



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

REGULAR BOARD MEETING | MAY 28, 2018

All reports for this meeting can be found here: bit.ly/2ksEZYD

Student Recognition Awards

The recognition program is Grand Erie District School Board's way of honouring and celebrating students who have excelled in academics, arts, athletics or community involvement. Monday evening, Kyle Chambers was presented with a certificate from Trustee Rita Collver and Director of Education Brenda Blancher. The Student Recognition Awards program supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and *Success for Every Student* through the following statement: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff."

Kyle Chambers – Hagersville Secondary School – Athletics:

Karate has taken a special place in Kyle's life, and his achievements – in both para karate and regular divisions – are too extensive to list. His competitive season as a member of the Canadian National Wado Kai Karate Team this year has been a crowning achievement for the Grade 12 student at Hagersville. This past winter, Kyle competed at the Canadian National Karate Championships in Halifax, winning a bronze medal. In April, he competed at the Junior International Cup in Las Vegas, earning a gold medal for his Kata floor routine, and a silver medal in Kumite, a type of sparring. Recently, at the U.S.A. Karate Open, Kyle earned a gold medal for his Shindo routine, and a silver in Kata, just one point behind the American champion. Despite these achievements, it's Kyle's attitude that he's known for first; his love of the sport and his positivity in the face of adversity is an inspiration. For that, he truly embodies the spirit of karate, and has made Grand Erie proud.



2017-18 Annual Operating Plan Updates

Senior Administration presented Trustees with updates on their annual operating plans for: Community (pages 60-63), Environment (pages 64-68), Equity (pages 69-70), Technology (pages 71-75) and Well-Being (pages 76-80). The Annual Operating Plans guided the work of the system throughout 2017-18 and each plan linked back to one component of the Board's Multi-Year Plan. To review the Annual Operating Plan updates, see pages 59-80 here: bit.ly/2ksEZYD.

Elgin Avenue Public School Rebuild Update

Trustees received an update report on the Elgin Avenue Public School rebuild. The report outlines the significant increase in costs associated with the rebuild. For example: a third-party cost consultant estimated the project will cost \$14.7 million, while Grand Erie only has \$8.6 million allotted for the work. The report outlines each component of the rebuild – from the new three-story addition to site development and critical renovation items (e.g. plumbing and drainage, HVAC and duct systems, masonry work, etc.). The report highlights the reasons for the increase, including rising costs for trades and supplies, and the changing scope of the project due to new Ministry guidelines for childcare that resulted in significant modifications to the overall site plan (e.g. structures and fittings, underground utilities and mechanical/electrical site services). The report offered Trustees five options for dealing with the \$6.1 million shortfall. Trustees chose to put a pause on the project and have requested that staff bring a detailed report in November 2018 with options for next steps with the Elgin Avenue rebuild. The decision means Elgin Avenue Public School students will not move to Lynndale Heights Public School in September, and West Lynn Public School will not close at the end of 2018-19. Elgin Avenue students from the Special Education classes will still move to Bloomsburg Public School in September, as scheduled, as students in these classes have spent the past few months preparing for the transition. Human Resources will work with impacted staff in preparing for September. To read the full report, see pages 85-88 here: bit.ly/2ksEZYD.



2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan Evaluation

Grand Erie District School Board approved its 2017-20 Strategic Communications Plan in March 2017. Each May, the Manager of Communications and Community Relations is responsible for providing an evaluation of the plan to the Board. Each September, the plan will be updated for the current school year. There are four streams, or components, identified within the plan: Leadership, Internal Communications, Marketing and Branding, and Public Relations. Outlined within each stream are a number of objectives as well as a list of strategies and tactics to achieve the plan's desired outcomes. Through the creation and delivery of these strategies and tactics in 2017-18, Grand Erie has enhanced its overall communications. The Board is also better off as the Strategic Communications Plan provided a clear framework for how all communications were to be approached in 2017-18. This evaluation is supported by feedback collected from system leaders who were surveyed in May 2018, with 73 per cent feeling Grand Erie had improved its communications in 2017-18. As implementation of the Strategic Communications Plan moves forward, Communications and Community Relations staff will continue to look for new ways to connect Grand Erie's messages with new and expanded audiences. This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and *Success for Every Student* through the following statements: "We will set high expectations of our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." To read the full report, see pages 37-54 here: bit.ly/2ksEZYD.

Major Construction Update

Construction of the new Dunnville elementary school – now officially named Mapleview Elementary School – is ongoing. Mapleview will bring together students from Fairview Avenue Public School and Grandview Central Public School. It is funded through a \$10.6 million Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Grant. As of May 16, 2018, site-services work was underway at Mapleview with excavation and pipe installation. Drywall and sheet rock installation was being placed, while mechanical and electrical rough-ins on the second floor were continuing. Roof joists were also in place. While masonry work is temporarily complete at the moment, the full extent of this work now pushes past the established completion date for the school. As a result, the risk to complete the overall project on-time has shifted from low risk to medium risk, and an internal meeting has been set up to develop a contingency plan, should the building not be ready for September 2018. More information will be available about next steps after a meeting with the contractor on June 5, 2018. To review the full report, see pages 81-84 here: bit.ly/2ksEZYD. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan.



Staff Video: Jeannie Martin – Indigenous Education

Grand Erie District School Board staff are strong and diverse. Each staff member brings their own unique experiences, abilities and personality to help achieve *Success for Every Student*. This is Jeannie Martin's story: youtu.be/pUIWNqPXNGA.

2018-19 School Year Calendars Approved

It's official! On May 17, 2018, the Ministry of Education approved Grand Erie's 2018-19 School Year Calendars. The calendars, originally presented to Trustees in February 2018, have been posted on Grand Erie website here: bit.ly/21OU6kz. Copies of the calendars will also be distributed to schools in the next few weeks.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Memorial Statements: A memorial statement was read to honour Paul Schwegler, a Custodian from Branlyn Community School.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the April 23, 2018 (Regular Board), May 14, 2018 (Committee of the Whole) and May 14, 2018 (Special Board) meetings.

Trustees received the following as information:

- Student Trustee Report
- Committee of the Whole Report – May 14, 2018
- Summary of Accounts – April 2018
- Special Education Advisory Committee – March 8, 2018
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – April 19, 2018
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – April 19, 2018
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – April 24, 2018
- Compensatory Education Committee Minutes (Draft) – April 26, 2018
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – May 1, 2018
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes (Draft) – May 3, 2018
- Privacy and Information Management (Draft) – May 15, 2018
- Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee Minutes (Draft) – May 17, 2018
- OPSBA Report