [Fundraising \(SO-01\)](#)
- (vi) [Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour \(HR-05\)](#)
- (vii) [Health and Safety \(HS-01\)](#)
- (viii) [Student Expulsions \(SO-07\)](#)
- (ix) [Student Suspension \(SO-06\)](#)
- (x) [Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media \(IT-04\)](#)

##### (b) **Family Math Newsletters**

##### (c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

##### (d) **System Updates**

Superintendent Graham shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan Final report 2024-25. Superintendent Thompson shared the Annual Learning and Operating Plan 2025-26

##### (e) **Director's Update**

##### (f) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

#### G - 1 **Community Updates**

Chair DeJong shared two updates from the Rick Hansen Foundation.

#### H - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

- (a) Role of the System Staff
- (b) PAAC on SEAC website
- (c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- (d) Skill Building and Hub Programs



**B-1-b-ii**

## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

**Thursday December 4, 2025**

**1:00 p.m.**

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### MINUTES

**I - 1 Next Meeting**

Thursday January 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

**J - 1 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### REPORT

**Present:**

Chair: L. DeJong Vice Chair: K. Jones Trustees: E. Thomas, T. Sault Local Organizations: L. Campbell, P. Found, C. Gilman, N. Schween, T. West Community Representatives:

**Administration:**

Director J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, System Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor H. Knill, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

**Absent with regrets:** Superintendent L. Thompson

**Absent:**

Community Representatives: G. Ianniruberto, L. Nydam Local Organizations: S. Jennions,

**Visiting Trustees:** Trustee C.A. Sloat

**A - 1 Opening**

**(a) Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair L. DeJong called the January 8, 2026 meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

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

Move: E-1 (a) to E-1 (b)

Add: E-1 (a): Departure of SEAC member

G-1 (b): Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the January 8, 2026 agenda be approved as amended

**Carried**

**B - 1 Timed Items**

**(a) Wellness Kits**

Superintendent Atanas presented Grand Erie's new Wellness Kits for schools.

**C - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

**(a) SEAC Speaker Event 2025**

Chair DeJong gave an overview of the SEAC Speaker Event that took place December 4, 2025.





## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### REPORT

(b) **SEAC Speaker Event 2026**

Chair DeJong asked SEAC members to start thinking about the 2026 Speaker Event, which will take place in December 2026. The topic and presenter must be finalized by March 2026. SEAC members are encouraged to send suggestions to J. Valstar. Superintendent Graham advised members to think about the message in addition to the presenter and topic.

(c) **SEAC Orientation Handbook**

The SEAC Orientation Handbook was reviewed with members. Chair DeJong encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the Handbook. Any comments or suggestions can be sent to J. Valstar.

D - 1 **Consent Agenda**

*"THAT SEAC accept the January 8, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."*

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: L. Campbell

(a) Approve the Minutes of:

- i. SEAC meeting Minutes dated November 6, 2025
- ii. SEAC meeting Minutes dated December 4 2025

(b) Receive the correspondence from:

- i. Durham District School Board dated October 29, 2025

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Departure of SEAC Members**

Chair DeJong announced the departure from SEAC of members Katie Kelly and Cathy Stefanelli.

(b) **Appointment to SEAC**

*"That the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval."*

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: C. Gilman

**Carried**

(c) **Special Education Plan – Standard 2 – The Board's General Model for Special Education**

System Leader J. Senior shared the updates to Standard 2 from the Special Education Plan. SEAC members were encouraged to send comments and suggestions to J. Valstar.



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Thursday January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Board Room / MS Teams

### REPORT

#### F - 1 Information Items

(a) **Policies out for comment** - Nil

(b) **Family Math Newsletters**

(c) **Family Literacy Newsletter**

(d) **Director's Update**

Director Roberto presented the Director's Update to SEAC members.

(e) **Chair / Vice-Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

#### G - 1 Community Updates

(a) **Creative Workforce Symposium – Norfolk**

P. Found and System Leader J. Senior shared an update and a video on the Creative Work Symposium in Norfolk.

(b) **Contact Brant: FASD Training – Decoding Aggression, Complex Behaviour and Brain-Based Disabilities**

L. Campbell shared information about a free virtual session being held on January 23, 2026 by Contact Brant.

#### H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) Role of the System Staff

(b) Student and Family Support Offices

(c) ODEN presentation – Specialized Services Transition Navigator

(d) Skill Building and Hub Programs

(e) Behaviour Support and Safety Plans

(f) The Right to Read – Early Literacy Intervention

#### I - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in the Board Room with a virtual option.

#### J - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

**Carried**



## Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

### REPORT

**Present:** Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: S. Gibson, L. Passmore, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Associate Director: L. Munro Senior Manager: R. Strang, Senior Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Guest:** Chloe Bedard, Manager of System Research

**A - 1 Opening  
(a) Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Doyle at 6:32 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

**(c) Welcome /Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**B - 1 Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

**Carried**

**C - 1 Consent Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept January 12, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated October 20, 2025

**Carried**

**D - 1 Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings - Nil**

**E - 1 New Business - Program**

**(a) Annual Learning and Operating Plan (ALOP) Research Goal**

Presented as printed.

**(b) Annual Learning and Operating Plan (ALOP) 4-Year Summary**

A five-year summary will be presented in the fall 2026.

**(c) Education, Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Results 2024-25 and Graduation Data**

Presented as printed.



## Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

### REPORT

- (d) **Curriculum Updates Report**  
Presented as printed.  
Trustees will have an opportunity to review the financial literacy modules once released by the Ministry of Education.
- (e) **Innovation Hub 2024-25 Evaluation Results**  
Presented as printed.
- (f) **Technology and Innovation Hub Update**  
Presented as printed.
- (g) **Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) 2024-25**  
Presented as printed.
- (h) **Safe and Accepting Schools Report 2024-25 - Suspensions, Expulsions and Exclusions**  
Presented as printed.
- (i) **Health and Safety Annual Report 2024-25**  
Presented as printed.
- (j) **Draft School Year Calendars 2026-27**  
Moved by: S. Gibson  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the draft School Year Calendars 2026-27 be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.  
**Carried**
- F - 1 **New Business – Policy**
  - (a) Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05)  
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt  
Seconded by: S. Gibson  
THAT the Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.  
**Carried**
  - (b) Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04)  
Moved by: S. Gibson  
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
THAT the Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.  
**Carried**
  - (c) Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07)  
Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt



## Policy and Program Committee

**Monday, January 12, 2026**

**6:30 p.m.**

Boardroom, Education Centre

### REPORT

THAT the Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

- (d) Harassment/Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05)  
Moved by: S. Gibson  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the Harassment/Objectionable Policy (HR-05) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

- (e) Health & Safety Policy (HS-01)  
Moved by: T. Waldschmidt  
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
THAT the Health & Safety Policy (HS-01) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

- (f) Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11)  
Moved by: S. Gibson  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

- (g) Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04)  
Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

- (h) Fundraising Policy (SO-01)  
Moved by: S. Gibson  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the Fundraising Policy (SO-01) be forwarded to the January 26, 2026 Regular Board meeting for approval.

**Carried**

#### G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt  
THAT the Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**Carried**

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** March 9, 2026



# POLICY

# SO-05

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Education, Safe and Inclusive Schools	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2019/10/28
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/06/26	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2026/06/30

### Objective:

To provide a safe and secure environment for all students, employees, and visitors through an emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plan.

### Policy Statement:

Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools and facilities must conduct practice drills related to emergency preparedness for Lockdown, Hold and Secure, Shelter in Place, evacuation and/or fire safety. School and facility emergency planning is an essential part of a commitment to safety.

### Reference(s):

- Emergency Planning Procedure (SO-005)



# POLICY

# IT-04

## USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Education, Information Technology Services	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2018/05/28
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2022/10/17	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2025/11/25

### Objective:

To support appropriate, safe and secure two-way communication between Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools and departments and their communities (employee(s), students, parent(s)/caregiver(s), by providing guidelines for effective electronic communication to support building a culture of learning, well-being and belonging.

### Policy Statement:

Grand Erie encourages schools and departments to communicate information and activities by developing and maintaining appropriate communications channels and tools in consultation with all departments.

Grand Erie recognizes the changing nature of technology and continues to work to remain current while providing employee(s) with increased opportunities to develop and implement new technologies and applications.

### Reference(s):

- Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media Procedure (IT-004)
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy (IT-01)
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Procedure (IT-001)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- Ontario College of Teachers – Professional Advisory: Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media
- Website Requirements Procedure (IT-005)



# POLICY

# HR-07

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST RELATED TO HIRING, SELECTION, PROMOTION AND EVALUATION OF EMPLOYEES

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Human Resources	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2021/06/01
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/06/26	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2026/12/01

### Objective:

To define and provide clear guidelines to address potential, apparent, and actual conflicts of interest when fulfilling hiring, selection, promotion, and evaluation of an employee(s).

### Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to advancement in qualifications, merit, and principles of equity. This is intended to facilitate an employee's ability to maintain the highest business and ethical standards, and to facilitate the protection of the integrity of an employee(s) in the course of their hiring and supervision responsibilities to Grand Erie.

### Reference(s):

- Conflict of Interest related to Hiring Selection Promotion Procedure (HR-007)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Procedure (SO-014)
- Ministry of Education School board teacher hiring practices policy (PPM 165)
- Progressive Discipline Procedure (HR-018)





# POLICY

# HR-05

## HARASSMENT AND OBJECTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Human Resources	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2020/01/27
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/06/26	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2026/06/30

### Objective:

To ensure and maintain respectful working and learning environments that are free from workplace harassment and objectionable behaviour.

### Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to providing a working and learning environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Beyond the provisions of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, every individual has an equal right to learn and work in an environment that is free from harassment and objectionable behaviour.

Grand Erie will not tolerate harassment or objectionable behaviour from any person in the workplace. All incidents and complaints of workplace harassment or objectionable behaviour must be reported by employee(s) and will be dealt with.

### Reference(s):

- Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour Procedure (HR-005)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (SO-10)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Procedure (SO-010)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1](#)
- Progressive Discipline Procedure (HR-018)
- Workplace Violence Policy (HS-02)
- Workplace Violence Procedure (HS-002)



# POLICY

# HS-01

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Human Resources	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2020/01/27
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/06/26	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2026/12/01

### Objective:

To ensure a safe, healthy, and accident-free working and learning environment, all employees, students, and non-board personnel must comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, relevant codes, safety standards, and practices.

### Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and healthy workplace and learning environment for all employees, students, volunteers, visitors, and contractors. Grand Erie is committed to preventing occupational illness and injury in the workplace, continually improving health and safety practices and performance in compliance with the *OHSA*, relevant codes, safety standards and practices.

Grand Erie will make every reasonable effort to provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environment. Grand Erie's employee(s) must all be committed to reducing the risk of injury in the workplace.

In accordance with the *OHSA*, this policy shall be reviewed annually by the employer, in conjunction with the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) of Grand Erie.

### Reference(s):

- Health and Safety Procedure (HS-001)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)
- Terms of Reference for the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee



# POLICY

# FA-11

## COMMUNITY PLANNING AND FACILITY PARTNERSHIP

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2011/01/31
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/04/24	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2027/02/23

### Objective:

To support and provide direction to achieve the board's overall accommodation and partnership strategies while considering Grand Erie District Schools Board's (Grand Erie) mission, vision and Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

### Policy Statement:

Grand Erie supports and encourages cooperative and collaborative partnerships for shared use of facilities. Grand Erie is committed to engaging community partners in planning to share facilities to the benefit of the board, students, and community, and to optimize the public use of assets owned by Grand Erie.

- 1.0 Facilities that have space considered suitable for a partnership opportunity will be identified and an annual report shall be made to the Board of Trustees to approve the facilities for potential partnerships, if required.
- 2.0 If identified space is both suitable for facility partnerships and is available for the long-term, Board of Trustees will declare the space surplus and circulate the space for lease through *Ontario Reg. 374/23*.

### Reference(s):

- Community Planning and Facility Partnership Procedure (FA-011)
- [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2](#)
- Multi-Year Strategic Plan
- Ontario Regulation 374/23



# POLICY

# FA-04

## COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2006/05/29
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/04/24	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2027/02/23

### Objective:

To ensure that the public has access to Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) facilities and spaces, where possible, outside instructional times for non-school sponsored events.

### Policy Statement:

Grand Erie is committed to supporting its communities by making board facilities available to the public and supports a Community Use of Schools Program that fosters partnerships and community relationships.

### Reference(s):

- Community Use of Schools Procedure (FA-004)
- Community Use of Schools Handbook (FA-04-R)
- Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Policy (SO-33)
- Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Procedure (SO-033)
- [Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019](#)
- [Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017](#)



# POLICY

# SO-01

## FUNDRAISING

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Business & Treasurer	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2006/11/27
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2025/03/24	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2029/03/26

### Objective:

To support Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools with guidelines for fundraising activities that support student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being, belonging, and experiences.

### Policy Statement:

Grand Erie endorses fundraising opportunities and outcomes that provide educational value for students, and are approved, supervised, and at the discretion of the Administrator(s). All fundraising activities must align with the principles of public education including diversity, accessibility, equity, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity.

### Reference(s):

- Fundraising Procedure (SO-001)
- Capital Related Fundraising Policy (BU-03)
- Capital Related Fundraising Procedure (BU-003)
- Community Use of School Facilities Policy (FA-04)
- Community Use of School Facilities Procedure (FA-004)
- Community Use of School Facilities Handbook (FA-04-R)
- Disposal of Surplus, Damaged or Obsolete Furnishings and Equipment Procedure (FA-021)
- Purchasing Policy (BU-06)
- Purchasing Procedure (BU-006)
- School Councils Policy (SO-02)



# Grand Erie District School Board

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**TO:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board

**FROM:** P. Singh - Student Trustee – North  
R. Staats – Student Trustee – Indigenous  
H. Thompson– Student Trustee – South

**RE:** **Student Senate Report**

**DATE:** January 26, 2026

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## Background

The Student Trustees held their inaugural senate meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at Hagersville Secondary School. The event brought together Student Senators from across Grand Erie to engage in meaningful dialogue, collaborate in working groups, and elevate student voice on key issues affecting schools throughout the board. The meeting emphasized equity, inclusion, and student engagement, while providing space for students to share experiences from their respective school communities.

The day began with student arrival and check-in, followed by opening remarks and a Land Acknowledgement delivered by Student Trustee Thompson. Student Trustees then welcomed all participants, reviewed the agenda, approved the minutes from the May 1, 2025, meeting, and provided an overview of the working groups. The meeting transitioned into district caucus sessions, where Student Trustees facilitated introductions and guided discussion to ensure student perspectives were meaningfully shared.

Student Trustee Singh led the north region caucus (Brant – Brantford), where students discussed priorities for the board for the upcoming year. During this session, students were presented with a slide deck outlining current board initiatives, updates, and future plans. The caucus focused on sharing challenges experienced at each school and proposing possible solutions, allowing students to openly contribute their perspectives and ensure their voices can be reflected in board-level discussions later on.

Student Trustee Singh also led the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group. The session began with introductions and a discussion on what equity, diversity, and inclusion mean to senators. The group explored the importance of recognizing diversity, ensuring equitable access to opportunities, and fostering inclusive environments where all students feel valued and respected. Senators then broke into groups to discuss what is currently happening, and what is not happening, in their schools related to EDI.

Participants shared examples of positive initiatives, including Indigenous student associations, Pride clubs, wellness-focused student groups, inclusive athletic programming, caring cupboards, cultural clubs, and school-wide events that promote awareness and support. Students also identified gaps, such as the need for more inclusive holiday celebrations, increased representation of diverse cultures and religions, expanded extracurricular opportunities focused on equity, and greater awareness of EDI initiatives within schools.

The working group reconvened to discuss possible solutions, including increasing inclusive programming, improving communication around available supports, addressing issues such as bathroom vandalism and vaping through more effective prevention strategies, and ensuring that equity-focused policies are applied consistently.

Student Trustee Staats led the United Indigenous Students Council. The meeting began with introductions, where students shared their names, schools, and Nations to acknowledge identity and community.

After introductions, members discussed various initiatives and activities that their Indigenous Students' Association are doing at their schools have been involved in, highlighting efforts to support Indigenous culture, awareness, and student leadership. The meeting created a respectful space for connection, collaboration, and sharing ideas across schools.

Student Trustee Staats then facilitated the Student Senate Working Group on Student Voice, where senators engaged in detailed discussions regarding the meaning of student voice and how it is currently reflected within their schools. Senators described student voice as the ability for students to share their ideas, concerns, and perspectives in meaningful ways, and to feel heard and respected by peers, staff, and administration. Students emphasized that student voice plays a key role in fostering inclusive, safe, and healthy school environments and supports a stronger sense of belonging within school communities.

During the working group discussion, senators shared examples of how schools are currently supporting student voice. These included the work of Student Councils in representing student interests, the use of suggestion boxes and QR code feedback systems to collect student input, and student-led advocacy efforts that have resulted in tangible outcomes. Equity and cultural representation were also discussed, with specific reference to the presence of Every Child Matters flags at certain schools as visible symbols of inclusion and advocacy, as well as ongoing efforts to introduce similar representation at additional schools.

Senators also discussed outreach and engagement initiatives that extend student voice beyond secondary schools. This included student-led workshops with elementary students, which were identified as valuable opportunities to encourage early engagement, leadership development, and awareness of student voice from a younger age. These initiatives were seen as effective in building connections across school communities and fostering a culture of participation.

Communication was identified as a key area for improvement, with students expressing a desire for more consistent use of emails, meetings, and formal consultation opportunities to share information and gather feedback. Senators also discussed the importance of consistent and fair application of progressive discipline when discrimination occurs, noting that timely and transparent responses are essential to maintaining trust and safety within schools.

Throughout the discussion, the creation of inclusive and supportive spaces was emphasized. Senators shared that students are more likely to engage when they feel seen, heard, and valued, particularly students from historically marginalized communities. From an Indigenous student trustee perspective, Trustee Staats emphasized the importance of culturally safe approaches to student voice that respect Indigenous identity, lived experiences, and ways of knowing, and that ensure Indigenous students have meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

Student Trustee Thompson ran the learning caucus for the south region, (Haldimand-Norfolk). In this session, she introduced a presentation sent by the health unit which examined the survey being sent out to all grade ten students in early December. Another PowerPoint on the initiatives and goals for the coming year in Grand Erie was presented. Senators were given the opportunity to discuss improvement areas specific to their schools. Student Trustee Thompson led the discussion on potential solutions and composed a document which summarized the key points and emailed it out to all members of this Learning Caucus.

Student Trustee Thompson also had a mental health and well-being working group separate from the Learning Caucus. It began by reflecting on what the senators consciously do for their mental wellness every day. An infographic containing support resources for mental health in all regions across Grand Erie as well as specific situations such as support in school or support for victims of assault or gender-based violence, was distributed to the senators. Many planned to use this resource by adding it to the main information board by their school office or by copying it and having it put up in homerooms. The conversation shifted to how to avoid burnout as a student, all senators suggested points that worked for them personally, and Student Trustee Thompson had other strategies prepared from information she received at the OSTA AECO Fall General Meeting. The last topic of discussion in the working group was what the senators wanted to focus on in terms of mental health and well-being for the school year. Improvement areas were identified alongside potential solutions.

Following the working groups, students participated in a roundtable discussion and lunch before attending the keynote address by Stacey Laforme. The presentation offered meaningful reflection and learning, reinforcing the importance of identity, community, and student voice within education. The event concluded with closing remarks and student departure back to their home schools.

The Student Senate meeting was a productive and engaging opportunity for students to share experiences, identify challenges, and collaborate on solutions that promote equity, inclusion, and well-being across Grand Erie. The feedback and connections established throughout the day will continue to inform the work of the Student Trustees and Student Senate moving forward.

In addition, the Student Trustees collaborated with board administration on a gift basket initiative to support a family in need. Each Student Trustee worked with their school principal to identify a family who could benefit and assisted in planning the purchase of items based on family needs. This initiative reflected the Student Trustees' commitment to equity, care, and community support.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Singh - Student Trustee – North  
R. Staats – Student Trustee – Indigenous  
H. Thompson – Student Trustee – South





# Grand Erie District School Board

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**TO:** Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board  
**FROM:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board  
**RE:** **Strategic Plan Update 2026-2030**  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026

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**Update:**

Further to the October report, the Grand Erie District School Board's Strategic Plan Special Ad Hoc Committee has been comprised of the following trustees:

- Chair Doyle
- Vice-Chair Gibson
- Trustee Passmore
- Trustee Sault
- Trustee Thomas
- Trustee VanEvery-Albert
- Trustee Waldschmidt

The committee will work in-between and share updates to the Board of Trustees.

**Purpose**

The scope of the Strategic Planning work is focused on a refresh of **Learning, Well-Being, and Belonging** as the core pillars, while modernizing language with an emphasis to reflect future-ready learning, innovation, and evolving societal contexts.

**Guiding Principles**

- The launch of the renewed Strategic Plan will ensure that everyone's thoughts are considered in the spirit of collaboration.
- System engagement is valued and accessible.

**Phase 1: Focus Group Engagement****Overview**

- Mixed-format focus group approach
- A district-wide survey
- Approximately **100** participants
- Multiple session options in **March- April**:
  - During the school day
  - After school / evening
  - Optional virtual session if required for access
  - The invite will include participation dates and times

**Phase 2: District-Wide Survey****Purpose:**

- Broaden participation in **March-April**

**Timing:**

Released immediately following focus groups to ensure alignment and momentum.

**Phase 3: Synthesis of Data****Actions:**

- Focus group and survey findings are synthesized together
- A summary report is shared to all focus group participants and the Board of Trustees

**Phase 4: Draft Plan Development****Process:**

- Synthesize findings into a draft plan
  - Confirm Mission and Vision
  - Review priorities, define values, and graduate profile
  - Clear line of sight to reflect future-ready learning

**Phase 5: Participant & Board of Trustee Review****Participant Validation:**

- Draft shared with focus group participants
- Invitation for final input

**Trustee Review:**

- Draft presented to Trustees **April 27- May 25**

**Phase 6: Finalization & Celebration**

- Acknowledge the contributions and commitment to equipping learners with the skills, confidence, and adaptability needed to navigate opportunity and contribute meaningfully to an evolving world, while honouring the foundation already in place while intentionally building toward what comes next.
- Final Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Trustees **June 22**
- Culminating unveiling and celebration of the Strategic Plan - “everyone has a piece of our future”

The launch of the renewed Strategic Plan will ensure that everyone’s thoughts are considered in the spirit of collaboration.

**Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan**

This report is connected to all priorities: Learning, Well-being, and Belonging.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto Ph.D.  
Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board



# Grand Erie District School Board

**TO:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education, CEO & Secretary of the Board  
**FROM:** Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer  
**RE:** **Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member**  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026

**Recommended Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
THAT the Board approve the re-appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2029.

## Background

*Ontario Regulation 361/10* made under the *Education Act* requires every board to establish an Audit Committee.

Under *Ontario Regulation 361/10*, the term of office of a member of the audit committee who is not a board member shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed three years. Non-board members may be reappointed no more than two terms.

The current non-board member term of Ed Hodgins expires January 31, 2026 and the member wishes to continue for an additional three-year term as permitted by the regulation.

Mr. Hodgins' reappointment as a non-board audit committee member for the upcoming three-year term, ending January 31, 2029, would provide strong continuity and represent a sound and strategic decision for the Audit Committee.

The other non-board committee member, Atit Thakker, is in the final year of their first term on the Audit Committee which expires September 30, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer