



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, February 8, 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, D. Martins, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, A. Smith, 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 5:31 p.m.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

E. Dixon declared conflict of interest for in-camera item C-1-a.

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 5:32 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

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

J. Roberto introduced A. Smith, new Superintendent. R. Collver welcomes A. Smith to Grand Erie.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board suspend Bylaw 5, Section 1, for February 8, 2021.

Carried



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Moved by: G. Anderson
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Agenda be approved.
Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: G. Anderson
Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board ratify the three Collective Agreement Settlements on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and CUPE Local 5100 for the following bargaining units: Office, Clerical and Technical; Educational Assistants, Food Technicians and Communicative Disorders Assistants; and Facility Services, for the period September 1, 2019 up to and including August 31, 2022.

Carried

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

C - 1 **Director's Report**

(a) **Directors Highlights**

Secondary Virtual Learning Academy:

- For families that opted for in-person learning, students returned to school the week of January 25, 2021. The Secondary VLA began Quad 3 on Tuesday February 2, 2021. There are 1394 students enrolled for this quad and 110 teachers are scheduled into 228 sections for quads 3 and 4. All classes had teachers in place to start the quad and we are pleased to have the timetable complete for the rest of the school year.
- The addition of the help desk support for parents will be invaluable for our families as we move into quad 3.
- Secondary school Guidance staff have been great at reaching out to their students in the VLA to provide support in so many ways. Finally, our VLA teachers have been amazing, they've adapted to different ways of teaching and learning in such a short period of time, and they've done so while doing everything they can to support our students.

Returning Devices:

- Schools will begin collecting devices again. This process will be addressed in the coming week.

Elementary Switch:

- Elementary switch between learning models begins on February 15, 2021.



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Return-to-School-Guides:

- The Grand Erie Return-to-School-Guides still available on our website and is regularly updated for families and staff.

February is Black History Month:

- People in Canada celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.
- Every February, people in Canada are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.
- The 2021 theme for Black History Month is: "The Future is Now".
- "The Future is Now" is a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the transformative work that Black Canadians and their communities are doing now.

Have a Heart Day:

- Have a Heart Day invites people of all ages to support culturally based equity for First Nations children by sending letters and Valentine cards to the Prime Minister, by hosting an awareness raising event in their school or community, or by spreading the word through social media. For more information, follow the link:
<https://fncaringsociety.com/have-a-heart>

Family Day Holiday:

- All schools and board offices are closed to observe this holiday.

Student Elections:

- Applications were due to the Director's Office by Friday, February 5, 2021. At this time, Student Trustee Elections are scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021. Additional information to follow.

Niigaan Sinclair:

- The Grand Erie Indigenous Education Team and NTIP are pleased to invite ALL Grand Erie Staff to attend a presentation by Niigaan Sinclair. Re-envisioning Indigenous Student Success: A Path to the Future
- The presentation is on February 16, 2021 at 3:45 p.m.

Indigenous TPA:

- The Ministry has granted us a TPA for \$175,000 to support the Indigenous portfolio to further support Indigenous resources, speaker series and cultural training.

Special Education Update:

- L. Thompson provided an update regarding supports for Special Education during the shutdown. In Grand Erie an approach was taken to bring back students with pervasive special education needs to in-person learning during the Provincial lockdown. The students that were prioritized were students that received special incidents portion (SIP)



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funding to support their complex safety needs, and students attending Life Skills, Multi-Handicap, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in self-contained classroom settings in both elementary and secondary. As well as vocational self-contained classroom settings in secondary schools. All of these students and their families were offered the opportunity to return to in-person learning first as these students work on alternative curriculum goals, not derived from the Ontario curriculum and received significant support from Educational Assistants. School Administrators were asked to reach out to these families to determine if remote learning was meeting the needs of their children and how they could support or reduce any barriers to the learning that was being experienced. Families that chose to send their children back to in-person learning started the week of January 11, 2021. Secondary students started on January 13, 2021. The next step in our approach was that School Administrators reach out to all of the families of each of the students with pervasive special education needs in all other classrooms. Administrators consulted families and inquired if they could provide additional support to the students and decrease barriers. The students that opted to return to in-person learning returned to school on January 25, 2021. A direct call was made to students in the gifted program to determine whether they required some in-person learning. School Administrators advised that these students were engaged in their online learning.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of February 8, 2021 as information.

Carried

(b) Managing the Pandemic

- The staff in Grand Erie each day are required to complete a COVID-19 screening assessment. This is to be completed on a daily basis.
- We are hoping that students will have this opportunity through their emails. This will be confirmed tomorrow.
- Valentine's Day festivities will be at the discretion at the Principals and they will follow the process in place.

C.A. Sloat inquired about Kindergarten registration. The new electronic signs are very welcoming and thank you to our Communications department.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the B1 Ministry memo and whether there is there a plan in place. R. Wyszynski advised that another \$81,000,000 from the Federal government has been issued out to School Boards. We have received \$50,000,000 dollars and Grand Erie has



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allocated \$764,100 to optimizing ventilation and air supply. We have also received Health and Safety funding. Grand Erie will receive \$817,000 and this funding will be used to offset costs incurred by Boards in obtaining PPE. \$65,000 will be allocated to student transportation. This is help ensure that all of our health and safety measures are in place on all of our buses. \$10,000,000 was announced for student nutrition programs. This funding will support programs and to address delivery challenges that have arisen due to the pandemic. This funding will go to Board directly or indirectly. \$62,000,000 was announced Provincially for summer learning opportunities. \$60,000,000 was announced for online learning. Grand Erie also received just over \$1,000,000 for additional connectivity and technological devices. There's three additional announcements of funding for equity initiatives, mental health supports, and funding to address future pandemic needs.

D. Dean inquired if some of this funding could be used to launch the Menstrual Equity project. R. Wyszynski advised that this will be explored.

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Item

(a) Mileage Remuneration Review

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the current mileage rate of \$0.59 per kilometer for the first 5,000 kilometers, and \$0.53 per kilometer thereafter effective September 1, 2021.

Carried

(b) Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report

R. Wyszynski presented the Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report.

C.A. Sloat inquired about the two items on the CPIP that we are not proceeding with. R. Wyszynski gave rational behind the two projects that we are not proceeding with. The first project would have a negative impact on our OPG. The second one could not be accommodated as we require the sign to face Erie Avenue. However, we will work with the school to obtain signage/branding on the front of the school.

C.A. Sloat inquired whether Ryerson Heights was completed last year. Lansdowne is in both CPIP and Pride of Place and Caledonia Centennial is the exact same request. Were these things completed last year. R. Wyszynski advised that the Caledonia Centennial project will



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be completed over the next few years in phases due to the size of the project. There was no design submitted for the Ryerson Heights project. Lansdowne was short with funding and they are trying to use some Pride of Place funding for this.

J. Richardson inquired if the goal is to have digital signs at all school locations and how many do we currently have. R. Wyszynski advised that he would gather that information and report back to the Trustees.

R. Collver inquired about the community partnership initiative program. When this was brought to the Board in November, the fundraising issue was highlighted. R. Wyszynski was going to take that away and report back to see if we could do anything to support these schools in place of fundraising. R. Wyszynski advised that we will look at options when we complete our capital plan for 2021-22.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report for 2020-21.

Carried

(c) **Draft Proposed School Year Calendars 2021-22**

W. Baker presented the draft proposed school year calendars 2021-22.

No direction has been received from the Ministry with respect to the development of the school year calendars for 2021-22. The draft calendars were developed by following past practices. The plan will be to bring this back to the Trustees if there are any amendments made to these calendars.

Motion by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the calendars recommended by the School Year Calendar Committee in the report "Draft Proposed School Year Calendars 2021-22".

Carried

D – 2 New Business – Information Items

(a) **Employee Assistance Program Report – 2019-2020 School Year**

S. Sincerbox presented the Employee Assistance Program Report – 2019-2020 School Year. Two new organizations are being considered to become an EAP provider with the School Board: Lux Counselling and BSL Counselling. Two of our current providers have changed their names. Family Counselling of Brant has become Willow Bridge



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Community Services and Human Solutions has become Homewood Health Inc. The EAP brochure will be revised to reflect the changes and distributed in early 2021.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Employee Assistance Program Report, 2019-2020, as information.

Carried

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

(a) **FT10 Green Schools Construction and Renovation**

Policy FT10 Green Schools Construction and Renovation was circulated to all appropriate stakeholders for comments and a number of amendments were made based on comments received.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy FT10 Green Schools Construction and Renovation.

Carried

(b) **FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships**

Policy FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships was circulated to all appropriate stakeholders for comments and a number of amendments were made based on comments received.

C.A. Sloat inquired about section 3.5 and requested that a specific timeline for retention be added to the Policy. This amendment will be made to the Policy.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships, as amended.

Carried

(c) **SO2 School Councils**

Policy SO2 was circulated to all appropriate stakeholders for comments and a number of amendments were made based on comments received.



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Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO2 School Councils.

Carried

(d) **SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools**

Policy SO4 was circulated to all appropriate stakeholders for comments and a number of amendments were made based on comments received.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO04 Distribution of Materials in Schools.

Carried

(e) **HR6 Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process**

Policy HR6 Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process was approved by the Board in January 2017 and has been identified for review. S. Sincerbox suggests that Trustees are removed from the Interview Team to align with Ministry recommendations.

D. Dean expressed that he feels that it is important to have Trustees on the interview panel. B. Doyle, G. Anderson, C.A. Sloat and D. Werden also agree with D. Dean's statement.

D. Werden indicated that the 2017 report states it "should". He stated that the regulation is fairly clear, and the Trustees have a lot to offer to the process. He expressed that he is more worried about some of the things that are said by Superintendents during the interview process. The interview process should be solely based on the interview itself and Trustees bring a balance to the interview panel.

S. Gibson stated that this is an operational piece and feels that Trustees should be removed from the Interview Team.

C. VanEvery-Albert stated that we are part of the Director's hiring process, but all other positions are operational.

It is agreed upon that Trustees will remain on the interview team at this time. HR6 will be amended to reflect this change.



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Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy HR6 Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021, as amended.

Carried

(f) **HR7 Replacement/Casual Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process**

Policy HR7 Replacement/Casual Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process was approved by the Board in January 2017 and has been identified for review.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy HR7 Replacement/Casual Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(g) **P02 Honouring Indigenous History, Cultures and Traditions**

Policy P02 Honouring Indigenous History, Cultures and Traditions was approved by the Board in January 2017 and has been identified for review. Suggested revisions have been made to the Policy.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy P02 Honouring Indigenous History, Cultures and Traditions to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) **FT104 Reporting Vandalism and Unusual Occurrence Incidents**

Presented as printed.



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Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure FT104 Reporting Vandalism and Unusual Occurrence Incidents to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(b) **FT111 School Initiated Facility Upgrades**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure FT111 School Initiated Facility Upgrades to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(c) **HR101 Fragrance Scent – Safe Workplace**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR101 Fragrance Scent – Safe Workplace to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(d) **HR113 Teacher Performance Appraisal**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR113 Teacher Performance Appraisal to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(e) **HR122 Cell Phones Mobile Devices**

Presented as printed.



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Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR122 Cell Phones Mobile Devices to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried

(f) **SO102 Student Admission/Registration**

R. Wyszynski requested that this is deferred until May 10, 2021 to allow for the internal working group to meet and further review the draft procedure.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board defer Procedure SO102 Student Admission/Registration to the May 10, 2021 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting.

Carried

(g) **SO115 – Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks and Face Shields**

L. Thompson presented SO115 – Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks and Face Shields.

Senior Administration has suggested that this procedure be made into a Policy, which will be owned by the Board of Trustees. The Policy will be brought to the February Regular Board Meeting. In the interim, schools will continue to follow Procedure SO115.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO115 – Guidelines for Student Exemption from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks and Face Shields as information.

Carried

(h) **SO133 Signing Authority for Short Term Agreements**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO133 Signing Authority for Short Term Agreements to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by March 31, 2021.

Carried



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F - 1 Other Business

Nil

(a) OPSBA Report

Nil

G - 1 Correspondence

(a) Letter of Support – Teacher Education Program at Wilfrid Laurier

J. Roberto presented the Letter of Support – Teacher Education Program at Wilfrid Laurier. The request is to have the Director and the Chair of the Board sign the letter to the Ministry of Education in support of the teacher education program.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Letter of Support – Teacher Education Program at Wilfrid Laurier.

Carried

H - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, R. Collver