



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

### AGENDA

#### A - 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) In-Camera Session (**6:30 pm**)
  - (i) Personnel
  - (ii) Legal
  - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement  
*The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.*
- (e) Call to Order
- (f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Agenda be approved."*
- (g) Memorials
  - \* (i) Leonard Plant (G. Anderson)
  - \* (ii) Dominik Short-Empey (E. Thomas)
- (h) In-Camera Report
  - (i) Student Showcase – Simcoe Composite School Musical Interlude (R. Vankerrebroeck, K. Graham)
  - (j) Delegations

#### B - 1 Approval of Minutes

- \* (a) November 27, 2023 (Regular Board Meeting)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated November 27, 2023, be approved."*
- \* (b) December 4, 2023 (Special Board Meeting)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated December 4, 2023, be approved."*

#### C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- \* (a) [Finance Committee Meeting](#) Report dated December 4, 2023 (B. Doyle)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Board approve the Revised Budget Estimates 2023-24."*

#### D - 1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings

#### E - 1 Report of the Director (J. Roberto) (I)

#### F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

- \* (a) Student Senate Report (M. Baker, K. Gayowsky, A. Skye) (I)

#### G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items

- \* (a) Borrowing Authorities (R. Wyszynski)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Board approve the Borrowing Authorities."*



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### AGENDA

- \* (b) Reporting of Wrongdoing (Chair of the Board) (I)
- (c) Committee Representation (Chair of the Board)  
**Recommended Motion:**  
*"THAT the Board approve the Committee Representation 2023-24."*
- \* (d) [Director's Annual Report 2022-23](#) (J. Roberto) (I)

H - 1 **Other Business** - Nil

I - 1 **OPSBA Report** (C. VanEvery-Albert) (I)

J - 1 **Correspondence** - Nil

K - 1 **Adjournment**

**Recommended Motion:**

*"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."*



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Education Centre Boardroom

### AGENDA

## JANUARY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
01	02	03	04	05
08	09	10	11	12
			Special Education Advisory Committee 6:00 p.m.	
15	16	17	18	19
Policy and Program 6:30 p.m.				
22	23	24	25	26
			GEPIC 6:00 p.m.	
29	30	31		
Regular Board 7:15 p.m.				

## **In Memoriam**

Leonard Plant  
Facility Services

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Leonard Plant.

Leonard Plant was a dedicated staff member with the Facility Services team. He was hired in September of this year as a lead on a project undertaken by Facility Services. He was well known locally as a former custodian and retired Operations Supervisor from Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

Len was both dedicated and enthusiastic about education and his project in Grand Erie. He greatly enjoyed visiting schools and speaking to staff over the previous months as part of that work.

Our deepest condolences go out to Len's family, friends, colleagues and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Mesicek  
Manager of Facility Services

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting  
on December 11, 2023, by Trustee Anderson

## **In Memoriam**

Dominik Short-Empey  
a student at Valley Heights Secondary School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dominik Short-Empey.

Dominik was a quiet, honest young man who always looked out for his friends. He was highly skilled in hands-on technology courses and a valued member of his school community. He will be greatly missed by the staff and students at Valley Heights, and especially by those who were fortunate enough to be his friends.

Our deepest condolences go out to Dominik's family, friends, everyone in the Valley Heights school community, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison High  
Principal of Valley Heights Secondary School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting  
on December 11, 2023, by Trustee Thomas



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 27, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Chair S. Gibson, Vice-Chair B. Doyle Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver (MS Teams), L. Passmore, E. Thomas (MS Teams), T. Sault, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton (MS Teams); Student Trustees: M. Baker, K. Gayowsky, A. Skye

**Administration:**

Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Edgar (MS Teams) K. Graham, L. Munro, D. Smouter, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Executive Assistant: C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

**Guests:**

Planning Supervisor: N. Hercanuck, External Auditor: Matt McNally

**A - 1 Opening (6:30 pm)**

**(a) Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

**(c) In-Camera Session (6:34 pm)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

**Carried**

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

Chair Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**(e) Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

**(f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

**(g) Memorials**

**(i) Jordan Evans**

The memorial of Jordan Evans was read by Vice-Chair Doyle.

**(ii) Michael Wierzbicki**

The memorial of Michael Wierzbicki was read by Chair Gibson.

**(h) In-Camera Report – Nil**



## Regular Board Meeting

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Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

(i) **Learn Lead Inspire Award**

Director Roberto presented Gimma R. Stacey Laforme, of Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Chief Mark Hill, of Six Nations of the Grand River, both former Grand Erie graduates, with a Learn Lead Inspire award. The award recognizes the outstanding work each has contributed to advocating for and enriching the educational experiences of Indigenous learners across Grand Erie, and for their leadership in helping us better understand our commitments to reconciliation.

(j) **Student Showcase – North Park Collegiate Institute Wind Ensemble**

Five students from North Park Collegiate and Vocational School's wind ensemble performed a musical interlude.

(k) **Delegations – Nil**

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **October 30, 2023 (Regular Board)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, dated October 30, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

(b) **November 1, 2023 (Special Board)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, dated November 1, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

(c) **November 6, 2023 (Special Board)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, dated November 6, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

The following motion was confirmed at the November 6, 2023 Special Board meeting:

That the Board bar Trustee Sloat from attending Board meetings including In-Camera meetings and Special Board meetings for October and November and bar Trustee Sloat from attending and sitting in all committees effective October 16 to the end of March 31, 2024 and that she only receives public materials. For further clarity attending means Trustee Sloat not attend in person, virtually, or by any other means.

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Finance Committee Meeting Report dated November 13, 2023**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford



## Regular Board Meeting

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Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

THAT the Board approve the Boundary Review Study for Grandview Public School and Graham Bell-Victoria Public School.

**Carried**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Board approve the Facility Renewal Plan for 2023-24.

**Carried**

(b) **Audit Committee Meeting Report dated November 2, 2023**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Board approve the amended 2022-23 Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Carried**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Board approve the 2023 Audit Committee Annual Report.

**Carried**

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings – Nil**

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

Director Roberto highlighted the following:

- Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2024-25 school year.
- Promotion of Grade 9 Information nights.
- North Park Students Against Racism Coalition were awarded a YMCA Peace Medal.
- Tourism Innovator of the Year in Ontario Awards included Dunnville Secondary School and McKinnon Park Secondary School.
- ECE Excellence at Grand Erie – Five (5) Early Childhood Educators were honoured at the 2023 ECE Awards.
- STEM - Grade 8 classes from Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of Credit First Nation joined members of the Curriculum and Student Achievement and Indigenous Education teams for an Amazing Race STEM Reach Ahead Event.
- Rock Your Mocs and Treaties Week - opportunities were provided for students to learn about culture and history.
- Indigenous Learning included hide tanning at Hagersville Secondary School (NATIONS/Newstart) for moccasin making. Brantford Collegiate Institute students made faceless dolls, and attached a name from the list of missing students of Mohawk Residential school and other Ontario schools. Students from the Valley Heights Secondary School participated in the painting of the Moccasin Identifier Project mural.
- Professional Development for educators across the district focused on Math learning as outlined in the Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan.





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### MINUTES

- Experiential Learning included Festivale Francais Tour with DJ Delf, Cayuga Secondary School photography students and Organized Kaos event at Cedarland Public School.
- Brantford Bulldogs are engaging students with messages around learning, leadership, and inspiration.

**F - 1 Student Trustees' Report - Nil**

**G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items**

**(a) Annual Progress Report on the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022-2027**

Presented as printed.

**(b) Major Construction Project Report**

Presented as printed.

**(c) Trustees' Expense Report**

Presented as printed.

**(d) Notice of Motion**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

That section 9.1 of the General Working By-law be waived and that the motion be discussed and voted upon this meeting.

**Carried**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT Chair Gibson write a letter addressed to MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, and copied to Norfolk County Council, requesting government support for the installation of a much-needed controlled traffic light at the crosswalk at James Street in front of Delhi District Secondary School whereby a student of the board was recently struck by a vehicle.

**Carried**

**H - 1 Other Business**

**(a) Audit Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 14, 2023**

Presented as printed.

**(b) Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 5, 2023**

Presented as printed.

**I - 1 OPSBA Report**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert attended the Central West Region meeting and Trustee Bradford joined her at the West Region on November 4, 2023. The provincial government has offered support to revitalize Indigenous languages within the province.



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### MINUTES

- J - 1 **Correspondence** – presented as printed.
- (a) Thames Valley District School Board dated November 7, 2023
  - (b) Lambton Kent District School Board dated November 14, 2023
  - (c) Thames Valley District School Board dated November 22, 2023

- K - 1 **Adjournment**
- Moved by: G. Anderson  
Seconded by: J. Bradford  
THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:22 p.m.  
**Carried**

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Chair S. Gibson

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Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



## Special Board Meeting

Monday, December 4 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

- Present:** Chair S. Gibson, Vice-Chair B. Doyle Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, T. Sault, E. Thomas (MS Teams), C. VanEvery-Albert (MS Teams), T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton (MS Teams)
- Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham (MS Teams), L. Munro, J. Tozer, R. Vankerrebroeck, J. White (MS Teams), R. Wyszynski, Executive Assistant: Christina Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken
- Guests:** M. Zega, Legal Counsel, J. Bell, General Legal Counsel (MS Teams)
- Regrets:** Student Trustees: M. Baker, K. Gayowsky, T. Zebroski

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gibson at 5:30 p.m.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (5:33 p.m.)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

**Carried**

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

Chair Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Special Board meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

(f) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Agenda be approved.

**Carried**

(g) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board bar Trustee Sloat from attending all meetings of the Board including In-Camera meetings, Special Board meetings, the Annual meeting and Caucus meetings for December 2023, January, and February 2024, and furthermore bar Trustee Sloat from attending and sitting in all committees effective April 1 to the end of November 30, 2024, inclusive of July and August, and that she receives a public censure



## Special Board Meeting

Monday, December 4 2023

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### MINUTES

and only receives public materials. For further clarity attending means Trustee Sloat not attend in person, virtually, or by any other means.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Doyle – yes

Trustee VanEvery-Albert – yes

Trustee Anderson – no

Trustee Waldschmidt – yes

Trustee Passmore – yes

Trustee Whiton – yes

Trustee Collver – no

Trustee Thomas – yes

Trustee Bradford – yes

Trustee Sault – yes

Chair Gibson – yes

**Carried**

#### B - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Special Board meeting be adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

**Carried**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Gibson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



## Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

6:45 p.m.

Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### REPORT

**Present:** Committee Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: J. Bradford, S. Gibson, L. Passmore, E. Thomas (MS Teams), T. Waldschmidt

**Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: R. Wyszynski, J. Tozer, Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

**Guests:** Manager of Business Services, C. Smith (MS Teams), Budget and Grants Supervisor, A. Van Doorn (MS Teams)

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair B. Doyle at 6:46 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

(c) **Welcome/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

**Carried**

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **November 13, 2023**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee dated November 13, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** – Nil

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Revised Budget Estimates 2023-24**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Revised Budget Estimates 2023-24 be forwarded to the December 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

**Carried**



## Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

6:45 p.m.

Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting

### REPORT

Superintendent Wyszynski presented a balanced budget, that highlighted substantial enrollment growth, which lead to significant revenue changes and changes to expenditures.

In response to questions, Superintendent Wyszynski:

- listed areas of population growth in the district and noted the strategies used to address the pressures
- student enrollment is monitored monthly, and revenues and expenditures are adjusted accordingly
- direction is taken from the Ministry of Education with regards to benchmarks for increased salary costs due to negotiations.

F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** February 12, 2024



# Grand Erie District School Board

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**TO:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board

**FROM:** Maggie Baker, Student Trustee – South  
Keira Gayowsky, Student Trustee – North  
Aleena Skye, Student Trustee – Indigenous

**RE:** **Student Senate Report**

**DATE:** December 11, 2023

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The Student Trustees held their first Student Senate event of the year on Thursday, November 23rd, which was hosted at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School. The Student Senate enables student leaders to connect with each other to create an even better future for their schools. Student Trustees connected with Student Senators, new and old, and presented new ideas and updates on initiatives.

The day began with Student Senate working groups: environmentalism, student mental health and well-being, and student voice. Each working group brainstormed and discussed themes related to current and new initiatives for the school year.

Student Trustee Gayowsky led the Student Voice Working Group, which discussed various ideas for the year. In collaboration with Student Trustee Skye and the United Indigenous Student Council, the group is considering an initiative to support a consistent process for sharing the Land Acknowledgement across all schools. The students also discussed ways to support the transition between Grades 8 and 9 and de-streamed classes. Students discussed a possible mentorship program within schools for younger students and how to support more access to information about mental health and academics. The Student Voice Working Group ended their breakout with a discussion about washroom accessibility and School Cash Online. The group will continue to communicate virtually to develop these ideas and initiatives.

Student Trustee Skye led the Environmental Working Group, which fostered many great ideas about new and previous initiatives. Student discussion focused on how schools can reduce their carbon footprint with suggestions for eco-friendly swaps like compost bins and biodegradable utensils. Many senators also expressed how they simply do not know how to recycle, so discussions around the accessibility and ease of signage on bins were brought to the table. Senators also expressed a desire to enhance or better promote designated clubs within their schools, such as Eco or Earth clubs. The group finished their discussion generating ideas about school greenhouses and eco-friendly projects within classes. Ideas included having more greenhouses in schools so nutrition classes could use the crops sustainably and woodworking and art classes creating garbages and painting them. This would spread more awareness about environmental issues and be more eco-friendly. Students felt confident and excited to continue working on these endeavours and initiatives throughout the year.

The Mental Health and Well-being Working Group, led by Student Trustee Baker, continues to review cafeteria food choices and pricing options within Grand Erie secondary schools. On November 27, secondary students across Grand Erie were invited to complete a survey to assist the initiative in hopes of impacting change. The working group discussion was incredibly productive, with topics including understanding where the gaps lay in students' mental well-being and security and addressing these gaps. Many great ideas were shared, including

revising the title of “sexual health nurse” within schools to better-fit students’ needs and comfort level, promoting mental-health resources, requesting more anxiety support groups, and investigating a change with the need for a parent/caregiver signature when visiting a health nurse. Students felt confident in sharing personal experiences to gain more data.

Students had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Johnny Henderson with the group *LiveDifferent*, who shared his experiences on how he overcame various personal challenges. He provided an inspirational message on persisting during difficult times and echoed the message of “creating your own story.” Students felt inspired and empowered by his presentation, which aligned heavily with Grand Erie’s collective priorities of learning, leading, and inspiring. Creating your own story is imperative for leaders as we begin the year and strive to do better for Grand Erie schools and, ultimately, its students.

All working groups plan to continue to meet virtually to discuss their initiatives. Updates will be provided to the board.

Students were reminded of the upcoming Student Senate event on February 15th, 2024, where elections for the 2024-2025 Student Trustees will occur. The Student Trustees hope to further promote these elections through the use of social media, infographics, posters, and possible visits to schools and their Student Councils. Planning for this Student Senate is underway, and are pleased to continue the work with the student body, which continues to learn, lead, and inspire.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Baker, Student Trustee – South  
K. Gayowsky, Student Trustee – North  
A. Skye, Student Trustee – Indigenous





# Grand Erie District School Board

**TO:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board  
**FROM:** Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer  
**RE:** **Borrowing Authority**  
**DATE:** December 11, 2023

**Recommended Motion:** Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
THAT the Board authorize the Signing Authorities 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.

## Background

This recommendation will ensure that the board continues to carry out its operational business function.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



# Grand Erie District School Board

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**TO:** Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board  
**FROM:** Chair of the Board  
**RE:** **Reporting of Wrongdoing**  
**DATE:** December 11, 2023

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In accordance with section 5.7 of Trustee Code of Conduct – Governance Policy #4, the Chair of the Board must report to the Board of Trustees annually any reports of wrongdoing.

There is nothing to report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair of the Board



# Grand Erie District School Board

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**TO:** Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board  
**FROM:** JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board  
**RE:** **Director's Annual Report**  
**DATE:** December 11, 2023

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## Background

The Director's Annual Report is required by section 283(3) of the Education Act. As outlined in the Act, the report must be submitted at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees in December. In addition, the Ministry of Education requires that the report must be posted on our Board website on or before January 31, 2024.

## Additional Information

The Director's Annual Report for 2022-23 is a pdf document. The report highlights activities and accomplishments connected to the Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan and the details included in the report acknowledge the contributions of students and staff across all areas of Grand Erie.

A link to the Director's Annual Report is provided [here](#).

## Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports all indicators of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we will, together, build a culture of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging to inspire each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnna Roberto, Ph.D.  
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board