



Committee of the Whole Meeting | April 26, 2021

All reports for this meeting can be found here: bit.ly/3tX74QE

Student Recognition:

Jaxon Kazakevicius, Jarvis Public School

As a young entrepreneur, Jarvis Public School student Jaxon Kazakevicius identified a problem, saw an opportunity and found an innovative solution. The product he's developed has dogs' tails wagging. Observing the process of beer brewing – which is a hobby of his dad's – Jax noticed a lot of waste in the form of spent grain from the brewing process. So he put it to good use, developing a recipe for dog treats, and his "Beer Bites" business has taken off from there. He now has an arrangement with a local craft brewery so he can obtain the volume of spent grain he requires to produce the treats on a larger scale, and takes care of all aspects of the business in terms of making, marketing, and selling the product.



Enrolment Update

Enrolment is reported to the Ministry of Education on two count dates, October 31st and March 31st, each year. The report contains the following data:

- Original enrolment projections for budget
- Preliminary enrolment reported on September 30, 2020
- Draft enrolment reported on October 31, 2020
- Draft enrolment reported on March 31, 2021

Note: the draft enrolment for the purposes of this report is very preliminary. Reconciliation issues continue to exist with the manner in which quadmasters are created and managed in the enrolment management system. As such, users of this information should be cautious as the data has not been finalized and could be subject to significant revisions.

- Graph illustrating four years of actual enrolment history plus the draft projection for the current year.

Find the full report on pages 25 to 27 here: <https://bit.ly/3tX74QE>

Capital Priorities Projects Funding Submissions

The recently released Ministry memorandum 2021: B05 Launch of 2021-22 Capital Priorities Program (CPP), including Child Care Capital Funding, calls on Boards to submit business cases identifying their urgent pupil accommodation needs.

The CPP provides school boards with an opportunity to identify and address the following needs:

- accommodation pressures;
- replacing schools in poor condition;
- supporting past consolidation decisions;
- providing facilities for French-language rights holders in under-served areas; and
- creating new licensed child care spaces in schools.

Four business cases in Grand Erie were outlined, and are in the process of being developed and, pending Board approval which will be submitted prior to the Ministry deadline of May 21, 2021. For more details, see pages 28 to 30: <https://bit.ly/3tX74QE>

Director's Report Highlights

Mental Health Week

May 3 to 9 is Mental Health Week. As Mental Health Week approaches, it is an opportunity for staff, students, families and community members to raise awareness for mental well-being, not just throughout this week, but every day. It is also an opportunity to remind ourselves that in times when we're feeling anxious or stressed, our mental health is a priority and that our Grand Erie community feels supported.

The Mental Health Team has continued to work tirelessly throughout the school year to provide mental health support for Grand Erie by preparing resources, tools and support for wellness across the Board. These resources will help students, families and staff lay the foundation to build their resilience that they may face during these extraordinary times and in their daily lives. This year, Grand Erie will focus on each of the Five Ways to Wellbeing which are Give, Take Notice, Be Active. Connect and Keep Learning. Activities will be provided

to families and classrooms for each day of the week. We are proud of the work of the Grand Erie Mental Health Team and continue to look to them for guidance as we continue this important work together to create an enabling environment where all students can participate fully in their education.



Grand Erie Wellness Hub

The Staff Wellness Committee is excited to announce the creation of the Grand Erie Wellness Hub which is set to launch in the 2021-22 school year. This hub will act as the central location for all wellness-related resources and materials which will provide staff with easier access than ever before. The Wellness Hub will feature dynamic content tailored to employee groups to meet their specific needs. It can be accessed via the staff portal which contains resources for both staff and students. It will also enhance engagement for staff by fully utilizing the array of wellness-oriented resources.

In addition to the hub, the Staff Wellness Committee will partner with the Employee Wellness Solutions Network to provide additional services to staff across Grand Erie, including personal wellness assessment and coaching in our continued efforts to support the unique needs of our staff.

COVID-19 Reporting Update

With the vast majority of students and staff pivoted to remote learning, Grand Erie confirms the current COVID-19 case reporting process as follows: As of April 19, 2021, Grand Erie is only reporting confirmed cases on the website where the case contact occurred on school property, as per the Ministry of Education Operational Guidance.

This means that Grand Erie would only be reporting confirmed cases for the following who are currently using school facilities:

Staff who need access to the school to perform their remote teaching duties, including but not limited to gaining access to WiFi, picking up teaching materials, providing support to students with special needs or to do essential maintenance work; students with special needs who require in-person learning; and staff at the 349 Erie Avenue buildings who must do essential work in the buildings. Any staff member or student who had a confirmed case contact outside the school setting (for example, students learning at home) would not be reported on the website.

COVID-19 Vaccines Expanding to Staff in Brantford and Brant County

The Brant County Health Unit has announced that it is expanding access to the COVID-19 vaccine for additional Grand Erie staff, beginning April 26. Eligible staff include all active full-time, permanent and long-term occasional (who are currently in a long-term assignment position) school-based staff. Staff who work for the Grand Erie District School Board Education Centre at the 349 Erie Avenue location in Brantford and support centres would also be eligible. This is voluntary and offered at no charge.

At this time, casual and occasional staff are not yet eligible. Our Board continues our discussions with our health unit to expand the eligibility criteria to casual and occasional staff. We will advise of any further expansion of eligibility if and when we receive that information.

Grand Erie would like to thank the Brant County Health Unit for its continued collaboration to keep students and staff safe.

Staff Recognition

On behalf of senior administration and administrators across the Board, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to John, Michael and the ITS team for all the proactive work they've done to facilitate the preparation, coordination and distribution of electronic devices and maintaining the connectivity across Grand Erie last week. We know that our schools are incredibly appreciative of the seamless process and we are thankful for such an incredible team we have.

Positive Story from the Grand Erie Virtual Academy

Elementary teachers, Heather Pond and Amy Duckers, and Early Childhood Educator Theresa Davis' Virtual Academy Kindergarten class is made up of students from 10 schools across the Board. Despite living in various settings, from rural to city, students share a common interest in bird watching. Often in the virtual classroom, students will express their delight and adjust their cameras to show their classmates the feathery visitor. These educators sought to ensure every student would have birds visit them by reaching out to the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve's NatureHood program through Nature Canada. Through their generous donation, coordinated by Cynthia Brinks, they were able to obtain a feeder for each student to set up at home to suit their unique virtual learning environment.



The class also applied for the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation Earth Day funding which was approved by the Social Justice Committee. With the support and coordination of Jeannette Doogs at the Elementary Teachers' Federation, and Patricia Edwards for the Earth Day funding, students received supplies to build on the bird feeder and specialized Earth Day kits. The kits contained a pot, soil and seeds to grow corn, beans and squash as students learned about The Legend of the Three Sisters, a story from the Indigenous community about these three crops helping each other grow.



The class reports that since then, students have had daily visits from birds and have been talking, drawing, writing and researching about birds. Students express their gratitude to have the opportunity to bring the magic of nature to their virtual Kindergarten classroom. Soon, students will add grape jelly to their feeders to attract orioles and place nesting materials outdoors, encouraging students to carry their new interest and sense of wonder beyond the school year.

Additional Items

The following Policies and Procedures will be sent out for comment:

- P01 Special Education Guiding Principles
- F104 Advertising
- HR109 Offence Declaration
- SO126 Volunteers
- P108 Secondary Programs of Choice

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

- Grand Brings New Talent on Board: bit.ly/3wMPC3b
- Getting to Know Grand Erie: Angelika Collin, Communicative Disorders Assistant: bit.ly/3dfPulj
- Grand Erie Welcomes New Student Trustees for 2021-22: bit.ly/3a4pyHk

Environment

- Targeted Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing to be Offered to Students and Staff: bit.ly/3dUmoXH