



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

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
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Award (J. Roberto)
- (j) Student Showcase – Delhi District Secondary School – The AI Play (J. Roberto, R. Vankerrebroeck)
- (k) Delegations

B - 1 Approval of Minutes

- * (a) February 26, 2024 (Special Board Meeting)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated February 26, 2024, be approved."
- * (b) February 26, 2024 (Regular Board Meeting)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated February 26, 2024, be approved."

C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Policy and Program Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 4, 2024 (B. Doyle)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the French Immersion Review with next steps and that the French Immersion Special Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded."
- * (b) [Audit Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 7, 2024 (T. Waldschmidt)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the appointment of Millards Chartered Professional Accountants as external auditors for the 2023-24 financial year."
- * (c) [Governance Committee Meeting](#) Report dated March 21, 2024 (S. Gibson)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the amendments to the General Governance Policy."

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



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

AGENDA

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) Major Construction Project Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)
- * (b) Board Approved Transportation Review (R. Wyszynski)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2024-25 School Year."

H - 1 **Other Business**

- * (a) Audit Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 2, 2023 (I)
- * (b) Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 1, 2024 (I)

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

J - 1 **Correspondence**

- * (a) Waterloo Region District School Board dated February 23, 2024
- * (b) Waterloo Region District School Board dated February 23, 2024
- * (c) Brant Waterways Foundation dated February 29, 2024
- * (d) Waterloo Region District School Board dated March 1, 2024

K - 1 **Adjournment**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

AGENDA

APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
01	02	03	04 SEAC 6:00 p.m.	05
08 Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.	09	10	11	12
15	15	17	18 Six Nations Advisory Committee 1:00 p.m.	19
22 Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.	23	24	25	26
29	30			



Special Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: B. Doyle (MS Teams), Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver (MS Teams), L. Passmore, T. Sault, E. Thomas, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, K. Graham (MS Teams), L. Munro, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Executive Assistant: C. 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, A. Skye

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gibson at 5:34 p.m.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (5:40 p.m.)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

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

Chair read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Board meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

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

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **In-Camera Report**

Executive Assistant C. Dero reported that on On February 12, 2024, the Board determined that Trustee Sloat was in breach of the following sections of the Code of Conduct:

- Section 1.2 b) and Section 1.4 a) for Incident #1
- Section 1.2 b) and Section 1.4 a) for Incident #2
- Section 1.2 b) and Section 1.4 a) for Incident #3



Special Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

THAT the Board bar Trustee Sloat from attending all meetings of the Board including In-Camera, Special Board and Caucus meetings for March, April, and May 2024. As well bar Trustee Sloat from attending and sitting in all committee meetings effective November 30, 2024 to the end of May 2025. That she only receives public materials. For further clarity, attending meetings mean Trustee Sloat will not attend in person or virtually or by any other means. Trustee Sloat will also receive a public censure at a date to be determined.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Doyle – yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert – yes
Trustee Sault – yes
Trustee Waldschmidt – yes
Trustee Thomas – yes
Trustee Whiton – yes

Trustee Collver – no
Trustee Anderson – no
Trustee Passmore – yes
Trustee Bradford – yes
Chair Gibson – yes

B - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Special Board meeting be adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

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

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

Guest: Planning Supervisor, Nathan Hercanuck (MS Teams)

Regrets: Vice-Chair B. Doyle

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

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

Trustee Whiton and Trustee Anderson declared a conflict of interest with respect to an in-camera agenda item.

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:31 pm)**

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: L. Whiton

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 7:17 p.m. and welcomed the new student trustees to the meeting.

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

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **Memorials - Nil**

(h) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

THAT the Board ratify the Collective Agreement settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Grand Erie Occasional Teacher Local for the period of September 1, 2022 up to and including August 31, 2026.

Carried

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Board ratify the Collective Agreement settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Grand Erie Elementary Teachers Federation for the period of September 1, 2022 up to and including August 31, 2026.

Carried

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board ratify the Collective Agreement settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, District 23 Teachers Bargaining Unit for the period of September 1, 2022 up to and including August 31, 2026.

Carried

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board ratify the Collective Agreement settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, District 23 Occasional Teachers Bargaining Unit for the period of September 1, 2022 up to and including August 31, 2026.

Carried

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Board ratify the Collective Agreement settlement on local terms between the Grand Erie District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, District 23 Professional Student Services Personnel for the period of September 1, 2022 up to and including August 31, 2026.

Carried

(i) **Student Showcase – Project Search**

Director Roberto introduced the staff and students of Project Search, a school-to-work training program for students with disabilities. Each student shared their experience including how they develop competitive, transferrable skills to take with them after graduation.

(j) **Delegations – Nil**



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **January 29, 2024 (Regular Board)**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, dated January 29, 2024, be approved.

Carried

(b) **February 12, 2024 (Special Board Meeting)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting dated February 12, 2024, be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Finance Committee Meeting Report dated February 12, 2024**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: E. Thomas

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT a working committee is established to review the K-3 program offering and consolidation of French Immersion to River Heights Public School effective September 2024, and that a recommendation is forwarded to a Regular Board meeting for approval no later than March 2024.

Carried

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the amended Grade 7-8 school boundaries for Graham Bell-Victoria Public School, and Grandview Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2024.

Carried

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT the Board approve the Elgin Avenue Public School renovation scope and related tender documents.

Carried

Superintendent Wyszynski provided background information regarding the Elgin Avenue Public School renovation/addition.

- **Data points**

In developing the LTAP the board reviewed data from numerous sources related to Municipal official plans, servicing plans, development charges studies, and growth strategies.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

- Consolidation Project (Scope, business plan, future growth)
The planned expenditures at Elgin Public School will address required facility renewal (which has been deferred since the project's onset in 2017), the essential expansion of Early Years Services, and the provision of additional pupil places.
- West Lynn Student Growth
There was an increase in enrolment at West Lynn this year above projections. The board will respond to growth accordingly and short-term projections indicate Elgin Public School can support the entire growth slated for both its boundary as well as the existing West Lynn boundary.

In response to a question, it was noted that there will be approximately six to seven portables to accommodate the growth at West Lynn Public School during the renovation at Elgin Avenue Public School.

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

Director Roberto highlighted the following:

- Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan
- Student Trustee Elections
- Learning from the Land video
- Learning from the Land course bundle
- Visual Arts
- Community Involvement
- Meet the Leader
- 100th Day of School
- Michael Jacques
- Secondary Sports
- School Events
- Job Fair

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

(a) **OSTA-AECO Education Action Conference**

Presented as printed.

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

(a) **Student Trustee Selection 2024-25**

Presented as printed.

(b) **French Immersion Program Consolidation – Caledonia Centennial Public School and River Heights Public School**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Sault



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

THAT the K-3 French Immersion Program at Caledonia Centennial Central Public School be consolidated with Grades 4-8 at River Heights Public School effective September 2024.

Carried

H - 1 Other Business

(a) **Student Senate Meeting Minutes dated November 23, 2023**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Six Nations Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 14, 2023**

Presented as printed.

(c) **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2024**

Presented as printed.

I - 1 OPSBA Report

Trustee VanEvery-Albert advised that the OPSBA Central West meeting will be held on April 6, 2024, at the Woodland Cultural Centre. The Indigenous Trustees Council will come together in July in Toronto and the Labour Relations Symposium will be held on April 25-26, 2024.

J - 1 Correspondence

(a) **Rainy River District School Board dated February 13, 2024**

Presented as printed.

K - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, March 4, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

REPORT

Present: Committee Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: J. Bradford, R. Collver B. Doyle, T. Sault, T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton

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

Regrets: Trustee C. VanEvery-Albert

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

Roll call was completed.

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

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

Chair S. Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

An addition was made to the agenda regarding the timelines for the implementation of the School Climate Survey.

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

January 15, 2024

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Minutes of the Policy and Program Committee meeting dated January 15, 2024, be approved.

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business - Program**

(a) **Information Technology Services Annual Report**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question regarding Cyber Security, initiatives include:

- Cyber Safety Campaign
- Crisis Management Plan
- Online Training Module



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, March 4, 2024

Education Centre Boardroom

REPORT

- (b) **French Immersion Review**
Presented as printed.
Moved by: J. Bradford
Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt
THAT the French Immersion Review with next steps and Special Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded and forwarded to the March 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for approval.
Carried
- (c) **Reading Intervention Project – Systemic and Evidence Based Reading Program**
Presented as printed.
In response to a question, it was noted that Grand Erie has chosen the Acadience Learning screener as recommended by the Ministry of Education.
- (d) **Curriculum Updates**
Presented as printed.
- (e) **Graduation Updates 2023-24**
Presented as printed.
It was noted that Grand Erie supports different post-secondary pathways for all students.
- (f) **School Climate Survey**
It was noted that school boards are required to conduct a School Climate Survey every two years in accordance with the *Education Act* and PPM 145. The survey assesses student experiences at school and helps leaders and educators better respond to student needs. Voluntary, anonymous and confidential surveys will be circulated to Grade 4-6 students, and to Grade 7-1 students. To accommodate timelines around EQAO testing, surveys will be open for elementary and secondary students at separate times.
- F - 1 **New Business**
(a) **Student Expulsion Procedure**
Presented as printed.
- G - 1 **Adjournment**
Moved by: L. Whiton
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT the Policy and Program meeting be adjourned at 7:39 p.m.
Carried
- H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** May 13, 2024



Audit Committee

Thursday, March 7, 2024

4:30 PM

REPORT

Present: Chair - T. Waldschmidt, J. Bradford, R. Collver, E. Hodgins, A. Thakker

Administration: J. Roberto, R. Wyszynski, C. Smith

KPMG (Internal Auditors): S. Bedi

Millards (External Auditors): M. McNally

Recording Secretary: L. Howells

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Waldschmidt.

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

(c) **Welcome to Open Session**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

(d) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: E. Hodgins

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Audit Committee approve the March 7, 2024, Consent Agenda:

(a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated November 2, 2023.

(b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence report.

(c) Receive the Revised Budget Estimates 2023-24,

Carried

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

D - 1 **Internal Audit - Nil**

(a) **Math Achievement Assessment – Status Update**

S. Bedi, from KPMG, provided a brief update on the status on the Math Achievement Assessment noting the scope was to review of the development of the action plan and to better understand how the significant commitment of resources will impact the outcomes. Final report will be presented at the June 13, 2024, Audit Committee meeting.



Audit Committee

Thursday, March 7, 2024

4:30 PM

REPORT

In response to questions, S. Bedi clarified that the assessment is focused on the allocated funds from the Ministry for math facilitators that coach educators and noted that the board allocated additional funds to provide professional development across the system. Director Roberto provided further details noting every educator through Grade 1 to 8 will receive professional development in the area of math and that Grand Erie Grade 3 and 6 educators, in the priority schools, receive monthly professional development. For Grade 9, the professional development includes educators, student success and guidance staff.

(a) **2024-25 Internal Audit Plan**

S. Bedi, from KPMG, provided an update on the streamlined risk assessment process to gather input and noted this model allows for the potential horizontal audits for common topic and risks. S. Bedi noted the 2024-25 Internal Audit will be focused on an assessment of risks facing school boards, information contained in the 2023-24 Internal Audit Plan and any significant changes to the risks within Grand Erie.

E - 1 **External Audit**

(a) **Appointment of the External Auditor**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: A. Thakker

THAT the appointment of Millards Chartered Professional Accountants as external auditors for the 2023-24 financial year be forwarded to the March 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Budget Overview 2024-25**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided an update on the 2024-25 Budget process and timelines.

In response to question regarding Bill 124, Superintendent Wyszynski responded that any impacts should come through Grant for Student Needs as compensation is a centrally bargained item now.

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. (in person)



Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

Present: Committee Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: J. Bradford, B. Doyle, T. Waldschmidt, C. VanEvery-Albert

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

Visiting Trustee: R. Collver

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair S. Gibson and roll call was completed.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

(c) Welcome /Land Acknowledgment Statement

Committee Chair S. Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Bradford

That the Governance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 Approval of the Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting, dated October 19, 2023, be approved.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Carried

D - 1 Business Arising from the Minutes/Previous Meeting - Nil

E - 1 New Business – Governance Items

(a) Amendments to the General Governance Policy

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the amendments to the General Governance Policy be forwarded to the March 25, 2024, Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

Amendments included:

- General Governance Policy, Section 4.0 and Section 4.2

F - 1 Other Business - Nil



C-1-c

Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams

REPORT

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Governance Committee meeting be adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Carried



Grand Erie District School Board

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: March 25, 2024

Student Senate enables student leaders to connect, creating and developing core values for the future of education. This past month, the Student Trustees hosted the 2nd Student Senate meeting of the 2023-24 school year on February 15, 2024, at Hagersville Secondary School.

The day began with elections for the 2024-25 Student Trustees. In preparation for elections, Student Trustees coordinated school visits with respective senators and councils. Student Trustees Baker, Gayowsky, and Skye visited McKinnon Park Secondary School, Waterford District High School, and Delhi District High School in January. Student Trustees had the opportunity to interact with students, answer questions about the role of student trustee, and learn about some of the issues faced by secondary students. Election information was also promoted through the Senate's Instagram.

At the Student Senate, there was a historic number of candidates for the student trustee position. There were two (2) Indigenous candidates, nine (9) from the South and five (5) from the North. Candidates had the opportunity to speak to senators, displaying tremendous amounts of leadership and ambition. The Student Trustees were incredibly grateful that Grand Erie students were so willing to learn, lead, and inspire. Election results were announced at the February 2024 Board meeting and were posted to the Senate's Instagram.

Following the elections, student senators moved into their working groups: environmentalism, student mental health and well-being, and student voice. Each working group discussed initiatives and concerns, building on the foundations laid in November 2023.

Student Trustee Gayowsky led the Student Voice Working Group, where various ideas were discussed, and project updates were announced. Students were advised of the reduction in School Cash online fees to families from 4% to 2%, a concern brought forward by students earlier in the year. Students also shared and discussed washroom accessibility and the availability of menstrual products. Senators were very excited to continue working on the Senate's social media presence and want to collaborate to create posts about multiculturalism and days of significance. The Student Voice Working Group will continue to communicate and collaborate, looking at ways to use social media to help support Grade 8 to 9 student transitions, promote equity and diversity and amplify student voices.

Student Trustee Skye led the Environmental Working Group, fostering new ideas and continuing to work on current projects. The group discussed the importance of removing plastic water bottles from schools, as single-use plastic can harm the environment. The group also discussed creating signage for garbage cans and composting bins, and those signs were delivered to secondary schools following the Student Senate. These signs will ensure that students are eco-conscious and informed of the recycling policies. Senators are excited to

continue working together to make schools an even greener place and are collaborating to look into additional resources to support recycling and environmentalism in schools.

The Mental Health and Well-being Working Group, led by Student Trustee Baker, started their breakout session by discussing the results of the Cafeteria Price survey, which received feedback from over 10% of secondary students. The group discussed what steps they could take next to further improve nutrition within schools. Students also discussed ways to support mental health and how to reach students who are uncomfortable asking for resources. Ideas such as mental health surveys, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) information sessions, and student panels were brought forward as ways raise student advocacy and awareness. Student Trustee Baker also talked about the importance of "Talking Locker," where students can anonymously submit concerns. The group is excited to continue moving forward and ensuring students have enhanced resources for both physical and mental health.

All working groups plan to continue to meet virtually and communicate to discuss and develop their initiatives. Updates will be provided to the Board.

The next Student Senate meeting will be on April 25, 2024, and planning for this event is underway. We are pleased to continue working with the student body, who continue 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: **Major Construction Project Report**
DATE: March 25, 2024

Background

As per Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie's) Major Construction Policy (FA-01), the status of each active capital project will be provided in a bi-monthly report. As per policy, this report shall include budgeted and actual costs to date, details of project progress and schedule for completion. A funding strategy will be recommended should forecasted expenditures for a project exceed the budget established.

Status

Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School

The project has received Ministry approval to proceed, and the tender has been released. The project team is anticipating awarding the general construction contract in late April.

South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School

The approval to proceed to tender was submitted to the Ministry in early December.

Elgin Avenue Public School Addition and Renovation

The project has been submitted to the Ministry to obtain approval to proceed to tender.

All active project details are listed in Appendix A.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Belonging indicator of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we build a culture of belonging to support an equitable, inclusive, and responsive environment for each learner.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A

Project	Type	Phase	Ministry Approval	Target Opening Date	Architect	Site Acquisition	Site Plan Approval (SPA)	Tender Awarded	General Contractor	Budget	Actual	Cost Forecast
Elgin Avenue Public School	Addition / Renovation	Pre-Tender	Aug 04, 2017	Sep 01, 2025	Salter Pilon Architecture	N/A	In progress.	No	TBD	\$ 6,180,145	\$ 139,317	\$ 6,180,145
South-West Brantford Elementary School	New School	Pre-Tender	Oct 20, 2020	Sep 01, 2025	ZAS Architects	In Progress	Conditional Site Plan Approval received (Jan 2024).	No	TBD	\$ 16,269,978	\$ 1,264,882	\$ 16,269,978
Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School	New School	Tender	Nov 23, 2021	Sep 01, 2025	Svedas Architects	Completed	SPA submitted (Nov 2023)	In Progress	TBD	\$ 18,935,580	\$ 296,259	\$ 18,935,580
Cobblestone Elementary School Child Care	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 25, 2021	Jan 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	In progress.	No	TBD	\$ 2,224,868	\$ 99,570	\$ 2,224,868
Banbury Heights School Child Care	Addition	Pre-Tender	Mar 25, 2021	Jan 01, 2025	Grguric Architects Inc.	N/A	In progress and almost complete.	No	TBD	\$ 2,182,082	\$ 227,660	\$ 2,182,082



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: **Board Approved Transportation Review**
DATE: March 25, 2024

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2024-25 School Year.

1.0 Background

Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) is in the process of developing parameters and reviewing current bus information for the purposes of planning bus routes for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. STSBHN performs a comprehensive review of scenarios that fall outside of [STSBHN Procedure 002 Transportation Eligibility](#) as a regular part of the planning cycle. In previous years, STSBHN has brought information forward to the Board of Trustees with the objective of approving which students, who are otherwise ineligible for services under the transportation policies and procedures, should be provided exceptions for the upcoming school year.

The student groupings listed below do not meet the defined transportation eligibility requirements and have had exception boundaries approved by the Board of Trustees in previous years. Unlike previous years where a travel code of "Board Approved" was used to identify these otherwise ineligible students, STSBHN has migrated to the exception boundary system which allows families checking their eligibility online to see if they qualify for services that have been approved by the board. STSBHN requires confirmation from the board that the currently approved exception boundaries are still warranted in order to plan for services scheduled to be delivered in the 2024-25 school year. A summary of the forecasted expenses for the coming school year is included in Appendix A.

2.0 Out-of-Boundary Students

2.1 Norfolk Secondary

There are several Norfolk secondary students who have registered at a secondary school which is not their home school. Many of these students, totaling 217, have been provided transportation in the current school year.

STSBHN requires confirmation of the previously approved method of classifying students to accurately and consistently plan and apply transportation services to the secondary students of Norfolk County:

- i) All Grade 9 and 10 students, as program delivery are similar at each secondary school, must request courtesy transportation if they reside out of their school's catchment.
- ii) Students in Grades 11 and 12, whose home school does not have the course selection that the student needs, will be provided board approved transportation to the closest secondary location which does offer the course(s) – where routes currently exist; courtesy transportation will be the path for all other requests.

2.2 Oakland-Scotland to Waterford District High School Express Route

Secondary students who reside in the Oakland-Scotland Public School (OSS) catchment have historically been approved to receive transportation services to Waterford District High School (WDS) even though they do not fall within the school's catchment. The feeder secondary school for OSS is Paris District High School (PDH). Approval in the past was due to the proximity of WDS to OSS and to reduce accommodation pressures at PDH. If the above-mentioned reasons are not foreseen to change, a modification to secondary boundaries may want to be considered to include OSS's area into WDS and remove it from PDH.

Table 1: Estimated Transportation Costs for Norfolk Secondary Out of Boundary Students

Description	Grade				Total Students	Route Type	Transfer Point	Estimated Cost Difference
	9	10	11	12				
OSS to WDS	12	8	5	17	42	Express (1)	OSS	-\$2,835.38
other areas to WDS	9	9	7	4	29	Express (2)	LAK, SCS	\$9,824.66
other areas to VHS	15	14	10	8	47	Express (2)	WAL, COU	\$5,174.24

2.3 Caledonia to Cayuga Secondary Express Route

The following students have been transported for the current school year from the catchment of McKinnon Park Secondary School (MCK) to Cayuga Secondary School (CSS). This solution was established to offer students an alternative school of attendance with the goal of reducing accommodation pressures at MCK.

Table 2: McKinnon Park Students transported to Cayuga Secondary

Description	Grade				Total Students	Route Type	Transfer Point	Estimated Cost Difference
	9	10	11	12				
Students in MCK catchment who attend CSS	9	7	2	8	26	Express (1) and Dedicated (1)	St. Patrick	\$12,730.73

2.4 Students attending River Heights

The current River Heights Public School (RHS) Regular Track boundary does not encompass all of the urban area in Caledonia, south of the Grand River; there is a section of a subdivision on the south end of the town which falls within the catchment of Oneida Central Public School (ONE). In this section of the subdivision, 12 students currently attend RHS, 7 of whom receive transportation services.

As students reside beyond 1.6 KM to either school, the cost to continue to transport the RHS is marginally less as RHS is closer to that section of Caledonia than ONE. Another item of consideration is that Oneida is currently over capacity and may require additional portable classrooms to accommodate additional students.

Table 3: Oneida catchment students attending River Heights

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
Students in ONE catchment who attend RHS	12	0	0	0	0	12	Dedicated (1)	-\$2,390.36

2.5 Out of Boundary Students attending Houghton Public School

Houghton Public School (HOU) offers a unique educational curriculum model which has drawn the attendance of many low-German Mennonite families. Due to the proximity of HOU to other elementary transfer locations, assisting families who reside out of the school's catchment can be a challenge. HOU currently has 81 students registered at their school who reside out of the school's boundary, 58 of whom are being provided transportation services. To facilitate the provision of economical and efficient services, these students have historically been required to transfer at points well outside of their home catchment. Although originally designed to accommodate families residing in adjacent schools to HOU, STSBHN has noticed the area covered in this exception increase over time.

STSBHN is looking to confirm that:

- the HOU students are permitted to be transported to and from the elementary transfer sites,
- the practice of multiple transfers occurring is also permitted, and that
- STSBHN can place additional routes in operation if the current routes do not have sufficient room to accommodate requests.

If these historic practices are not approved to continue, clarification on the service parameters which are to be provided to the out of boundary students, is required.

Table 4: Out of Boundary Students attending Houghton

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
HOU students who reside out of boundary	81	0	0	0	0	81	Express Routes (4)	\$ -

3.0 Out of District Students

3.1 Norwich/Otterville/Burgessville students attending Delhi District Secondary School

When the local secondary school in Norwich was closed as a result of an accommodation review, the Board of Trustees approved the transportation of students from the area who were interested in attending Delhi District Secondary School (DDS). Currently there are 160 students out of district, of which 141 students are being provided transportation services. STSBHN requires confirmation that these services are to continue and if additional routes are required to accommodate enrollment pressure, STSBHN be permitted to incur expense of additional routes if no other options are available.

Table 5: Norwich/Otterville area students transported to Delhi District Secondary School

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
Oxford Students to DDS	0	36	43	33	48	160	Dedicated (2) and Shared (1)	\$177,293.36

3.2 Princeton/Drumbo/Wolverton students attending Paris District High School

Historically students from Princeton, Drumbo, Wolverton and the surrounding rural areas have been provided transportation services to and from Paris District High School (PDH). Of the 57 students in the area, 45 are being provided transportation from their home if they reside in the rural areas east of Princeton Rd. or have been provided a seat

on the group pickup locations in one of the three towns. To ensure a reasonable length of time on the bus, two routes are used to provide services to these students.

Table 6: Princeton/Drumbo/Wolverton area students transported to Paris District High School

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
Oxford Students to PDH	0	9	20	14	14	57	Shared	\$66,283.09

3.3 Tillsonburg students travelling through Courtland Public School transfer

Historically there has been a demand from students residing in the town of Tillsonburg to attend schools within our district. Although the location has changed throughout the years, transportation has been arranged from a central location on the east side of Tillsonburg to bring students into the Courtland Public School (COU) transfer; the current stop is located at Gigi's Café (on Simcoe St). Currently there are 31 students in the area, 16 of whom are using transportation services. Although the cost to extend the bus in the area results in a marginally higher daily cost for the service, capacity on the bus has been an issue in previous school years.

STSBHN is looking to confirm that:

- students are permitted to be transported to and from the COU transfer site, AND
- additional routes can be added if the current routes that service the area do not have sufficient room to accommodate requests from the Tillsonburg area.

Table 7: Out of District Students attending Courtland Public School, Houghton Public School and Valley Heights Secondary School

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
Tillsonburg students via COU transfer	5	5	2	7	12	31	Shared	\$871.03

4.0 Specialized Programs

4.1 Section 23 Students – Woodview Program

STSBHN currently assists 9 students with transportation who have been identified as attending classes through the Woodview program at Pauline Johnson Collegiate. STSBHN currently accommodates students by using existing routes and changing their route path to allow the vehicles to assist students in getting to and from the Woodview programs. Where an existing route is not available, STSBHN utilizes taxi services.

STSBHN requires clarification as to if these same services will be provided for the coming school year.

Table 8: Section 23 Student Transportation

Description	Grade					Total Students	Route Type	Estimated Cost Difference
	Elementary	9	10	11	12			
Section 23 Students to PJC	0	3	3	2	1	9	Dedicated (1) and Shared (5)	\$8,058.98

Additional information

Due to the high reliance on transfers within our district, the exceptions listed above often result in longer ride times for students and may place supervision pressures on schools supervising the transferring of bused students.

The above information is intended to bring to light exceptions to the normal routing and transportation practices of STSBHN. By clarifying and building the expectations of the board into the route planning software, STSBHN can provide clarity to the schools, parents/caregivers, and students as to what services will be made available in the coming school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A – Board Approved Financial Summary

Exception Category	Exception Expense
Out of Boundary Students	\$ 22,503.88
Out of District Students	\$244,447.47
Specialized Program	\$ 8,058.98
Total:	\$275,010.33



Audit Committee

Thursday, November 2, 2023

4:30 PM

Board Room, Education Centre /MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Members: Chair - T. Waldschmidt (Trustee), J. Bradford (Trustee),
R. Collver (Trustee), E. Hodgins (Volunteer), A. Thakker (Volunteer)
Management: J. Roberto (Director), R. Wyszynski (Superintendent of Business),
C. Smith (Manager of Business Services)
Millards (External Auditors): B. Schell, J. Gilbert, M. McNally

Regrets: KPMG (Internal Auditors): S. Bedi

Recording Secretary: L. Howells, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Business

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Waldschmidt at 4:30 p.m.

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

(c) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

(d) **Introduction of New Non-Board Member**

Committee Chair Waldschmidt introduced new Non-Board Audit Committee Member, A. Thakker.

(e) **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)**

Presented as printed

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the Audit Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Presented as printed

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Audit Committee approve the November 2, 2023, Consent Agenda:

(a) Minutes of the Audit Committee dated September 14, 2023

(b) Receive the Consolidated Due Diligence report,

Carried

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

(a) **Audit Committee Orientation**

Superintendent. Wyszynski stated modules 7 – 8 were shared with members following the last meeting for their review.

D - 1 **Internal Audit**

Nil



Audit Committee

Thursday, November 2, 2023

4:30 PM

Board Room, Education Centre /MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

E - 1 External Audit

(a) 2022-23 Consolidated Financial Statements (August 31, 2023)

Superintendent Wyszynski provided background on the steps to prepare the Consolidated Financial Statements.

M. McNally, Millards, provided a high-level overview of the Consolidated Financial Statements ending August 31, 2023.

Moved by: E. Hodgins

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the 2022-23 Consolidated Financial Statements be forwarded to the November 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

F - 1 Other Business

(a) 2023 Audit Committee Annual Report

Superintendent Wyszynski stated this Annual Report is a requirement under The Regulation and noted the report has been updated.

Moved by: A. Thakker

Seconded by: E. Hodgins

THAT the 2023 Audit Committee Annual Report be forwarded to the November 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting for approval.

Carried

G - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Audit Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 7, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday February 1, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present:

Chair L. DeJong, Vice-Chair K. Jones, Trustees: T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton, Community Representatives: B. Bruce, K. Kelly, L. Nydam, W. Rose Organizations: T. Buchanan, L. Boswell, P. Found, C. Gilman, C. Stefanelli, R. Vriends

Administration:

Superintendent L. Thompson, Principal Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor: P. Bagchee, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Superintendent Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Boswell

THAT the February 1, 2023 agenda be approved as printed.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Welcome new SEAC member and round table introductions – who you are and what you bring to SEAC**

P. Found, Norfolk Association for Community Living, was introduced as a new committee member.

(b) **SEAC Orientation Reminders**

Presented as printed.

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

(a) **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: L. Nydam

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes dated January 11, 2024 be approved.

Carried

(b) **Follow up on TVDSB letter for discussion about SEAC sending a letter of support regarding students struggling with mental health challenges.**

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: K. Jones

THAT SEAC write a letter of support related to the Thames Valley District School Board letter dated November 22, 2023 to be issued to the Ministry of Children, Community &



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday February 1, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Social Services, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and to the Chair of all Special Education Advisory Committees in Ontario.

Carried

D - 1 New Business

(a) Video Spotlight - Anti-racism video series

Presented

(b) Grand Erie's Special Education Plan 2023-24 – Standard 6 – Educational and Other Assessments

Specialized Services Supervisor P. Bagchee reviewed Standard 6 of Grand Erie's Special Education Plan 2023-24 and solicited input from SEAC members.

(c) Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (C-CAT)

Program Coordinator L. Sheppard presented the 2022-23 outcomes and 2023-24 implementation for C-CAT testing.

E - 1 Other Business

(a) Specialized Services Flyer - Update

Presented as printed.

F - 1 Standing Items

Policies Out for Comment - Nil

(a) Trustee Updates

Trustee Waldschmidt gave an update, including a summary of Michael Jacques' presentation to trustees at the January 29, 2024 Board Meeting.

(b) Chair/Vice Chair Update

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones shared their respective updates.

G - 1 Information Items

(a) Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) Update

Principal Leader J. Senior gave an update from the RSEC Conference he attended in January 2024.

H - 1 Community Updates

(a) Autism Ontario

R. Vriens informed committee members of World Autism Day on Tuesday April 2, 2024.

(b) Fire Prevention

Trustee Waldschmidt gave an update on fire prevention.

(c) Contact Brant

L. Boswell shared the new address for Contact Brant with committee members.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday February 1, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

I - 1 Correspondence

(a) Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board's SEAC to the Ministry.

Superintendent Thompson will come back with a response to SEAC members on Grand Erie's funding for transportation for students with special education needs.

J - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

- (a) A Day in the Life of a Math Coach
- (b) Video Spotlight – Inclusion by Design in Grand Erie
- (c) Follow up on destreaming in Grand Erie
- (d) Early Reading Strategy – A Day in the Life of the Reading Resource Intervention Teacher
- (e) School Culture and Well-Being
 - Restorative Practices in Grand Erie
 - Update on Social Justice Series
- (f) Grand Erie's SEAC – Terms of Reference review and updating
- (g) Ministry of Education Website – Review
- (h) Presentation from Woodview Mental Health & Autism Support
- (i) Letter from Grand Erie's SEAC in support of the letter from the Thames Valley District School Board regarding support for students struggling with mental health challenges in Ontario.

K - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday March 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. MS Teams

L - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C. Gilman
Seconded by: L. Boswell
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:06 p.m.
Carried



February 23, 2024

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its meeting on November 27, 2023, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Thames Valley District School Board letter dated November 7, 2023 regarding Ministry Timelines.

The letter kindly requested that staff be given as much time as possible to complete the submission process of the Capital Priorities Program in the future given the request for additional upfront information and competing priorities for staff.

The letter also requested that the timing of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) announcement return to pre-pandemic timing of late March, or earlier, to allow Boards to plan appropriately for the upcoming budget year. With staffing related deadlines in early spring, a GSN release that is later than March becomes extremely problematic and reduces the flexibility to adapt to any funding changes.

Finally the letter echoed the sentiments of other school boards, which are having challenges implementing curriculum updates within the given timelines.

The WRDSB supports the above timeline recommendations and respectfully requests the Ministry of Education consider these recommendations for the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Weston'.

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Local Members of Provincial Parliament



February 23, 2024

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its meeting on November 27, 2023, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Thames Valley District School Board letter dated November 22, 2023 regarding Mental Health Supports.

Like Thames Valley District School Board, the WRDSB is concerned regarding the pressure on the Board to address student mental health challenges and sees the impact of decreased resources for community mental health organizations.

The WRDSB would also like to see “greater conversation about how all levels of government can work together to better balance and fund community-based mental health support services, so that all the organizations, including school boards, can work together for the benefit of children, youth and families.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Weston'.

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Local Members of Provincial Parliament



P.O. Box 21014, 84 Lynden Rd. Brantford ON N3R 6B8
519-770-6000 info@brantwaterways.ca
www.brantwaterways.ca
Charitable Registration Number: 89055 9248 RR0001

Connecting People To Healthy Waterways

February 29, 2024

Grand Erie District School Board
349 Erie Avenue
Brantford, Ontario
N3T 5V3

Dear Susan Gibson and GEDSB Trustees

As an advocate for environmental education and stewardship, the Brant Waterways Foundation is writing to urge the GEDSB to work with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Province, and municipalities to explore avenues for sustaining outdoor education programming at our local Nature Centres.

The significance of these facilities within our communities cannot be overstated. They serve as integral hubs for fostering environmental awareness, engagement, and education. In the wake of declarations of climate emergencies by numerous municipalities across the Grand River watershed, we recognize the pressing need for strategic actions to address the escalating impacts of climate change and believe that one such action is educating children within our community.

The Nature Centre at Apps' Mill, nestled along the cold-water tributary of Whiteman's Creek, stands as a critical reference point in understanding the ramifications of climate change. Beyond its role as an educational institution, is a vital trout habitat, which has been threatened by diminishing water levels in recent years. The immersive, hands-on learning experiences offered by Apps' Mill leaves an indelible impact on students, fostering a profound sense of environmental fragility and stewardship that transcends traditional classroom settings.

Acknowledging the challenges arising from changes at the provincial level, including funding shortfalls for the GRCA and heightened pressures on municipalities and school boards, the Brant Waterways Foundation implores you to consider all opportunities to sustain funding for these pivotal programs within our existing Nature Centres. We firmly believe that prioritizing these centres aligns with our shared goals of fostering environmental consciousness and ensuring a sustainable future for our youth.

We eagerly anticipate your thoughtful consideration and proactive engagement in this matter. Together, let us continue our commitment to preserving these invaluable institutions for the betterment of our communities and the environment.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Brant Waterways Board of Directors,

Dana Darnbrough, Acting President
Brant Waterways Foundation

**Waterloo Region District School Board**

51 Ardelt Avenue
 Kitchener, ON N2C 2R5
 T: 519-570-0003
 F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

March 1, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
 Prime Minister of Canada
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

At its meeting on January 29, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Bluewater District School Board letter dated January 16, 2024 regarding gambling advertisements.

The letter shared a number of concerns regarding gambling:

- The proliferation of gambling advertising, particularly during sports telecasts, has resulted in an alarming number of children and young adults becoming addicted to gambling;
- Gambling can lead to significant harm, including runaway debt, stress to families, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and even suicide;
- Statistics Canada has estimated that 1.6% of adult gamblers, more than 300,000 Canadians, are at moderate to high risk of gambling disorders; and much information on the insidious result of these advertisements can be found at BanAdsForGambling.ca;

The WRDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan has a focus on support for student well-being, as such, the WRDSB supports a legislative ban on advertisements for gambling in Canada in all media and respectfully requests the federal government consider this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Weston'.

Joanne Weston
 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
 Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
 Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
 Local Members of Parliament