



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2020

Education Centre, Board Room & MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: S. Gibson– Committee Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, D. Werden, A. Burtis (Student Trustee), Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee), I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director – J. Roberto; Superintendents – W. Baker, L. De Vos, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – L. Howells

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, S. Gibson at 6:30 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel, and legal matters at 6:31 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, S. Gibson at 7:22 p.m.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Presented as printed. R. Collver requested MPPs Visit Update be added as B-1-b.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried



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(f) **In Camera Report**

Board will return to In Camera following open session. This item has been moved to end.

B - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

(a) **Modified School Year Calendar Ad Hoc Committee Report**

W. Baker referred to the Modified School Year Calendar – Ad Hoc Committee Report providing a high-level overview of the background, additional information which consisted of history, committee membership, meetings, presenters to the committee, benefits/challenges of the balanced year, recommendations and next steps. W. Baker provided an overview of a sample balanced school year calendar. W. Baker noted, should there be interest, it is recommended that a pilot be considered in one elementary school in Brantford and if this is successful, consider piloting in the other areas of the board. W. Baker noted that the Board's with a balanced school year, have started it in a new school

G. Anderson shared his concern and understands the benefit but will not support a pilot at this time.

B. Doyle asked if there were comments from the Committee with regards to staff? W. Baker responded that there would be need an opt in and out option for staff and noted that at Peel DSB they have a wait list of Teachers of who want to be part of it.

R. Collver asked why balanced day and increased time on task is this a benefit, could this occur in a standard school? W. Baker responded that teachers who work in these types of schools reported that there wasn't as much loss of learning routines and they did not need to spend as much time getting back into the learning mode. R. Collver further asked how an instructional practice in a balanced school year improves student achievement? W. Baker responded that some research says there are positive impacts on student achievement and one of the cautions is presuming it was the model that was causing the improvement achievement was that fact that it might have to do with the teachers applying to work at the school. W. Baker added that these schools have a positive reputation and has been also been identified as elites. R. Collver commented that she is concerned that we are setting up another elite school, demographics and the impacts/consequences of implementing this model to our individual schools and childcare issues for our families for these additional weeks at Christmas. W. Baker responded that in Peel DSB between the instructional blocks, they had planned for activities during those times and stressed how important it was. R. Collver further asked about the feasibility in rural Haldimand and Norfolk? W. Baker responded that it would be at the will of the board, as Transportation is an issue and there could be cost to make it work but it is feasible.



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D. Dean reminded Trustee that we are looking at one school for one year, if it doesn't work, it is easily dispatched but he believes it will work.

D. Werden asked why we are doing this, are we looking at this for system or one or two schools? D. Werden noted the European education system is a yearlong, which has been very successful and beneficial. D. Werden added that he could support this, if we are considering board wide as he believes there are some true benefits. W. Baker responded that we don't see this as one school for one year, if this is successful, we would change accordingly, however, we will never get to 100% but we would get more.

C. VanEvery-Albert asked if the idea of teachers' professional development in the summer was considered and what would the impact on those organizations who run summer camps? W. Baker responded the impact of summer camps was not discussed or addressed and the professional development have been scheduled to coincide with regular school days.

C.A. Sloat commented that she sat on the committee with Trustee Garbaty and learned a lot, it was informative to speak with other boards, the Brantford idea was our best guess and we also spoke about market share. C.A. Sloat stated we need to take the opportunity for a different of learning, these have been successful in many boards and very popular, and fits in with family dynamics and it may be important to other people and believes we need start the committee to talking about this and recommends this begin in August 2022.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Modified School Year Calendar – Ad Hoc Committee Report as information.

Carried

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board direct staff to bring back the Terms of Reference, for a Committee to make suggestion for Modified School Year Calendar for the 2022-23 school year and report back to the Board in November 2021.

Carried

R. Collver asked what the Terms of Reference would look like and asked that equity be part of the committee work? W. Baker responded if we make it open to all Grand Erie students. C.A. Sloat add the we are directing to bring back the terms of reference and allow the committee to look at Grand Erie.



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R. Collver provided a verbal report and update from the meeting with MPP Toby Barrett on Friday, October 2, 2020, noting that E. Dixon and D. Werden were also in attendance. R. Collver added that MPP Barrett is willing to write a letter to the Minister of Education and to talk about our Capital Priorities and Funding for Haldimand-Norfolk. R. Collver further noted that MPP Barrett will also advocate for us at Queen's Park.

G. Anderson noted that on October 15th we will be meeting with MPP Bouma.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receives the MPP, Toby Barrett and MPP, Will Bouma Visit Update report as information.

Carried

C - 1 Director's Report

Director's highlights:

- **Grand Erie Virtual Academy Update:** On October 4th elementary principals reached out to all parents and guardians with a letter/survey link for declaration regarding a change/request to their child's learning model as we prepare for the October 13th deadline for requests to change from online to in-class and vice versa. For parents who have indicated a change, for their child the new learning model will begin on November 2. If there are no changes made by parents the learning model will remain until January 4, 2021. On October 9th, secondary principals will message a declaration link to parents and guardians and the last day for the survey completion is October 30. Staffing and reorganization will occur between November 2 – November 12 and November 13 will be the First day of Semester 2 in new learning model. Families of students in self-contained classes wishing to switch learning models are not required to complete this declaration but should contact their school principal directly.
- **Home Schooling students** – all families have received the same declaration letter and the Principals will also reach out to them. We will also be taking a look if there is a concern with synchronous learning and will work with families and support those who want to be in the Virtual Academy but in asynchronous model.
- **D2L** - Given rising number of cases in the province, we will be looking at the access for all Grand Erie staff to their D2L learning platforms along with online resources and after school. If we do have switch to remote learning, we need to ensure the transition is fluid for our teachers and families.
- **25-Year and Retirement Recognition** - Due to these unprecedented times the event has been postponed at this time, we thank everyone in advance for their understanding and wish everyone congratulations and best wishes. We will issue further communication later this month.



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- **On October 1, the COVID -19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care was revised by the Ministry of Health.** It is not to be used as a clinical assessment tool or intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Screening must occur daily and at home before a child enters school or child care and families, school and child care staff, and essential visitors are reminded of their obligation to screen themselves or their children for symptoms of illness each day before going to school or child care. For students and children, the screening tool will now have two sets of questions about symptoms that may yield different next steps depending on which symptoms are selected: The first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or persistent cough. Students with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a medical provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test. The second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache/. In addition, the symptom list no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye). The updated symptoms and language have been approved by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Please note that these changes apply to students and children only. The government's web-based screening tool will be updated to reflect these changes. The updated tool is expected to be posted on Friday, October 2.

R. Collver asked did we have an opportunity for families to opt out of synchronous minutes and when are count dates for the Ministry. L. Munro responded the count days is October 31 and we are currently gathering information with respect families looking for asynchronous learning, but our virtual teachers have been working with those families around asynchronous learning. R. Collver shared her concerns regarding the count date and the start date for those returning from Home School. L. De Vos respond those coming from home school will need to register for either model. L. Munro also noted the deadline for declaration survey is October 13 and we will have that information prior to October 31st.

C.A. Sloat asked if there is push province wide with regards to the count date as it will be hard on a lot of school boards. R. W responded that if we didn't have the accurate data by October 31, there will be funding implications.

J. Roberto responded our focus will be on the home schooling, but the other piece is managing the conventional to virtual vice versa as there may be staffing implications and cohort changes that will need to be communicated and managed.



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Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of October 5, 2020 as information.

Carried

C. VanEvery-Albert left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) **Trustee Replacement Process**

J. Roberto referred to the Trustee Replacement Process report providing a high-level overview.

G. Anderson strongly recommends the advertise and interview interested candidate option.

D. Werden agrees with G. Anderson recommendation and asked if this can be done quicker? J. Roberto responded if that is the will of the board, we could investigate the timelines and bring back something back if it could be done earlier. D. Werden added that he further added he doesn't want to push Administration and wants to know if it would be realistic?

C.A. Sloat asked if the report on October 26th includes timelines of the process? J. Roberto respond yes.

R. Collver commented she has concerns and would like us to decide on the process and give the Director some time.

C.A. Sloat noted that we have 90 days to replace and believes October 26th is more than fair.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the initiation of the advertise and interview process to replace the Trustee for the County of Brant and Norfolk county Wards 3 and 7.

Carried



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(b) **Contract Award – Lexia Licenses**

R Wyszynski referred to the Contract Award – Lexia Licenses report providing high-level overview on background and additional information.

C.A. Sloat asked how the \$51,000 from the elementary budget will affect them and the \$105,000 what line will that come from? L. Thompson responded if an elementary school wished to participate, they will need to contribute \$1,000 from their budget and literacy budget and can apply for SEA funding. C.A. Sloat asked how many licenses we currently have? L. Thompson currently 2,500 and in April 2020 the Ministry of Education partnered for free licenses for every student in the board and we used about 6,000 during the remote learning time, this addition will cover approximately each school with 50 licenses.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Purchase of 3,500 Lexia licenses for a three (3) year term from Greenfield Learning Inc. in the amount of \$447,237.65.

Carried

D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) **Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE)**

L. Thompson referred to the Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE) report providing a high-level overview that consisted of 2019-20 data and that was shared with SEAC:

- Individual Education Plan Writer (IEP Writer)
- Interventions – Professional Support Services Personnel (PSSP) Referral Data
- Cumulative Student Profiles
- Meeting Management (MMM Module)
- Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL Module)
- Special Education Classrooms 2020-21
- Special Education Referrals
- Behavioural/Safety Plans

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Learner Intervention Tracking for Excellence (LITE) report as information.

Carried



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(b) **Public Consultation Plan for Special Education Plan Annual Review**

L. Thompson referred to the Public Consultation Plan for Special Education Plan Annual Review report providing a high-level overview on the background and the recommended next steps.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Public Consultation Plan for Special Education Plan Annual Review as information.

Carried

(c) **Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Report**

D. Martins referred to the Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Report providing a high-level overview on the background, additional information, the data charts and summary.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Report as information.

Carried

E - 1 Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision Items

(a) **Bylaw 19 Use of Board Logo and Grand Erie Name**

J. Roberto that Bylaw 19 Use of Board Logo and Grand Erie Name was identified for review and was sent to Trustees for comments. No comments were received, and no revisions have been made to the Bylaw.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 19 Use of Board Logo and Grand Erie Name.

Carried



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(b) **Bylaw 26 Chairs' Committee**

J. Roberto that Bylaw 26 Chairs' Committee was identified for review and was sent to Trustees for comments. No comments were received, and no revisions have been made to the Bylaw.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 26 Chairs' Committee

Carried

(c) **SO9 Cyberbullying**

W. Baker noted Policy SO9 Cyberbullying has been identified for review, will be going out for comments and no content revisions have been made.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO9 Cyberbullying to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 25, 2020

Carried

(d) **SO25 Visual Identity**

J. Roberto noted Policy SO25 Visual Identity has been identified for review, will be going out for comments and no revisions made to policy but manual has been revised.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO25 Visual Identity to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 25, 2020

Carried

(e) **SO31 Accessibility**

L. Thompson noted Policy SO31 Accessibility has been identified for review, will be going out for comments and reviewed the suggested revisions.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO31 Accessibility to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 25, 2020

Carried



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E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) HR110 Hiring Procedure

S. Sincerbox noted Procedure HR110 Hiring Procedure has been identified for review, will be going out for comments and no revisions made.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR110 Hiring Procedure to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by November 25, 2020

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

(a) OPSBA Report

D. Werden turned it over to C.A. Sloat who provided a verbal OPSBA report noting the Policy and Program work team on working on PPM164 which is out for comment and asked if anyone has comment, let her know.

R. Collver added at the recent AGM the elections were held and unfortunately C.A. Sloat was not re-elected and thanked her for all her efforts. R. Collver shared her takeaways from the AGM: disappointed that OPSBA is not doing anything with regards to Regulation 274 and it was mentioned and highlighted Trustees and Directors need to get along.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA report as information.

Carried

(b) Student Trustee Report – Orange Shirt Day

I. Doxtader-Swamp referred to the Student Trustee Report providing a high-level overview and requested that more information be shared about the event in advance.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Trustee Report as information.

Carried



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G - 1 Correspondence

Nil

In Camera Session

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss legal matters at 9:05 p.m.

Carried

Board returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

A-1-f In Camera Report

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the resignation of Superintendent of Education Linda De Vos for the purpose of retirement effective January 31, 2021, with regret.

Carried

H - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, S. Gibson