



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

## Committee of the Whole Meeting | April 6, 2020

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



### Director Brenda Blancher to Delay Retirement; Will Stay on Through December 2020

Grand Erie's Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Director of Education Brenda Blancher has agreed to delay her retirement until a new Director is available to start or December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. The mutual agreement will ensure the Board has consistent leadership through the current COVID-19 challenges.

"I'm delighted that Brenda has agreed to stay on at this unprecedented time," said Greg Anderson, Chair of the Grand Erie District School Board. "Our role as Trustees is to do what we can to ensure the success of the system. We need Brenda's exceptional leadership and guidance right

now and it's a testament to her character, values and commitment to our students and staff that she has agreed to stay."

Blancher [announced her retirement](#) in January. She was expected to retire at the end of July. She has nearly 35 years of experience in education and has served as Grand Erie's Director since August 2015.

### Provincial Guidance on Continuity of Learning

During her update to Trustees on Monday night, Director of Education Brenda Blancher provided an overview of the Ministry of Education's new guidance for the continuity of learning moving forward. Highlights included:

- The minimum number of hours for learning for each student. The hours refer to the approximate amount of time students will spend on work assigned by teachers.
  - Kindergarten-Grade 3: five hours per week, with a focus on literacy and math.
  - Grade 3-6: five hours per week, with a focus on literacy, math, science and social studies.
  - Grade 7-8: 10 hours per week, with a focus on core math, literacy, science and social studies.
  - Grade 9-12: three hours per week, per course, to achieve credits and/or graduation.
- Elementary teachers will use formative assessment approaches to gather evidence of how students are progressing in their learning during this time. Teachers will provide feedback to students on their progress, however, no summative evaluation will be required.



- Secondary students will be assigned learning tasks, projects and culminating activities that will be marked by their teachers for the purposes of formative and summative evaluation. Teachers will communicate the results of these marked assignments to students and the results will be used by teachers to inform students' final course marks.
- Mid-term marks are only required for graduating students and will represent the most accurate reflection of student work, based on what is reasonable and in the best interest of students during this time.
- The Ministry of Education is working with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure no student's graduation or transition to post-secondary education is jeopardized as a result of the current school closures.
- The secondary school graduation requirement of 40 hours of community involvement has been suspended for the 2019-20 school year.
- There will be final report cards for both elementary and secondary students this year.

## eLearning Annual Report

Each year, Trustees are provided with an update on the board's eLearning program. Grand Erie has been offering eLearning to students since 2002, with the program expanding each year via the number of courses provided and the variety of grades and pathways available. Grand Erie's eLearning program offers courses in partnership with the Ontario eLearning Consortium as well as courses shared internally between schools.

The annual eLearning report includes an update on current eLearning programs within Grand Erie, Continuing Education and Summer School as well as the Grand Erie eLearning website. It also provides an overview of considerations and new developments for 2019-20 as well as ongoing plans. To review the report, see pages 15-20 here: <https://bit.ly/2UMKxHd>. This report supports the Achievement indicator of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#), *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."

## Additional Items

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**Delegations:** Delegations were received from Timothy Best and Sheila Porteous in relation to Secondary French Immersion.

**Trustees also received the following reports:**

- Haldimand-Norfolk Secondary French Immersion
- Community Use of Schools Position
- Director's Report
- Delhi District Secondary School – Gymnasium Viability Review
- Trustees' Expenses Report
- eLearning Annual Report
- OPSBA Report

**The following Policies were recommended for approval:**

- SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education
- SO15 Out of Classroom Field Trips and Excursions
- SO22 Fees for Learning Materials and Activities
- SO26 Events Planning and Organizing Policy
- SO30 Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions in Schools

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

- SO1 Fund Raising
- SO105 Privacy Breach Protocol/Procedure
- SO114 Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

**The following Procedure was recommended to be rescinded:**

- SO102 Administration of Prescribed Medications, including Medicinal Cannabis, in Schools

**The following Procedures were shared as information:**

- SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together
- SO17 Fire Safety and Fire Safety Plans

## 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.

### Achievement

- Government of Ontario Announces All Grand Erie Schools Will Remain Closed to Students Until at Least May 4 Due to COVID-19
  - <https://bit.ly/2UW9ted>

*Success for Every Student*