

Regular Board Meeting |
Monday, November 23, 2015

Engagement

Harmony Movement: McKinnon Park Secondary School (Students shown in top right picture with staff advisor) and Paris District High School are two of many schools who participate in the Global Day of Dignity and the Harmony Movement.

Harmony Movement provides interactive diversity and equity education programs that empower and inspire youth, educators and those in the social service sector to develop an equity lens, empathy, respect, and leadership skills as leaders for social change.

The Harmony Movement encourages critical thinking, courageous conversations and strategy building to address and take action against stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, racism and other forms of oppression.

Grand Erie teacher Debbie Barbon receives Harmony Educator Award: On Thursday, November 5, 2015, Barbon, shown in red blazer, was recognized for her commitment to students and diversity with the Harmony Educator Award at this year's Harmony Awards Gala. Read more, here: <http://bit.ly/1MNPCKF>

Light a Smile Campaign: Betty Finley is the coordinator of the Light a Smile Campaign. A former employee of the Grand Erie District School Board, Betty gives vulnerable children and families a reason to smile this holiday season thanks to the generosity of the community.

More than 10 families will be sponsored this year. Betty visited Trustees to share the details of the family that they will support this year.



Environment

Elementary French Immersion Accommodation Update

- C. Greenlaw, A. Irish Hoyle, Canadian Parents for French CPF Brantford Re: French Immersion Program, R. Padyk (Ecole Fairview Parents Council) and C. Young, K. Bouwhuis presented a delegation.



Trustees approved the recommendations provided in the Elementary French Immersion Update Report.

- To view the report, click here: <http://bit.ly/1IFqLce>

At the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole 2 meeting, Trustees recommended that a motion delaying entry to Grade 1 at all French Immersion schools. Since that time we have been made aware of a regulatory change as of September 1, 2014 that would prohibit the Board from moving in this direction.

For this reason, a new plan to move forward decision making for French Immersion accommodation is proposed which will cause the Board to make other recommendations.

The following recommendations are proposed:

- For September 2016 French Immersion programs currently in place - single-track programs at École Dufferin and the new Coronation site, dual-track programs at Burford District, Walsh Public, and Caledonia Centennial Public School will continue with JK/SK/Grade 1 as the entry level
- In order to manage enrolment in the short-term, there will be an enrolment cap at our existing FI schools for the 2016-17 school year:
 - A process will be put in place to manage the cap - registration will take place in January as usual, and further information will come to the Board in January regarding a process to be set up whereby families with children currently attending an FI program will declare the number of siblings of existing FI students planning to enter Kindergarten in September 2016
 - Once the sibling numbers are factored into the spaces available, it will be determined how many spaces are available for new registrations
 - A process will be put in place to manage new registrations within the capped number and once the spaces are full, no more FI registrations will be allowed
- In order to develop a French Immersion accommodation plan that includes greater consultation with families and staff, a committee consisting of Board staff, including the Director, trustees, principals, school council representatives, staff representatives and representatives from the local branch of Canadian Parents for French and any other group that may be deemed appropriate will meet beginning in February 2016 to consult about the options to address French Immersion enrolment growth into the future
- A report on the work of the Committee will be presented to the Board on June 13, 2016
- The plan for French Immersion accommodation will be presented to the Board for approval in the fall of 2016.

Major Construction Update (FT2): The Grand Erie District School Board received the Major Construction Project Report as information. Projects in this report include: Lakewood Daycare Retrofit, Coronation Redevelopment, Pauline Johnson Change room, and the Major Ballachey HUB.

- <http://bit.ly/1N4GeZa>

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The following items/minutes were received as information:

- Summary of Accounts – Oct. 2015: <http://bit.ly/1N4Hdsr>
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes – Oct. 22, 2015: <http://bit.ly/1SWRQ5a>
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – Oct. 1, 2015: <http://bit.ly/1QFoef7>
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Minutes – May 21, 2015: <http://bit.ly/116MlAf>
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes – Oct. 13, 2015: <http://bit.ly/1R1BTfi>

Committee Membership: The Committee memberships for the following two meetings were approved:

- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Membership: <http://bit.ly/21cLoge>
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Membership: <http://bit.ly/1X9SjHx>

Approval of Minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of October 26, 2015 (Regular Board Meeting), October 29, 2015 (Special Board Meeting), November 2, 2015 (Committee of the Whole No. 1), and November 9, 2015 (Committee of the Whole No. 2).

Enrolment Update: Enrolment is reported to the Ministry of Education on two count dates, October 31st and March 31st, each year: <http://bit.ly/1HiMTDa>

Preliminary Year End: Grand Erie District School Board received the Preliminary 2014-15 Year End Report as information: <http://bit.ly/1PKBX3G>

Trustee Honoraria: The Grand Erie District School Board approve the Trustee Honoraria for the period from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016 as presented: <http://bit.ly/1PVR6xC>

Workforce Report: The Board receives information three times a school year that provides totals by employee group/position, relative to the budget. The report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1NnZYgV>

Organizational Board Meeting: The Nominating Committee meeting be held in the Board Room at the Education Centre on December 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.; the 2015 Organizational Meeting be held in the Board Room at the Education Centre on December 7, 2015, following the Nomination Committee Meeting; and the 2015 Inaugural Meeting be held in the Board Room at the Education Centre on December 14, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.