



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2021

MS Teams (Virtual)

MINUTES

Present: R. Collver – Committee Chair, G. Anderson, D. Dean, E. Dixon, B. Doyle, S. Gibson J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, 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 – K. Giannini

Regrets:

Trustees: Nil

Administration: Nil

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

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

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

G. Anderson declared conflict of interest for in-camera item A-1-e.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: S. Gibson

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, R. Collver at 7:21 p.m.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Agenda be approved.

Carried



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(f) **In Camera Report**

Motion by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve A-1-d.

Carried

Motion by: D. Werden

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board ratify the Collective Agreement Settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Elementary Teachers' Federation Bargaining Unit, for the period September 1, 2019 up to and including August 31, 2022.

Carried

Motion by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board D-1

Carried

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

(a) **Strategic Communications Plan Working Group – Ad Hoc Committee**

J. Roberto presented the Strategic Communications Plan Working Group – Ad Hoc Committee.

C.A. Sloat inquired about when we will begin to have work started on the Multi-Year Plan. J. Roberto responded that we plan to bring an outline to the Board of Trustees in February 2021.

C.A. Sloat requests that item 4.2 – “Receive Grand Erie’s Strategic Communications Plan” is amended to state that the Board “approve” the Grand Erie’s Strategic Communications Plan. The Board of Trustees agrees to make this amendment.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board strike an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a new three-year Strategic Communications Plan once work on the Board’s new Multi-Year Plan begins.

Carried



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C - 1 Director's Report

(a) Directors Highlights

J. Roberto shared a PowerPoint created by the Superintendents to highlight the positive feedback from families during this time.

- **PA Day** - January 18, 2021 is a PA Day for Elementary schools for the purpose of student assessment and evaluation.
- **Device Deployment Update** - We deployed a total of 1,495 devices. (1251 laptops and 244 iPads). Any additional requests are being addressed by the school principals.
- **Declaration to Switch Learning Models** - The declaration for the final opportunity for families to make switches between learning model for elementary students was January 13, 2021. A reminder, that families of students in self-contained classes wishing to switch learning models should not have completed this declaration but should contact their school principal directly. As indicated previously, if there are extenuating circumstances, families can work with their principal. Some elementary families have reached out to administrators to express concerns about completing a declaration that is intended to be for the remainder of the school year. Families are advised to complete the declaration as best as they can as this is the last formal opportunity to do so and schools will continue to work together to address and make transitions, where possible under extenuating circumstances. The deadline for secondary students to notify Grand Erie if changing from online to in-class was January 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. We received 363 declarations, with 205 students switching to online and 158 going returning to in-person learning. This results in a net gain of 47 students into the secondary Virtual Learning Academy.
- **Ministry Updates** - The Ministry launched the Support for Learners program to support families with children aged 0 to 12 with \$200 per child and \$250 per child up to age 21 with special education needs. The extended deadline is February 8, 2021. They are also expanding this program to include financial supports for high school students, recognizing added costs from technology to internet for these parents while their children stay home for a longer period. TVO Learn is an effective way to help your child learn the Grade 1-12 Ontario curriculum at home. Additionally, there are several free resources that support student learning.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of January 11, 2021 as information.

Carried



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(b) **Managing the Pandemic**

As staff are returning in some instances to schools, we have shared reminders with the entire system with respect to appropriate use of PPE, hygiene protocols and physically distancing.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the federal funding that we applied for and which projects were approved to move forward with. R. Wyszynski provided an overview of the list of projects that were approved. Three projects are not being funded, including portapack replacement, outdoor access points and internet hub.

C.A. Sloat inquired about whether the Board of Trustees should formulate a letter to the Minister regarding masks being mandatory for kindergarten to grade three students. A Provincial announcement will be made tomorrow afternoon and depending on the outcome of this announcement, the Board of Trustees will consider formulating a letter regarding this matter.

D - 1 **New Business – Action/Decision Item**

(a) **Report to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**

D. Martins presented the report to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and service agreement. Thank you to our Indigenous Education Teacher Consultant Lead, Joe Tice, who is fundamental in formulating this report and also executing this work.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation – Education Services Agreement Report as information.

Carried

(b) **Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2021-22**

L. Thompson introduced Julie White to present the Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2021-22 Report.

The following is a summary of changes for the 2021-22 school year:

Elementary

- One elementary self-contained classroom for students with Behaviour Exceptionalities (Strategies) at Bellview be closed.
- Both elementary self-contained Gifted classes at Jarvis Public and Centennial Grand Woodlands collapse into one class, to be relocated to Boston Public School.
- Refocus and rename the elementary self-contained classroom for Autism at Russell Reid to Strategies (Autism); increasing the capacity from 6 to 8.



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- Rename elementary classes for Autism and Multi-Handicap to Intensive Support Classrooms.

Secondary

- Open one Autism self-contained classroom at Cayuga Secondary School.
- Open one Life Skills self-contained classroom at Pauline Johnson Vocational School.
- One Bridge self-contained classroom at Cayuga Secondary School be closed.
- Rename secondary classes for Autism and Multi-Handicap to Intensive Support Classrooms.

C.A. Sloat recommends that the motion be amended to read that the Board of Trustees “approve” the report. The Board of Trustees agree with this amendment.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the number of self-contained classrooms for 2021-22 as outlined, pending budget deliberations.

Carried

(c) **Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Members**

R. Wyszynski presented the Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Members

The term of one of the non-board members of the audit committee expires January 31, 2021, and the member wishes to continue for an additional three-year term as permitted by regulation.

Motion by: D. Werden

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the reappointment of Beryl Collingwood as Non-Board Audit Committee Member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2024.

D – 2 **New Business – Information Items**

(a) **Category III Trips**

J. Roberto presented the Category III Trips report for information.



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Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Category III Trips report as information.

Carried

(b) **Enrolment vs Capacity by School**

R. Wyszynski presented the Enrolment vs. Capacity by School report.

In the past, when the moratorium on school closures did not exist, the Grand Erie District School Board actively participated in pupil accommodation reviews in order to right size its capacity with pupil enrolment. The Ministry has not yet released updated Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG), therefore, it is unknown when boards will be able to reinstate pupil accommodation reviews in the future.

It should be noted that these draft enrolment numbers, which have not yet been confirmed through the ONSIS verification process, reflect a combination of both virtual and face-to-face students and indicate a significant decrease when compared to the prior year. This is a result of a number of students either choosing to be home-schooled or by not registering.

C.A. Sloat inquired about why GELA is not included in secondary school buildings on the report. R. Wyszynski responded that this has never been published on the report but will look into this matter.

G. Anderson stated that we have over 1400 students between Ryerson Heights and Walter Gretzky and the new school will not be online for two years. He inquired about what the temporary measure will be. R. Wyszynski advised that the plan is to put as many portables at these schools as possible in the meantime. After that, we will need to look at temporary boundary reviews to ensure that we are maximizing space in our Board.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Enrolment vs Capacity report as information.

Carried

(c) **Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) Annual Report**

L. Munro presented the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) Annual Report.

This report summarizes the achievements of the 2019-20 school year, as well as our next steps. A program review for Grand Erie Learning Alternatives was completed and reported



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to the Board in February 2014. Since that time, an annual update on the status of Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) has occurred. We continue to implement Ministry initiatives and new revenue streams to support and engage all students as they strive to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) Report as information.

Carried

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

(a) **Bylaw 11 Delegations**

J. Roberto presented Bylaw 11 Delegations.

D. Werden recommends that the Bylaw be amended to state “simple majority” instead of “two thirds majority”. The Board of Trustees agreed to make this amendment.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 11 Delegations as amended.

Carried

(b) **Bylaw 15 Trustee Expenses**

J. Roberto presented Bylaw Trustee Expenses.

C.A. Sloat inquired about whether we pool the expenses for internet as well as cellular devices. R. Wyszynski responded that these expenses are not pooled. As soon as a Trustee reaches the maximum capacity, they are not eligible for further reimbursement.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Bylaw 15 Trustee Expenses.

Carried

(c) **FT5 Pupil Accommodation Reviews**

R. Wyszynski requested that this policy be deferred until the Ministry of Education releases updated accommodation guidelines for school boards.



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C.A. Sloat recommended writing a letter to the Minister regarding the updated accommodation guidelines for school boards. The Board of Trustees agrees to formulate a letter to the Minister.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board defer the circulation of Policy FT5 Pupil Accommodation Reviews until the Ministry of Education releases updated accommodation guidelines for school boards.

Carried

(d) **SO9 Cyberbullying**

W. Baker presented SO9 Cyberbullying.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO9 Cyberbullying.

Carried

(e) **SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by February 25, 2021.

Carried

(f) **SO25 Visual Identity**

J. Roberto presented SO25 Visual Identity. Thank you to Kimberly Newhouse for the formulation of the Visual Identity manual.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO25 Visual Identity.

Carried

(g) **SO31 Accessibility**

L. Thompson presented SO31 Accessibility.



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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO31 Accessibility.

Carried

E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) F101 Hospitality and Food Expenses

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure F101 Hospitality and Food Expenses to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by February 25, 2021.

Carried

(b) HR110 Hiring Procedures

S. Sincerbox advised that the Ministry has not released the PPM for School Board teacher hiring procedures. As soon as we do receive this PPM, we will be completing our hiring practices document.

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receives HR110 Hiring Procedures as information.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

Carried

(c) P102 Business Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs

Presented as printed.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure P102 Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by February 25, 2021.

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

Nil

(a) OPSBA Report



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We received an invitation from Public Education Symposium (PES), and Trustees are encouraged to sign-up.

G - 1 Correspondence

Nil

H - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board, Rita Collver