



MINUTES

Present: Board Chair, G. Anderson, Board Vice-Chair, S. Gibson, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, D. Werden (via teleconference), Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee), A. Burtis (Student Trustee)

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

Regrets:

Trustees: I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee)
Administration: L. Thompson (Superintendent)

A - 1 Opening

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 6:35 p.m.

(b) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 6:36 p.m.

Carried

(d) **Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, G. Anderson at 7:17 p.m.

(e) **Memorials**

The memorial statement for Douglas Campbell from Hagersville Elementary School was read by B. Doyle.

(f) **Chair's Inaugural Address**

G. Anderson presented his Inaugural Address.

(g) **Reading of Trustee Code of Ethics**

In accordance with Bylaw 28, Trustees read the Trustee Code of Ethics.



Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Agenda be approved.

Carried

(h) **In Camera Report**

Nil

(i) **Presentations**

Nil

(j) **Delegation**

Nil

B - 1 Approval of Minutes

(a) **Regular Board Meeting – November 23, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held November 23, 2020 be approved.

Carried

(b) **Special Board Meeting – November 25, 2020**

Presented as printed.

It is recommended that we remove “unanimous” from B-1 Trustee Appointment Process.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held November 25, 2020 be approved as amended.

Carried



(c) **Special Board Meeting – December 2, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held December 2, 2020 be approved.

Carried

(d) **Nomination Meeting – December 7, 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Minutes of the Nominations Meeting, held December 7, 2020 be approved.

Carried

(e) **Board Organizational Meeting – December 7, 2020**

Presented as printed.

It is recommended that the In-Camera Report state the full motion of item C-1-b – Ratification of the Collective Agreement between ETFO Designated Early Childhood Educators' Bargaining Unit and the Board.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Minutes of the Board Organizational Meeting, held December 7, 2020 be approved as amended.

Carried

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

Nil

D - 1 **Director's Report**

Director's highlights:

- **Kindergarten Registration** – January is Kindergarten Registration month and earlier today, we distributed a media release to welcome our new learners and their families to Grand Erie DSB. Our website outlines the online process which includes how to find their child's home school, which documents are required for registration, information about transportation, community resources, and before-and-after-school programs. Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the registration process will be completed online.



- **French Immersion Registration** – Beginning January 4, 2021, parents who are interested in Grand Erie’s French Immersion program have until February 5, 2021, to register their JK, SK or Grade 1 child for a spot through a randomized selection process for new families. Students who currently have a sibling in the program are guaranteed a spot, but registration is still required. Once the process is complete, parents will be informed, by each school, whether their child is in the program by Monday, February 22, 2021.
- **Secondary Registration Reminder** – It’s been a year unlike any other, but one thing is certain: Grand Erie’s secondary schools are ready to welcome future Grade 9 students.
- **New Support for Learners Financial Support Program** – The Premier and the Minister of Education announced the launch of the Support for Learners program. Through this program, the government is providing financial support to help parents and guardians with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year during the second wave of COVID-19.
- Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:
 - \$200 for each child up to age 12
 - \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs
- **Virtual Learning Academy** –In November we launched a Virtual Learning Academy - Technology Survey. Parents, students, and teachers from Grand Erie’s Virtual Learning Academy were sent a survey asking about technical challenges they have experienced this school year and for any suggestions about how the board could support them. In total there were 971 parents/guardians, 114 teachers and 902 students that responded to the survey.

Results included:

- 89.1% parents responded that they had reliable internet at home
- 261 (26.9%) indicated they required a board device
- 822 (84.7%) felt that they received regular communication from the teacher.

Primary Areas of Concern:

- How to submit student work
- Who to contact when there is a technology related challenge
- Understanding how to use Interactive Tools
- Request for cyber security support

Next Steps

- Help Desk Support accessible to parents and staff, more information to follow.
- Offer a virtual session for parents.
- Offer additional virtual workshops to educators.
- Share/reshare cyber security supports to the Virtual Academy staff to share with students.

Student Senate

- Student Senate will be held on January 14, 2021 from 10:30am-12:00pm. The session will be held virtually, invitations will be sent out and Student Trustees will collaborate to develop their agenda in early January.



Student Trustee Election Process/Selection of Student Trustees (as per Bylaw 29):

- At this time, Student Trustee application process will be issued to secondary school principals by December 15th. More information to follow-up in the new year.
- Any student who is interested in the position of Student Trustee must apply in writing to the principal of their school by the third Friday in January.

COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream: (Superintendent R. Wyszynski)

Funding was application-based and to protect the health and safety of the students in our schools. Those eligible projects must be completed by December 31, 2021. We applied for \$11,000,000 in projects including:

1. Open concept classrooms
2. HVAC installation in unventilated schools
3. Portable replacements and outdoor classrooms (hex-pods)
4. Portapack replacements
5. Outdoor access points system wide (expand Wi-Fi network)
6. Internet hubs
7. Water-filling stations
8. Hallway door – hold open devices
9. Entry door security access
10. Air purification systems

Valedictorian Address (part two)

A video was shared with the Board of Trustees.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receives the Director's Report and Draft Director's Annual Report 2019-20 as information.

Carried

E - 1 Student Trustees' Report

A. Burtis presented the Student Trustees' Report regarding the Menstrual Equity Project. The initiative was created to end period poverty, which is a global issue affecting people that do not have access to safe or sanitary menstrual hygiene products, as well as anyone who experiences stigma around menstruation. The Grand Erie "ME" Project began in October 2020 and a ME panel was created at this time. A survey was distributed to students that menstruate. 87% of students said they have missed class time because they did not have access to menstrual hygiene products.

C. A. Sloat requested that a budget be prepared and presented at the pre-budget meeting on February 2, 2021.



Motion by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

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

Carried

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board direct Senior Administrators to formulate a budget report to be presented at the pre-budget meeting on February 2, 2021.

Carried

Z. Garbaty brought up the fact that many students have identified that they are struggling and having difficulties with the new quad semester model. This is severely impacting student's mental health.

D. Martins advised that this model was approved by the Ministry and we are unable to change it at this time due to Ministry standards and regulations.

J. Roberto recognized that this is difficult for some students. J. Roberto suggests that this be a topic of discussion at the upcoming Student Senate and suggestions can be made regarding how the model can be improved to better support students.

S. Gibson followed-up to ensure that students are aware of supports in place regarding mental health and addictions.

F - 1 **Committee Report**

(a) **Striking Committee Report**

G. Anderson presented the report as printed.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2021 Trustee Statutory and Standing Committee Representation.

Carried

G - 1 **New Business**



(a) **Audit Committee Annual Report**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2020 Audit Committee Annual Report.

Carried

(b) **Borrowing Authority**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School authorize the Signing Authorities of the Board to obtain loans at any one time up to a maximum of \$35,000,000 to cover current payrolls and general account payments, if required.

Carried

(c) **Signing Officers**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT

1. signing authorities for the Grand Erie District School Board, relative to General and Trust Accounts/Legal Documents/Contracts/Bank Loans shall be one of the Chair of the Board or the Vice Chair of the Board, together with one of the Director of Education & Secretary or the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer;
2. facsimile signatures of the Board Chair and Superintendent of Business & Treasurer shall be used for signing General Account cheques produced by the Board's financial accounting system.

Carried

(d) **Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule**

Presented as printed.



Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule report as information.

Carried

(e) **2020-21 Revised Budget Estimate**

R. Wyszynski presented the Revised Budget Estimate report. The 2020-21 Revised Budget Estimates are due for submission to the Ministry of Education on December 15, 2020. Revisions to the original 2020-21 budget approved in August are included in the report. Significant revenue changes and changes to expenditures are highlighted in the report. Currently, we are submitting a balanced budget.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2020-21 Revised Budget Estimates for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Carried

(f) **Contract Award Insurance**

R. Wyszynski presented the Contract Award Insurance report. The Grand Erie District School Board's insurer for property, crime and automotive proposed a 26% increase to premiums for 2020-21. As a result, we requested a quote and OSBIE's proposal revealed a 1% reduction in premiums.

C.A. Sloat inquired about feedback from other Boards using OSBIE. R. Wyszynski advised that the relationship has been described as positive and 70 out of 72 Board are covered by OSBIE.

Moved by: B. Dixon

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Liability and Property Insurance Contract for 2021 from OSBIE in the amount of \$716,616.00.

Carried

(g) **Enrolment Update**

R. Wyszynski presented the Enrolment Update report. Enrolment is reported to the Ministry of Education on October 31st and March 31st each year.



C.A. Sloat inquired about whether the Enrolment Update was submitted for October 31, 2020. R. Wyszynski advised that the submission date has been moved to January/February 2021.

C.A. Sloat also inquired about the reason Pupils of the Board – High Credit went from thirty-eight to zero. We likely have more secondary students staying for an additional year and wouldn't we have more than thirty-eight? R. Wyszynski advised that this data is not available at this time.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Enrolment Update Report as information.

Carried

(h) **International Student COVID-19 Readiness Plan 2020-21**

L. De Vos presented the International Student COVID-19 Readiness Plan 2020-21.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the International Student COVID-19 Readiness Plan 2020-21.

Carried

H - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Summary of Accounts – November 2020**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Summary of Accounts as information.

Carried

(b) **Special Education Advisory Safety Committee Minutes – October 15, 2020**

Presented as printed.



Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Special Education Safety Committee Minutes of October 15, 2020.

Carried

(c) **Joint Occupational Health & Safety Minutes – November 19, 2020**

Presented as printed.

R. Wyszynski identified an error in the minutes. Three schools were noted to have not completed their inspections. He confirmed that they have completed their inspections, and this was an error.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approved the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Minutes of November 19, 2020.

Carried

(d) **Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee Minutes – November 19, 2020 – Draft**

Presented as printed.

C.A. Sloat asked a question about warning labels that are being placed on library books. There is no process in place for this, and it doesn't seem to fit in procedure P103, and how will this be handled going forward? Senior Administration is looking at this issue through various lenses and this is on their radar.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee Minutes of November 19, 2020 – draft.

Carried

I - 1 **Correspondence**

Nil

J - 1 **Adjournment**



Inaugural Board Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2020
Education Centre, Board Room

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.
Carried

Board Chair, G. Anderson