



*Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Board Room*

## Committee of the Whole Meeting | March 9, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>

### Student Showcase:

#### Stedman Prize Winners

This group of promising young writers did Grand Erie proud at the Laurier Stedman Prize awards for creative fiction last month. The biennial competition, which is run by Wilfrid Laurier University's Faculty of Liberal Arts' English program, is one of the largest prizes awarded to secondary school students honouring outstanding achievements in creative writing.



The six students from three Grand Erie secondary schools who were recognized in the first-place, third-place and runners-up categories submitted works with incredible depth, exploring subjects and themes with wisdom, maturity, and artistry.

Congratulations to Sovai DiVeto (*third from right*), Stephanie Pugh (*third from left*) and first-place overall winner Samiha Sanjida of Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Cassidie Kent (*second from right*) and Sam Earls of Waterford District High School as well as Chloe Schaefer of Paris District High School. Each of these students is testament to [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#), *Success for Every Student*, and its Achievement indicator, reflecting the high expectations set for students and staff.



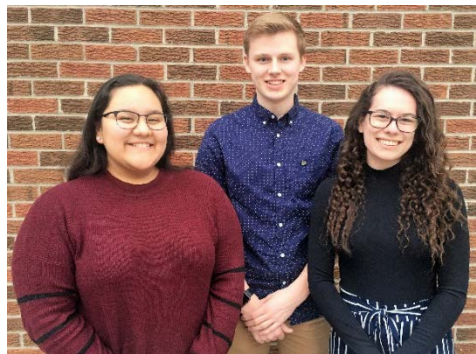
### Haldimand-Norfolk Secondary French Immersion Program Update

In May 2019, a final report on the location of Grand Erie's Secondary French Immersion program in Haldimand-Norfolk was approved by Trustees. The report outlined that beginning in September 2020, Burford District Elementary School/Paris Central Public School students would attend

the existing Secondary French Immersion program at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School. It also outlined that students from Caledonia Centennial Public School, River Heights School, Lakewood Elementary School and Walsh Public School would attend a new Secondary French Immersion program at Simcoe Composite School beginning in September 2020.

Preliminary enrolment for French Immersion at Simcoe Composite School in 2020-21 now sits at approximately 13 students. Given the low number of students, uncertainty around class size caps, and the general decline of secondary school enrolment, Senior Administration recommended that Grand Erie explore changing the program designation to Extended French (seven credits) from French Immersion (10 credits). Following discussion of the report, Trustees agreed with this recommendation and directed Senior Administration to move forward.

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." It also supports the Equity indicator of *Success for Every Student* through the following statement: "We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included. To read the report, see pages 3-4 here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>.



### Student Trustee Selection for 2020-21

Grand Erie's Student Trustees for the 2020-21 school year were announced on Monday at the Board meeting. Current Student Trustees Zachary Garbaty (North Park Collegiate and Vocational Institute) and la'teieka:nereh Doxtader-Swamp (McKinnon Park Secondary School) will return for their second straight year. Garbaty (*middle*) represents students from the North (Brantford and Brant County), while Doxtader-Swamp (*left*) represents Indigenous students across the board. Garbaty and Doxtader-Swamp will be joined by Ava Burtis (*right*) from McKinnon Park Secondary School will represent students from the South (Haldimand and Norfolk).

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff." This report also supports the Equity indicator and the following statement: "We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included." To read the report, see pages 29-30 here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>.

### Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2020-21

Across Grand Erie, self-contained classrooms have been established to provide alternative options for students in which the most enabling environments are smaller classroom settings and a higher staff-to-student ratio. Self-contained classrooms provide learning environments that are positive, inclusive, and foster student independence and well-being for those unable to access grade-level curriculum in traditional classroom settings.

On Monday, Trustees recommended for approval the number and locations of self-contained classrooms for the 2020-21 school year, pending budget deliberations. This report supports both the Achievement and Well-Being indicators of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan. It meets the following Achievement goal: "We will increase understanding of effective literacy and numeracy instruction that is differentiated to meet student need." It also supports the following Well-Being goal: "We will create and promote enabling environments where all students can participate fully in their education." For the full report, see pages 5-12 here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>.

### Student Transportation Services Reports

Trustees received two reports from Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN), the consortium responsible for transporting most of Grand Erie's students.

The first report, which Trustees recommended for approval, was the Board Approved Transportation Review. This report outlines the transportation exceptions for 2020-21. Route

exceptions cover students who fall outside the defined transportation eligibility parameters outlined in STSBHN Procedure 002. These exceptions, which are revisited annually, include Out-of-Boundary Students and Out-of-District Students. To review the report, see pages 13-22 here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>.

The second report, which was received as information, was STSBHN's Annual Report. To review the report, see pages 23-28 here: <https://bit.ly/39vu8vP>. Both reports support the Achievement indicator of *Success for Every Student* and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff; We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes."

## Trustees Acknowledge Job Action and Thank Staff

Board chair Greg Anderson took a moment during Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting to acknowledge the overwhelming number of emails Trustees have received to date from Grand Erie staff as a result of ongoing job action. Chair Anderson noted that while he and the rest of the Trustees were unable to respond to them, he did think that everyone involved wanted a fair and equitable deal so that we can all move forward together. He also said that Grand Erie Teachers and Support Staff do a fantastic job for students on a day-to-day basis and have a positive impact on so many lives in our school communities.



Vice-Chair Rita Collver also took a moment to thank Grand Erie's Principals, Vice Principals and the Senior Administration team for their tremendous efforts during job action. She noted this was a challenging time for all involved and congratulated them on their work to keep the needs of students top of mind and for always ensuring student safety and well-being.

## Additional Items

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**Trustees also received the following reports:**

- Director's Report
- Information Technology Services Annual Report
- OPSBA Report

**The following Procedure was recommended for approval:**

- FT105 Playground Equipment

**The following Policies and Procedures will be sent out for comment:**

- FT9 Transition Committee
- HR111 Personal Protective Footwear
- HR119 Progressive Discipline
- SO113 Extreme Weather Guidelines

## Multi-Year Plan Stories

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In 2016, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

### Community

- Special Education Classes Set Fundraising Record for Tollgate Technological Skills Centre
  - <https://bit.ly/2VXDPzj>

### Environment

- Back on Track, Thanks to Lakewood Elementary School and the Norfolk Community
  - <https://bit.ly/2VtgyES>

### Equity

- Grand Erie Delves into Student Census Data to Address Factors Affecting School Experiences
  - <https://bit.ly/2VvYJ88>

*Success for Every Student*