



Committee of the Whole Meeting | May 10, 2021

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3bnQBOb>

Quality Accommodations Committee Report

During the 2020-21 Quality Accommodation meetings, the committee received updated enrolment, enrolment projections, school capacities, school utilization rates and Facility Condition Index (FCI) statistics. An FCI Score measures the “health” of the physical components of a building by comparing the cost of anticipated renewal needs for the next 5 years against the replacement value of the whole building. Information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was also presented with the group.

To review the full report, including capital projects and priorities, see pages 10-15 here: <https://bit.ly/3bnQBOb>

Summer School Report

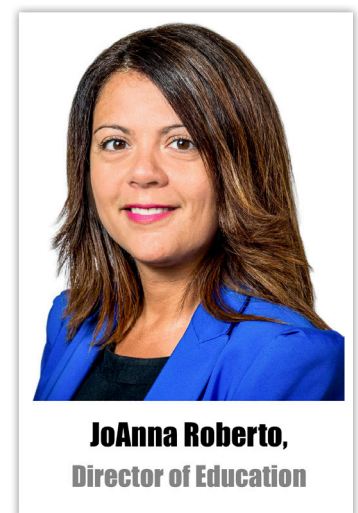
In 2020, summer school students experienced a high level of success, as 93.89 per cent of attempted credits were achieved. Summer school is designed to meet various student needs, including transition supports for intermediate students and providing targeted supports for vulnerable and underserved student groups. Summer school provides both interest-based and needs-based educational opportunities to support more students as they progress toward graduation.

To review the full report, including key elements of the 2021 summer school program, see pages 27-28 here: <https://bit.ly/3bnQBOb>

Director's Report Highlights

Administrative Professionals Day

On April 28, Grand Erie took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate all administrative professionals who keep our schools running smoothly and efficiently every day. They are valued members of our school communities. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the past year, our administrative professionals have gone above and beyond to guide our schools through this difficult time with positivity and strength. These members of our staff make countless contributions to the well-being of staff, students, and families at Grand Erie's schools, and their efforts should not go unnoticed.



JoAnna Roberto,
Director of Education

National Principal's Day

May 1 was also National Principal's Day. Through a difficult year, Grand Erie principals and vice-principals have been the biggest advocates, motivators and pillars of support for our students, staff, and the wider community.

Staff Census

Grand Erie is excited to announce that it will be conducting its first staff census from May 17 to 28. All Grand Erie employees are invited to participate and will receive a link to the survey on May 17. The census is voluntary, but the information reported will be crucial in helping the Board better understand both the identities and needs of its staff. The staff census follows the student census that was conducted by Grand Erie in April 2019, and was created and supported by our unions.

The census will ask questions based on individual demographics. Knowing the demographic makeup of our employee groups will:

- Provide insights of who we are as a workforce community;
- Identify strengths and barriers to workplace equity and inclusivity;
- Help inform the development and implementation of plans and supports to address workplace equity; and
- Provide employee information to help us reach our goal and commitment to increasing diversity at all levels of the Grand Erie District School Board.
- The data collected will remain anonymous and confidential in accordance with privacy requirements outlined in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

Virtual Learning 2021-22

In order to prepare for the future of virtual learning in Grand Erie, a review of the current virtual learning model was conducted in February. Feedback sessions were held with multiple stakeholder groups. Following this, in March, families were surveyed to determine interest in virtual learning for the 2021-22 school year. Feedback from focus groups, family interest, direction from the Ministry and budgetary considerations have all been key drivers in the development of a model for Kindergarten-to-Grade 8 virtual learning for the upcoming school year.

Kindergarten-to-Grade 8 Model Description:

Designated schools across the region will serve as hub schools. Schools will be selected based on their capacity to support virtual staff. As an example, Hub School A may host K – Grade 2, Hub School B may host Grades 3 – 5 and Hub School C may host Grades 6 – 8.

A hub school model addresses much of the feedback gathered from stakeholders. Benefits include:

- Virtual staff supervision by hub school principals
- Clerical, LRT, library and tech support will be provided through the home school
- Learning resources will be readily available through to virtual educators
- Virtual and face-to-face educators can collaborate and connect with ease
- Attendance, mental health and well-being and staffing will be manageable to address and support
- Virtual families will have the opportunity to be part of home school community events and committees (e.g. School Councils, Grade 8 graduation)

In late May, elementary families will receive a survey to declare their intentions to move to online learning. Only families requesting virtual learning will be required to complete the survey. Through the survey, parents will be informed that virtual learning is a full-year commitment. The survey is designed to help families make a choice that best meets the learning and well-being needs of their child.

The hybrid model for students in self-contained classrooms, currently being used for virtual learning, will continue in the 2021-22 school year.

Virtual Workshop Series: Get Ready to Transform Education Through Equity

The New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), in partnership with Grand Erie's Safe and Inclusive Schools team, has organized a two-part virtual workshop called Get Ready to Transform Education Through Equity.

This Wednesday, May 12, Grand Erie staff will have the pleasure to hear from Jean Samuel, a diversity, equity and inclusion educator, in a two-part virtual workshop series. This first session will talk about the critical dialogue on race, oppression and equity in school systems.

Jean has a wealth of experience, with more than 20 years in the diversity field, with her most recent role as the Provincial Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. This first session of the virtual workshop series will engage participants to deepen their understanding on unconscious bias in school environments, the impacts of microaggressions and explore the role of school administrators, teachers, as well as other educational and supportive professionals working within the school board to create student success, particularly for the marginalized and oppressed. Participants will learn how oppression becomes institutionalized with the educational system, and how to operationalize equity in their day-to-day interactions and decision-making.

The second session will take place on Wednesday, May 26, with Samuel speaking to the impacts of microaggressions in schools.

On the Air with Grand Erie Kindergarten Students

We are excited to announce that families across Brantford, Brant County, Haldimand and Norfolk will be able to hear Grand Erie's very own Kindergarten students on their local radio stations from now until June 2nd. The radio ads are an extension to Grand Erie's Kindergarten promotion strategy to highlight our safe, inclusive and fun classrooms where students will achieve and build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Additional Items

The following Bylaws and Policies were recommended for approval:

- SO14 Equity and Inclusive Education
- HR6 Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process
- HR7 Replacement/Casual Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process
- P2 Honoring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives

Trustees also received the following reports:

- FT104 Reporting of Vandalism & Unusual Occurrence Incidents
- FT111 School Initiated Facility Upgrades
- HR101 Fragrance/Scent-Safe Workplace
- HR113 Teacher Performance Appraisal
- HR122 Cell Phones and Mobile Devices
- SO133 Signing Authority for Short Term Agreements

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

- Art Lesson in Resilience at Mapleview Elementary School: <https://bit.ly/3bb6Gqz>
- Celebrating Education Week in Grand Erie: <https://bit.ly/2Q8uFiK>

Environment

- Grand Erie Completes Construction of New Child Care Spaces: <https://bit.ly/3hjD3Hi>

Community

- COVID-19 Vaccinations for All Grand Erie Staff: <https://bit.ly/3vk0LXD>