



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

Regular Board Meeting | August 31, 2020

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2EK4yIW>

Board of Trustees Strongly Recommends Masks for Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 in Schools and on Transportation

Following a wide range of feedback from parents, families, teachers, staff and community members, Grand Erie's Board of Trustees passed a motion on Monday night which strongly recommends masks for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 in all schools as well as on student transportation services where six feet of physical distancing cannot take place.



The Ministry of Education previously mandated masks for all students across the province in Grades 4-12. Trustees hope the strong recommendation will help boost the collective responsibility that all students, staff, parents and families have in fighting the spread of COVID-19. Trustees also hope families and Grand Erie staff will join together in teaching the board's youngest students the importance of wearing mask to protect themselves, their classmates, teachers, staff, family and friends.



Trustees to Return to In-Person Board Meetings for September

As students and staff return to in-class instruction in September, so too will in-person meetings for Grand Erie's Board of Trustees. On Monday night, Trustees confirmed they will move back to in-person meetings in the boardroom at the Education Centre starting with the Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 14. Trustees are looking forward to being back together in the boardroom after moving to online meetings following province-wide school closures in March.

To meet in-person and align with direction from the local health unit, Trustees will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) similar to what staff will be required to wear in the classroom. The board meetings will continue to be streamed live on YouTube so that the public can view what takes place. All delegations will occur via Microsoft Teams until health and safety precautions are lifted.

Director's Report

Director of Education JoAnna Roberto shared her first official Director's Report with Trustees on Monday night. Roberto's report included the following highlights from over the summer:

- Grand Erie secondary students completed 2,054 credits during Summer School 2020 compared with 1,637 in 2019.
- 78 students participated in the Summer Literacy and Numeracy Program compared to 34 in 2019.
- 10 Grand Erie schools were part of this year's Camp SAIL program, which saw 116 students in Grades 3-7 participate. Student received a learning package before camp started to enhance their learning. The 15 teachers who led the program were also provided with a variety of mentor texts that addressed a range of topics including: Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Growth Mindset and Perseverance.

Roberto also advised Trustees that more information on Grand Erie's Virtual Academy will be shared with families this week. The Kindergarten to Grade 12 online school will be the first of its kind in Grand Erie. It is expected to have nearly 4,000 students from across the board take part in it this fall.

Major Construction Update

On Monday, Trustees were given a status update on the major construction projects underway in Grand Erie. These projects include: the child care renovation at Hagersville Secondary School and the child care addition at Central Public School in Brantford (pictured right). This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, [*Success for Every Student*](#). To review the report, see pages 109-112 here: <https://bit.ly/2EK4yIW>.



Additional Items

Memorial: Memorial statements were read to honour Brendan Tram (North Park Collegiate and Vocational School) and Gregory Canivet (Facilities Maintenance Mechanic).

- Brendan, who had just finished Grade 10, died June 28. He'll be remembered as a polite, easy going young man who thoroughly enjoyed school, playing sports and spending time with his friends. Brendan was a proud member of North Park's football, basketball and rugby teams. In the classroom, he was a hard worker who strived for his best. A new sports scholarship will be created in Brendan's honour. Annually, it will be presented to a student who demonstrates kindness and all-around sportsmanship.
- Greg, who was a member of the Facility Services Department for the past 20 years, died August 5. While he worked at many schools, Greg was most recently assigned to the Waterford Family of Schools. Colleagues will remember Greg for his great sense of humour and his ability to make others laugh with funny sayings, imitations and voices. He was always happy and full of interesting facts and knowledge. A family man, Greg was a devoted husband to Roxanne for 36 years, loving father to Lisa and Jeff, and a proud grandfather and great grandfather.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- June 22, 2020 – Regular Board
- June 24, 2020 – Special Board

- July 9, 2020 – Special Board
- July 28, 2020 – Special Board
- August 17, 2020 – Special Board

Trustees also received the following reports:

- French Immersion Ad Hoc Committee
- Implications of 2020-21 Friday the 13th Events on Port Dover Students
- Approval of 2020-21 Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Proposed Schedule of Agenda Items (Committees of the Whole and Regular Board Meetings; Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Review Schedule)
- OPSBA Membership Fee for 2020-21
- Strategic Communications Plan Working Group – Ad Hoc Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership
- Educational Services Agreement – Indigenous Services Canada
- Energy Conservation Consumption Report
- School Council Report
- Special Approvals Report
- Summary of Accounts – June 2020
- Summary of Accounts – July 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes #1 – May 14, 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes #2 – May 14, 2020
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 18, 2020
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 18, 2020
- Audit Committee Minutes (Draft) – June 23, 2020

The following Procedure was shared as information:

- SO115 Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks and Face Shields

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

- Staggered Entry for Grand Erie Students in September, Changes to Secondary Quadmester Model
 - <https://bit.ly/31GBsmC>
- Grand Erie's 2020-21 School Year Calendars Released
 - <https://bit.ly/34PZGNk>
- Grand Erie Trustees Approve Budget for 2020-21 School Year
 - <https://bit.ly/3gHGEey>

SUCCESS for Every Student