



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

Committee of the Whole Meeting | May 11, 2020

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

Quality Accommodations Update

Grand Erie's Quality Accommodations Review Committee is tasked with developing and maintaining a plan that maximizes the benefits for all students across the system. In its report to Trustees on Monday, the Quality Accommodations Committee updated its recommended priorities moving forward, including targeted areas for accommodation reviews once the Ministry of Education approves new province-wide guidelines.



These priorities include: an accommodation review for Brantford secondary schools; an accommodation review for Brantford Central elementary schools; and, an accommodation review for Brantford North elementary schools.

The committee also provided an overview of a new initiative: a sub-committee has been formed to investigate possible solutions to increase Grand Erie's enrolment share. Three focus areas have been identified: enhance Grand Erie's Grade 9 recruitment strategy; focus on areas of the board where Grand Erie loses students between Grade 8 and Grade 9; and, find ways to attract non-Grand Erie students to the Board.

This report supports the Environment indicator of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#), *Success for Every Student*, and the following statement: "We will ensure that students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and work." To review the report, see pages 11-18 here: <https://bit.ly/2YKfUof>.



Delhi District Secondary School – Gymnasium Viability Review

Delhi District Secondary School is home to approximately 521 students. It boasts a 95 per cent space utilization rate, and is one of Grand Erie's most efficient users of secondary space. It is, however, the Board's only secondary school without a double-sized gymnasium. In order to enhance the facility, a proposal to build a double-

sized gymnasium onto the school is being considered. The addition would feature a regulation-sized basketball court, two standardized volleyball courts, and a fitness room. The addition would be a great asset to the community, offering enhanced programming and an opportunity to become

a home base for local athletic teams. It could also be a magnet for students, creating a potential increase of market share during a period of declining enrolment for the Board as an expanded facility could offer more elective programs and clubs.

Based on estimated construction-per-square-foot benchmarks, a project of this magnitude could cost between \$2.7 and \$3.6 million. Additionally, a successful search for partnerships, other funding, Ministry approval and a financially-feasible operating structure will be required to reach the architectural design phase of this project. With the goal of moving forward, Grand Erie staff recommend that a fundraising campaign commence as a next step. An initial target of \$2.5 million has been identified, with fundraising to take place between September 2020 and March 2023. If funds are raised and the Board can demonstrate a cost-neutral operation, it could result in construction of a new gymnasium to commence in the fall of 2023, with completion in approximately 12-18 months. Following discussion of the report, Trustees agreed with staff and recommended for approval the next steps as outlined.

This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and the following statement: "We will ensure that students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and work." To review the report, see pages 19-24 here: <https://bit.ly/2YKfUof>.

Director's Report

In her report to Trustees on Monday, Director Brenda Blancher highlighted several updates from the Ministry of Education. Some of those highlights included:

- **Remaining PA Days and Exam Days**
 - In order to maximize instructional time for students during COVID-19, Education Minister Stephen Lecce has directed all remaining Professional Activity (PA) days and Examination days in 2019-20 be used for instruction.
- **2020-21 School Year Calendar**
 - Typically, Grand Erie receives approval from the Ministry in May for next year's school calendar. On April 28, the Ministry said calendar submissions for the 2020-21 school year are not being considered for approval at this time while the Ministry reviews plans for the 2020-21 school year. The Ministry noted it would provide additional direction in the future.
 - Grand Erie submitted its 2020-21 school year calendar earlier this year, following approval by the Board in February. To review the Proposed 2020-21 School Year Report from the February 10 Committee of the Whole meeting, see pages 21-28 here: <https://bit.ly/2vcN2Za>.
- **Construction Projects**
 - Last week, the Ministry gave school boards the ability to restart construction projects that support the operations of, and provide new capacity for services in schools and child-care centres. In Grand Erie, this means that the child-care construction projects at Hagersville Secondary School and Central Public School will be restarted.

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Bylaw 25 – Director's Performance Appraisal
- 2020-21 Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting Schedule
- Allocation of Educational Assistants
- MISA Update
- Community Planning and Facility Partnerships – Annual Facility Status Report
- Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE)

The following Bylaws and Policies were recommended for approval:

- BL3 Nomination and Annual Organizational Meeting
- BL5 Board and Committee of the Whole Board Meetings: Rules of Procedure
- FT2 New School Construction Projects
- FT3 Naming of Schools
- FT4 Community Use of Schools
- FT9 Transition Committee

The following Procedures were shared as information:

- F106 Receipt of Charitable Donations
- HR111 Personal Protective Footwear
- HR119 Progressive Discipline
- P103 Learning Resource Selection
- P105 Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR)
- SO113 Extreme Weather Guideline

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

- Government of Ontario Announces All Grand Erie Schools Will Remain Closed Until at Least May 31 Due to COVID-19
 - <https://bit.ly/358nES6>
- Ministry of Education Guidelines: Continuity of Learning During COVID-19
 - <https://bit.ly/2RW8Rom>

Success for Every Student