



The Blackboard

Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Boardroom

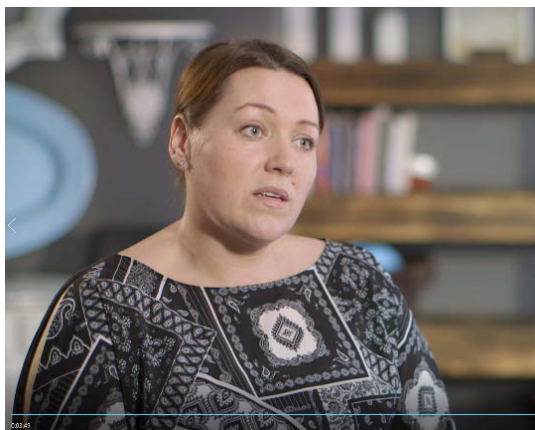
Regular Board Meeting | February 4, 2019*

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2FZyf7j>

** Grand Erie's Regular Board Meeting, originally scheduled for January 28, was postponed due to inclement weather*

Multi-Year Plan Video: Maria Zacharia's Story

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 this goal through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.



This year, to demonstrate the embodiment of the Multi-Year Plan, Grand Erie created a video series focused on the Equity indicator. Equity is a part of everything Grand Erie does, from the supports provided to students and staff, to the events and activities the board honours and celebrates. Equity is a guiding force and these videos tell just four of the many stories of students and staff embracing Equity.

The final video in the series highlights Maria, a member of the Low German Mennonite community who was struggling to move forward in life, lacking the education she desired. Through the Moms & Tots program, facilitated by the Norfolk Help Centre, she was able to get the support she needed to succeed. Maria completed secondary school through a Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) program. The Moms & Tots program provides child care so mothers are able to work on their education. Maria is currently employed at the Norfolk Help Centre, where she works as a facilitator, helping people with translation, as well as accessing health care. Watch Maria's video here: <https://bit.ly/2Be6gNV>.



Grand Erie's Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls

On Monday, the Indigenous Education team provided Trustees with an update on Grand Erie's continued work on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Highlights include: curriculum that is focused on cultural awareness (e.g., language courses, Treaty workshop, critical thinking video on the Inuit perspective, Residential schools book kits), programs that focus on cultural sensitivity (e.g., Mentorship, Lacrosse, Sharing Our Voices event), resources that enhance cultural competency (e.g., transition plans, collaborative inquiry, additional staffing) and actions that build cultural safety (e.g., Indigenous Student Trustee, Indigenous Student Associations, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee). This update supports the Equity indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-

Year Plan and the following statement: “We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included.” Find more details about this update in the minutes from tonight’s Board Meeting here: <https://bit.ly/2LsiMNI>.

Update on Ministry of Education Changes to 2018-19 Funding

In December 2018, School Boards across Ontario received information from the Ministry of Education related to changes in funding for the current school year. The changes relate to EPO (or Education Program – Other) funding. At the January 14, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees were provided with a report on the impact of these changes. Further updates were promised as more information was received from the Ministry.

On Monday evening, Senior Administration provided Trustees with a report on new Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) from the Ministry. The report is categorized into three areas: Indigenous Education and Well-Being, Student Achievement, and Special Education. It provides a summary for each category as well as an overview of the 2018-19 funding, including any variances. This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan through the following statement: “We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes.” To review the report, see pages 33-35 here: <https://bit.ly/2FZyf7j>.

Major Construction Update

Staff provided Trustees with an update on the Major Construction Projects for 2018-19. They include: Mapleview Elementary School, the elevator at Major Ballachey Public School, the child care renovation at Hagersville Secondary School and the child care addition at Central Public School.

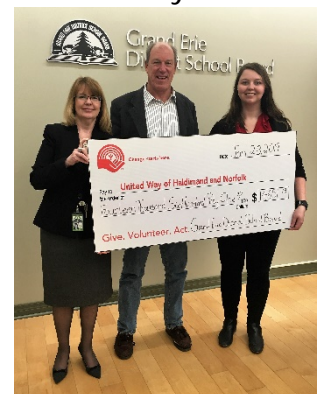


Along with some finishing touches at Mapleview Elementary School, which opened to students and staff in November 2018, the site is seeing significant progress in the demolition of Fairview Avenue Public School (above). The elevator at Major Ballachey is near completion, with a celebration to be planned soon. Both child care projects are in the early stages of development. For the full report, see pages 39-44 here: <https://bit.ly/2FZyf7j>. This report supports the Environment indicator of Grand Erie’s Multi-Year Plan, *Success for Every Student*.

Grand Erie District School Board Raises More than \$43,000 for United Way



United Way staff were on hand for the Board to present the funds it collected during each charity’s 2018 campaign. Board Chair Greg Anderson and Director of Education Brenda Blancher presented cheques to both the Brant United Way (left) and the United Way of Haldimand-Norfolk (right). Grand Erie staff raised more than \$28,500 for Brant United Way and over \$14,500 for the United Way of Haldimand-Norfolk.



Additional Items

Memorial: A memorial statement was read to honour Martin MacNeil, a Teacher and Football Coach, who worked at several Grand Erie secondary schools during his careers, including Valley Heights, Delhi District, Simcoe Composite and Cayuga.

Approval of minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the December 10, 2018 (Inaugural Board), January 14, 2019 (Committee of the Whole) and January 14, 2019 (Special Board) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Committee of the Whole – January 14, 2019
- Quarterly Budget Report (Q1) (F2)
- Summary of Accounts – December
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – October 18, 2018
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – December 13, 2018
- Student Senate Minutes – December 4, 2018
- Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes – December 20, 2018
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (Draft) – December 13, 2018
- Native Advisory Committee Minutes (Draft) – December 18, 2018
- Safe and Inclusive School Committee Minutes (Draft) – January 10, 2019

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

- On the Job with... Scott McDonald, Teacher Consultant, Special Education
 - <https://bit.ly/2GfDWbB>
- 2019 Art Soup Program Connects Grand Erie Students with Local Arts and Secondary Schools
 - <https://bit.ly/2WdfcvY>

Community

- Annual Holiday Bonanza at Dunnville Secondary Makes it a Merrier Christmas for Many
 - <https://bit.ly/2Hyo9Ne>

Technology

- Minecraft Club at Lansdowne-Costain Makes Impact on Achievement, Well-Being
 - <https://bit.ly/2S0NnZi>

Well-Being

- Mental Health Team Encourages Grand Erie to 'Talk'
 - <https://bit.ly/2SjsXKo>