



Special Policy and Program Committee Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026

6:15 p.m.

MS Teams

AGENDA

A - 1 **Opening
Call to Order**

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) Welcome/Land Acknowledgement

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.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

"THAT the Special Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved."

C - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept the February 23, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."

- * (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated January 12, 2026

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

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

- * (a) Alternative Education Programming Updates (K. Graham, L. Munro, R. Vankerrebroeck) (I)

F - 1 **New Business - Policy**

G - 1 **Adjournment**

"THAT the Special Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned."

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date: March 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, January 12, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Education Centre

MINUTES

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.



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- (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

MINUTES

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



Grand Erie District School Board

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

FROM: Kevin Graham, Superintendent of Education
Lisa Munro, Associate Director of Curriculum & Student Achievement
Regan Vankerrebroeck, Superintendent of Education

RE: **Alternative Education Programming Updates**

DATE: February 23, 2026

Background

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) is committed to providing responsive, equitable, and innovative educational opportunities for all students. Recently, Grand Erie has undertaken a comprehensive review of secondary programs, guided by the principles outlined in the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) and informed by stakeholder consultation. This process has highlighted the evolving needs of students who face barriers to success in traditional secondary settings, including challenges related to absenteeism, mental health, and family circumstances.

Historically, students in Grand Erie experiencing difficulties in a regular secondary school program have been provided with the opportunity to attend alternative learning programming at either Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) Day School in Brantford or one of the regional Turning Point (TP) sites. These programs have provided flexible pathways and individualized support but have also revealed the need for greater coherence, consistency, and equity of access across the district.

In September 2025, the following program decision regarding Alternative Education was shared with trustees:

Effective September 2026, a single Grand Erie Learning Alternative Education Program will be offered across the district, with locations in all counties as well as the City of Brantford.

Alternative Education Programming

The program decision to have a single Grand Erie Learning Alternative Education Program available in all counties and the City of Brantford, ensures that students in Grades 9–12+ have access to a continuum of supports from in-school interventions to system-based programming. This inclusive model is designed to maximize student engagement, credit accumulation, and opportunities for co-operative education, while fostering a sense of belonging and connection to the broader school community.

Tier 1: In-School Courses and Supports

- Grades 9 - 12+
- Students have full timetables
- Students receive supports from school and system staff

Tier 2: School-Based Alternative Education

- Grades 9 - 12+
- Alternate classroom for students behind in credits and experiencing difficulty with a regular class setting
- Students receive supports from school and system staff

Tier 3: System-Based Alternative Education

- Alternative classroom for Grade 11 - 12+ students for whom School-Based Alternative Education was not successful
- Supported by the School Team, student and family
- Centralized application process
- Students participate in face-to-face and online courses every day as well as co-op education placements, where appropriate
- Student placements will be reviewed on a regular basis to determine if/when a return to school-based programming is appropriate

In-School Alternative Education Programming

Students in all grades, and in particular in Grades 9 and 10, can be supported within the school through a variety of strategies employed by school-based staff.

For the 2026-27 school year in-school alternative education programs will be offered in most secondary schools. By providing students with alternative education directly within secondary school communities, students will have access to a wide range of courses not available previously (e.g. arts, technology, physical education, etc.) and opportunities to be a part of school-based teams and clubs. School and system supports will be responsive and flexible to meet the needs of each learner and their graduation goals.

System Alternative Education Programming

Student access to System Alternative Education programming will be considered for students in Grades 11-12+.

A standardized process for accessing system alternative education programs will be issued. The intake process includes homeschool, the Administrator, support staff, system staff, student and family input prior to a student being considered for Alternative Education program.

System alternative education programs will run all day, every day, as well as online course offerings and co-op.

Program Sites

Site locations have been selected based on historical enrolment and are supported by transportation routes to designated school sites: home school, French Immersion and Technology Hubs. Effective September 2026, alternative education programs will be located at Brantford Collegiate Institute, Cayuga Secondary, McKinnon Park, North Park Collegiate, Pauline Johnson Collegiate, Simcoe Composite, the Rawdon Street site and one offsite classroom in Paris.

Summary

Programming changes for alternative education will be responsive to student needs while providing them with optimal educational opportunities. This inclusive model provides equity of access to system alternative education across the district. The board will continue to work collaboratively with staff, students, and families to ensure a smooth transition and to uphold the highest standards of program integrity and student success.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports all indicators of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we will, together, build a culture of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging to inspire each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Graham, Superintendent of Education
Lisa Munro, Associate Director of Curriculum & Student Achievement
Regan Vankerbroeck, Superintendent of Education