



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

## Regular Board Meeting | March 30, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2Und0D7>



### Grand Erie Board Meeting Seen Live on YouTube

With all schools and board facility sites closed across the province due to COVID-19, Grand Erie's Regular Board Meeting on Monday night looked a bit different. The meeting was held online, with Trustees and Senior Administration using the Microsoft Teams platform to keep the business of the board moving forward. The meeting was also broadcast live on YouTube (Find the link here:

<https://bit.ly/2UrHd45>). Using

online tools, such as Microsoft Teams, is a way for Trustees to showcase their focus on the Technology indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and its focus on providing "up-to-date technology infrastructure that meets the needs of classrooms, administration and departments," as well as increasing staff knowledge of "the technology available for teaching, learning and workplace applications."

### COVID-19 Updates from Director Blancher

Director of Education Brenda Blancher provided the following COVID-19 related information to Trustees as part of her Director's Update on Monday night:

#### Continuity of Learning for Students:

Grand Erie's Elementary and Secondary Program teams are developing plans in anticipation of an extension to the school closure order announced by the Minister of Education earlier this month. Province-wide, a Ministry Working Table of Directors is also looking at this.

While there are still a number of issues to be resolved – including access to the internet and online tools, resources and devices for students – Grand Erie teachers are already reaching out to families to determine what learning resources and technologies exist within each student's home so that the board will know how to best support students moving forward. More details on the Continuity of Learning for students will be shared with Grand Erie families once direction is provided by the Ministry of Education and the province.

### School Nutrition Programs:

Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Nutrition Network and Brant Food for Thought have asked that any resources left at Grand Erie schools related to either food program be taken to the nearest food bank. This includes food items, gift cards and some food vouchers.

### Personal Protective Equipment and Other Supplies for Frontline Workers:

Last week, school boards across the province were asked by the Ministry of Education to create an inventory of what items they had centrally that could be used by frontline workers. Supplies such as hand sanitizer and cleaning products were submitted. The goal was to reallocated supplies where they were needed most across the province.

Items such as gloves were not asked for at the time as the type of glove schools use are not medical grade. Since the global shortage, however, there has been a reconsideration and Grand Erie is following up with the local health units to determine their needs. If non-medical gloves can be used by frontline staff, Grand Erie will gladly provide them.

### Mid-Year Update: Grand Erie's 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan: *Success for Every Student*

At the October 28, 2019 Board Meeting, Grand Erie's 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan was presented. The Student Achievement Plan focuses on the goals outlined in the Board's Multi-Year Plan and the Mathematics Achievement Strategy goals. Find the 2019-20 plan here: <https://bit.ly/2HdVY2Z>. The Student Achievement Plan is designed to include all students and is reflective of their journey from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Identifying the links between what the board does and how it does it, the Plan demonstrates the cyclical nature of school improvement and aligns with Grand Erie's focus on a multidisciplinary system and school-based teams approach.



On Monday, Trustees were presented with the Mid-Year Review of the 2019-20 Student Achievement Plan. Highlights include a wide range of activities and initiatives in the Elementary and Secondary Program as well as Special Education. The report features the work of staff in Numeracy, Literacy and Well-Being and highlights the Board's indicators of success and monitoring to ensure success. To review the complete Mid-Year Report, see pages 27-46 here: <https://bit.ly/2Und0D7>.

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes."

### Education Week Gala 2020

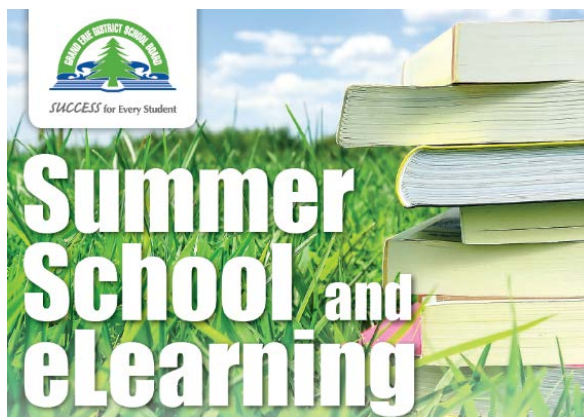
Education Week is an annual event that is celebrated across the province. In 2020, Education Week is scheduled to take place May 4-May 8. With COVID-19 closures, the annual Grand Erie Education Week Gala has been cancelled. At the end of April, should school-based Education Week events proceed, they will be shared on the board's website. This report supports both the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff." To review this report, see pages 61-62 here: <https://bit.ly/2Und0D7>.

## Summer School Report

Grand Erie will once again offer Summer School (July 6-30, 2020) for students this year. Two sites have been selected for the in-class program:

Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School and McKinnon Park Secondary School. Both locations will offer full credit, reach ahead and credit recovery courses. Full credit courses will also be available through eLearning. Other key elements of the 2020 Summer School program include: Co-op and Dual Credit opportunities, Literacy and Numeracy Programs for Grades 6-8

students, and reach ahead opportunities for students in Grades 7-8. This report supports the Achievement indicator of *Success for Every Student* and the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." To review the report, see pages 65-66 here: <https://bit.ly/2Und0DZ>.



## Major Construction Update

Trustees were provided with a status update on the major construction projects underway in Grand Erie. These projects include: Mapleview Elementary School, the child care renovation at Hagersville Secondary School and the child care addition at Central Public School. The biggest news from the report is that the warranty report for Mapleview Elementary School is now complete and almost all the outstanding items are resolved. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*. To review the report, see pages 55-58 here: <https://bit.ly/2Und0DZ>.

Thank  
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much

### Trustees Thank Families for Patience During School Closures for COVID-19; Recognize the Work of Staff

Trustees took a moment during Monday's Board Meeting to thank students and families for their patience and understanding during the school closures related to COVID-19. Trustees recognized this is a challenging time for all involved, with many unknowns.

Trustees also acknowledged the great work of the Senior Administration Team during the past two weeks as they plan for next steps in the continuation of learning for students should the COVID-19 school closures be extended, as expected.

The ongoing world-wide pandemic is something no one has experienced before and Trustees said they were proud of how both the school community and all Grand Erie staff have responded to such an unprecedented situation.

## Additional Items

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**Approval of minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of the February 24, 2020 (Regular Board) and March 9, 2020 (Committee of the Whole) meetings.

### Trustees also received the following reports:

- Community Use of Schools Position
- Director's Report
- Student Trustees' Report
- Committee of the Whole – March 9, 2020

- International Students – Fee Structure
- Learning Plan Leveraging Digital Update
- Before and After-School Programs for 2020-21
- Summary of Accounts – February 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – January 16, 2020
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – February 20, 2020
- Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Committee Minutes (Draft) – February 25, 2020
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes (Draft) – March 5, 2020

## Multi-Year Plan Stories

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.

### Achievement

- Ministry of Education Launches Learn at Home Portal Offering Online Resources for Students During COVID-19 School Closures
  - <https://bit.ly/3dn2W4C>
- On the Job With... Pat MacDonald, Library Technician
  - <https://bit.ly/2WljX3u>

### Well-Being

- Talking to Children About COVID-19: Mental Health Resources for Grand Erie Families
  - <https://bit.ly/2WE3ld8>
- Where to Get Trusted Information on COVID-19
  - <https://bit.ly/3bq1fS7>

*SUCCESS* for Every Student