



# Inaugural Board Meeting

Monday, December 13, 2021

Board Room, Education Centre/MS Teams Virtual Meeting

## MINUTES

**Present:** Board Chair, S. Gibson, Board Vice-Chair, B. Doyle, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, E. Dixon, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, D. Werden, S. Green (Student Trustee), R. Mitchell (Student Trustee), C. Kitchen (Student Trustee)

**Administration:** Director – J. Roberto, Superintendents: W. Baker, K. Graham, L. Munro, A. Smith, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski Recording Secretary- G. Santos Gould

**Regrets:**

**Trustees:** Nil

**Administration:** Nil

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, S. Gibson at 6:30 p.m.

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

Nil

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session at 6:30 p.m.

**Carried**

(d) **Welcome to Open Session**

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Chair, S. Gibson at 7:15 p.m.

(e) **Memorials**

Nil

(f) **Chair's Inaugural Address**

S. Gibson presented her Inaugural Address and shared her gratitude to staff, Trustees, the outgoing Chair, and students at Grand Erie District School Board.

(g) **Reading of Trustee Code of Ethics**

In accordance with Bylaw 28, Trustees read the Trustee Code of Ethics.

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

Presented as printed.

E. Dixon requested that a discussion regarding moving back to semesters be added to the agenda. S. Gibson noted this would be added as item G-1-j – Returning to Semesters.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**



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(i) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: D. Dean

That the Grand Erie District School Board confirm the appointments to the respective elementary and secondary administrator pools.

**Carried**

(j) **Presentations**

Nil

(k) **Delegations**

Nil

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **Regular Board Meeting – November 22, 2021**

Presented as printed.

C. Kitchen requested an amendment to reflect his position more accurately on the Board returning to semesters.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, held on November 22, 2021 be approved as amended.

**Carried**

(b) **Nomination Meeting – December 6, 2021**

Presented as printed

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Minutes of the Nomination Meeting, held on December 6, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**

(c) **Organizational Meeting – December 6, 2021**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting, held on December 6, 2021 be approved.

**Carried**



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

Nil

### D - 1 **Director's Report**

#### (a) **Draft Director's Annual Report – 2020-21**

J. Roberto presented the Draft Director's Annual Report for 2020-21, which can be found at [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca). J. Roberto provided an overview of 2020-21 school year and extended thanks to educators and administrators who demonstrate a commitment to learning, well-being and belonging time and again.

C.A. Sloat requested a copy of the Director's Annual Report. J. Roberto will follow up with trustees about the request for printed copies.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Draft Director's Annual Report – 2020-21 as information.

**Carried**

#### (b) **Director's highlights:**

J. Roberto noted that the free TD Books have arrived and are being distributed to Grade 1 students. The book depicts the strong bond between a grandmother and granddaughter celebrating diversity and family relationships.

C.A. Sloat referred to the Banbury daycare extension and questioned whether the scope of this project is expected to break the \$2 million threshold for policy FT1 – Major Construction Projects. and asked if there would be community consultation around the project before plans are made.

C.A. Sloat stated the school and community have already raised some funds and received Ontario 150 funding.

R. Wyszynski responded that construction projects that are over the \$2 million in funding will trigger a construction committee.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's report of December 13, 2021, as information.

**Carried**

#### (c) **Leading and Learning in the Pandemic**

J. Roberto reported that the Rapid Antigen Test Kit/PCR Take Home Kits will be distributed to all Grand Erie District School Board schools. In November, the Province announced a program to provide five rapid antigen tests to each student to take home and use, on a voluntary basis, over the winter break to help identify potential positive cases over this time. This process is expected to be completed by December 8. The test kits come in boxes of five kits each. Each student will receive one box.



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C.A. Sloat asked if there have been any changes to the essential visitor/volunteers that are permitted in schools and noted that the Mayor of Brantford was recently in a Grand Erie school.

J. Roberto responded there have been no changes to the essential visitor/volunteers permitted in schools.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Leading and Learning in the Pandemic Report of December 13, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

#### E - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

Nil

#### F - 1 **Committee Report**

##### (a) **Striking Committee Report – December 06, 2021**

S. Gibson presented the Striking Committee Report.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2022 Trustee Statutory and Standing Committee Representation.

**Carried**

#### G - 1 **New Business**

##### (a) **Borrowing Authority**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board authorize the Signing Authorities of the Board 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.

**Carried**

##### (b) **Signing Officers**

Presented as printed

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT

1. signing authorities for the Grand Erie District School Board, relative to General and Trust Accounts/Legal Documents/Contracts/Bank Loans shall be one of the Chair of the Board or the Vice Chair of the Board, together with one of the Director of Education & Secretary or the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer;



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2. facsimile signatures of the Board Chair and Superintendent of Business & Treasurer shall be used for signing General Account cheques produced by the Board's financial accounting system.

**Carried**

(c) **Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Review of Borrowing Bylaws Not on Board's Review Schedule report as information.

**Carried**

(d) **2021-22 Revised Budget Estimates**

R. Wyszynski presented the 2021-22 Revised Estimates to the Board of Trustees and noted that although the estimates budget was balanced, it was developed with a great deal of caution amidst the uncertainty with COVID-19. He noted the revised budget being presented was a result of careful and prudent financial coordination over the past 18 months. The 2020-21 financial year end saw a modest surplus for the Board and included various deferred revenues in Special Education, Student Success, Specialist High School Major, and Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF).

The Senior Administration presented highlights of the proposed expenditures, their alignment to the Strategic Plan, and how these investments will benefit our system and school communities.

R. Collver congratulated all principals, and all who worked hard to re-engage students and noted that she was proud to see many students return to Grand Erie. R. Collver requested clarification on the \$10.4 million increase to revenue. R. Wyszynski responded, yes, these additional revenues will support the investments that are proposed in this report.

R. Collver asked about the discussion and decision-making process for determining the allocation of funds, as the Board of Trustees was not part of the conversation. R. Wyszynski responded that this year Grand Erie saw higher student enrollment and a process was undertaken to identify and evaluate the competing needs.

C. A. Sloat asked about credit cards for school cash online and is this a further upgrade from what we are currently doing, since it is available to parents currently and further asked was the money spent. R. Wyszynski responded yes; we realize that with the sunset of MyWallet, a cashless option was required for parents. This was implemented in early October and is currently in place at all schools.

C.A. Sloat asked for clarification on the \$300,000 allocated for new financial software and asked if there will be other costs associated with this. R. Wyszynski replied that the \$300,000 represents an initial investment and provided clarification on what that entails.



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R. Collver and C.A. Sloat expressed concerns about the additional staff added to the budget and asked if they were funded. R. Wyszynski explained that there are contingencies in place that will offset these costs.

C.A. Sloat asked for clarification around a job posting for 10 fulltime Long Term Occasional Teachers and asked if these positions were included in the changes. J. Tozer noted that these positions are funded through the current casual accounts due to unfilled positions.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the 2021-22 Revised Budget Estimates for submission to the Ministry of Education.

**Carried**

(e) **Contract Award - Data Center Renewal**

R. Wyszynski referred to Data Center Renewal Report and noted that computer equipment in the Data Center has an operational life of 5 years. The computer servers and storage arrays in the Data Center should be replaced as the existing technology nears end-of-life and becomes unsupported from a service perspective. To address this, new computer servers and storage arrays should be installed by March 2022.

C.A. Sloat questioned why the contract did not go to tender. R. Wyszynski explained that the vendor has been approved by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Service (MGCS) which allows us to take advantage of provincial coordinated tenders.

T. Waldschmidt asked about the potential disruption to supply chain and if that would affect the IT? R. Wyszynski responded that is expected with all aging equipment and ITS will have a plan in place for those scenarios.

C. A. Sloat asked if the Board has previously received a report to plan for major expenditures like this? R. Wyszynski noted that \$278,000 was set aside in the budget as a contribution to the IT reserve every year. However, given that the Board is able to take advantage of additional funding for connectivity, the \$278,00 can be redirected towards the purchase of a new Data Centre.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the purchase of a new Data Centre from Compugen in the amount of \$556,197.49 plus HST.

**Carried**

(f) **Ryerson Holding Boundary Modifications**

R. Wyszynski provided an overview of the Ryerson Holding Boundary Modifications Report, which included background information as well as information that was included in Appendix A of the report.



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C. A. Sloat noted that Ryerson Holding Boundary Modifications used to be posted on the Board website, but this is no longer the case. R. Wyszynski noted that this information is included in the registration letter that requires signature from parents.

C.A. Sloat recommended that Communications post the information on the website in case letter is misplaced.

G. Anderson recommended having the Communications Manager notify the brokers and real estate agents in the area that the new school will not be ready for 4 years, to avoid parents moving into the area expecting to go to a school that will not be ready.

C.A. Sloat recommended an annual reminder for parents, that they are in a holding school and acknowledged that, while it is a complex plan, she has concerns that it is taking 4 years for the new Southwest Brantford school to be built. R. Wyszynski responded that the team is working as fast as they can.

C.A. Sloat asked about the meeting for the Branlyn/Banbury boundary review and was told it was not part of this report. R. Wyszynski noted that he anticipates a meeting to be held in January 2022.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the redirection of Shellard Lane holding boundary from Ryerson Heights Elementary School to Agnes G. Hodge Public School effective January 3, 2022.

**Carried**

#### (g) **Returning to Semesters**

E. Dixon expressed concern regarding secondary students returning to semesters noting she has received numerous inquiries and concerns from students, families, and networks, on this matter.

K. Graham highlighted some of the reasons why the decision was made to return to semesters and added that these will also be included in the communications being prepared.

- Quadmester were not intended to be permanent as they were designed to minimize mixing of students during the pandemic.
- The Ministry of Education and local the Public Health Units support the return to a valid structure that supports mental health, as well as the consolidation of learning over a longer period of time. There has been a sequenced progression of change and improvement to learning environments over the past months, from online only, to quadmester in person, and now an opportunity to move back to what educators and researchers believe is a better model, and what parents and students have been broadly asking for across the province.
- Assessment models will remain the same, learning support while focusing on building relationships



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G. Anderson noted that he supports Sr. Administration's decision to return to semesters and he felt bad for the students.

R. Mitchell spoke on behalf of students and added that students disagree with this decision and are being directly impacted. R. Mitchell has received countless inquiries why this decision was made and suggested that students receive further communications to clarify the reasons behind the decision.

C.A. Sloat requested it be noted and communicated that the Board of Trustees did not make this decision as this an operational decision.

K. Graham spoke about next steps and gathering more student voice. In terms of creating a smooth transition to the second half of the semester, plans will be finalized as soon as everyone returns from the winter break.

C. VanEvery-Albert noted this directive came from the Ministry of Education and local Public Health Units.

R. Collver explained that the Ministry of Education did not direct the return to semesters but gave school boards the opportunity to do so if they wanted to. R. Collver thanked K. Graham for his work with the student trustees and thanked the students for lobbying for their group.

R. Mitchell recognized that everyone in the room represents the students at the end of the day and asked that everyone consider students first as the basis of decision making.

#### H - 1 **Other Business**

##### (a) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes - October 21,2021 Approved**

Presented as printed

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – October 21, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

##### (b) **Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes - November 18, 2021**

Presented as printed.

C. A. Sloat asked for clarification around the Terms of Reference for the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee (JOHSC) and noted that when the new Terms of Reference came to the Board in 2017 for approval, as a multi workplace JOHSC. C. A. Sloat noted that the Terms of Reference have not been brought forward to the Board although there were changes made and asked if further changes should come to the Board for approval? R. Wyszynski responded that he would look into the approval requirement.





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Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee Minutes - November 18, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

- (c) **Privacy and Information Management Committee (PIM) - November 25, 2021 Draft**  
Presented as printed.

C. A. Sloat requested that training be provided on Cyber Security. L. Munro noted that she will take it back for review.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Privacy and Information Management Committee (Draft) - November 25, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

- (d) **Safe and Inclusive Schools (SIS) Committee Minutes - November 18, 2021**  
Presented as printed.

R. Collver requested an invitation to trustees to learn about Restorative Justice, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Talking Circles and Choice Theory and Cultural Safety.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee Minutes (Draft) - November 18, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

- (e) **OPSBA Report**  
C.A. Sloat referred to the OPSBA Report provide high-level overview.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA Report as information.

**Carried**

- (f) **Student Senate Committee Minutes Draft - November 18, 2021**  
J. Roberto called on R. Mitchell to speak to the minutes. R. Mitchell referred to the Student Senate Committee Minutes from November 18, 2021 and provided an overview. R. Mitchell noted an upcoming Student Leadership Speaker Series with Dr. Clinton.

R. Collver asked, who will be attending the Dr. Clinton series. R. Mitchell responded the Student Senate members will be attending.



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Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Senate Committee Minutes (Draft) - November 18, 2021 as information.

**Carried**

I - 1 **Correspondence**  
Nil

J - 1 **Adjournment**  
Moved by: B. Doyle  
Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert  
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:52 p.m.  
**Carried**

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Board Chair, S. Gibson