



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Vice-Chair: C. VanEvery-Albert, G. Anderson, D. Dean E. Dixon, B. Doyle, S. Gibson, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden, S. Green (Student Trustee), C. Kitchen (Student Trustee), R. Mitchell (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: W. Baker, K. Graham, L. Munro, A. Smith, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary: C. Dero

Regrets:

Trustees: R. Collver, J. Richardson, T. Waldschmidt

Administration: Nil

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Vice-Chair, C. VanEvery-Albert at 6:30 p.m.

C. VanEvery-Albert noted that R. Collver, J. Richardson and T. Waldschmidt sent regrets.

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

Nil

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel, legal and property matters at 6:32 p.m.

Carried

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

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Vice-Chair C. VanEvery-Albert at 7:29 p.m.

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

C.A. Sloat requested an addition to the agenda. New Business – F-1-b Board Bylaws.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: G Anderson

THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Joint Use of Facilities Agreement between the Board and The City of Brantford.

Carried



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(g) **System Showcase**

L. Munro introduced that showcase, which highlighted the After School Intermediate Literacy/Numeracy program at Hagersville Elementary School.

S. Love and P. Kruis-Daly spoke to the pilot program, that provides an opportunity to support literacy and numeracy needs. The team met to identify student need and created a survey to identify interest. They partnered with Hagersville Secondary School for facilities use and transition planning and this created an excitement for learning. The first session was baking, and the language and numeracy lessons focused on reading and following recipes. The next session will focus on woodworking. Student learning was relevant, engaging, and meaningful.

Trustees thanked S. Love and P. Kruis-Daly for sharing this initiative and for engaging students and getting them excited about learning.

(h) **Delegations**

(i) **R. Hunter**

R. Hunter presented his delegation regarding masking for kindergarten students.

In response to a question from a trustee, R. Hunter explained that his daughter currently attends Montessori school and is required to wear a mask, but if the policy was changed, he would consider enrolling her in a Grand Erie school.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the delegation by R. Hunter as information.

Carried

(ii) **Dr. M. Fulford**

C.A. Sloat called a point of order noting that the submission was received after the deadline on January 6, 2022, at noon in accordance to BL11,

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT Grand Erie District School Board hear the late delegation by Dr. M. Fulford.

Carried

Dr. Fulford presented her delegation regarding masking for kindergarten students.

D. Werden questioned some of the data that was presented, and Dr. Fulford clarified that while there are very real post infectious syndromes that occur, she is uncertain if the rate is higher than any other infection.

In response to a question from S. Gibson, Dr. Fulford explained that the main detrimental effects of masking young children are seen in learning, but the difficulty is that the data lags.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

S. Gibson asked if there are any studies related to the rate of transmission to staff, parents/grandparents etc... that might be impacted by students not wearing masks. Dr. Fulford referenced several pre-Omicron or pre-vaccination studies.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT Grand Erie District School Board receive the delegation by Dr. M. Fulford as information.

Carried

B - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings**

Nil

C - 1 **Director's Report**

(a) **Director's Highlights**

J. Roberto highlighted the following:

- January is Kindergarten registration month and the deadline for French Immersion is February 4, 2022.
- January 17, 2022 is a PA Day for Elementary Educators for the purpose of student assessment and evaluation.
- The BCI-Laurier program has provided positive experiential learning opportunities for students over the years. Superintendents Kevin Graham, April Smith have been in consultation with Laurier to provide learning opportunities to new Grade 9 students, to with Ministry of Education direction towards de-streaming for September 2022.
- The Ontario Teachers Federation and the government have come to agreement on the extension of working days for retirees from 50 to 95 days. This lasts until June 30, 2022, and only applies to retirees filling in as teachers and principals/vice principals.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of January 10, 2022 as information.

Carried

In response to questions from G. Anderson, J. Roberto explained that current students that are enrolled in the BCI-Laurier Program will continue, but the opportunity to expand the program is in early stages to align with destreaming for grade 9 students.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(b) **Leading and Learning in a Pandemic**

J. Roberto provided the following updates:

- The option for staff boosters is available through the provincial mass vaccination clinic at the International Centre, located at 6900 Airport Road in Mississauga.
- Students with special education needs that can not be supported remotely begin in-person learning on January 11, 2022.
- N95 masks have arrived and are being distributed to all schools.
- New updates have been made to the COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool and the COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings. These changes are reflected on Ontario.ca/School Screening tool that staff and students are required to complete before coming to a Grand Erie facility.
- The Province has sent 45 additional HEPA filters to Grand Erie. The focus is on placing the additional units in self contained classes and areas of higher occupancy.

In response to a concern raised by C.A. Sloat about supporting students that are struggling based on a call she received, J. Roberto explained that there has been a focus on the learning lift and Superintendents, along with staff, have been working to support this. J. Roberto stated that parents who have concerns should be brought forward to schools and or superintendents so students can continue to be individually supported.

G. Anderson asked about supports that are in place for students who have been working remotely.

J. Roberto noted that one of the focuses of the Annual Learning and Operating Plan is early intervention. A. Smith explained that Grand Erie has invested in coaching supports and has built a learning system that helps educators find where kids sit with their reading and math skills while ensuring a culture of well-being. If there are individual needs, parents are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher and the school team because they will be able access central supports.

In response to a comment that was made about schools not following the outdoor masking guidelines, C.A. Sloat asked if schools are reminded of the process. J. Roberto noted they haven't been in school since December and superintendents will follow-up.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Leading and Learning in a Pandemic report of January 10, 2022 as information.

Carried



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Education Services Agreement Annual Reports

- (i) Report to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Six Nations of the Grand River
- (ii) Report to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations

K. Graham presented the reports and outlined Grand Erie's commitment to reconciliation and improving education outcomes for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

K. Graham highlighted many items from the reports, including transition activities, annual events, community-based education programs, achievement data, credit accumulation, and data for the current school year. Next steps moving forward include delivering Indigenous courses that allow students to see themselves in their learning, authentic learning with Indigenous peoples, communities and perspectives, professional development to actively engage in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and a tracking tool to follow every student from grade 9 to graduation.

J. Roberto thanked staff for their dedicated effort as the team across the district. The improvement in quad one shows that the strategies that have been put in place are outstanding. J. Roberto added that she is personally and professionally dedicated to Indigenous student success.

C.A. Sloat asked for clarification about the age guidelines for the School College Work Initiatives program. K. Graham will verify this.

In response to a question from C.A. Sloat about Policy P02. K. Graham will review in the report.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Six Nations of the Grand River Report as information and forward it to Indigenous Services Canada and Six Nations of the Grand River.

Carried

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation – Education Services Agreement Report as information.

Carried



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

D – 2 **New Business – Information Items**

(a) **Category III Trips (SO15)**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Category III Trips report as information.

Carried

(b) **Grand Erie Learning Alternative (GELA) Annual Report**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question from C.A. Sloat about a decrease in the number of summer school credits, K. Graham and L. Munro explained that while there could be several reasons for this.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) Annual Report as Information.

Carried

(c) **Enrolment vs Capacity by School Report**

Presented as printed.

Several trustees expressed concerns over secondary enrollment numbers dropping and noted the importance of programs like the After School Program at Hagersville Elementary School that get students excited about high school, and strategies that help retain students.

S. Gibson asked what is being done about schools that are over 100% capacity.

R. Wyszynski responded that schools with high excess spaces are being looked at through Quality Accommodations.

L. Munro noted that there is a Transition Committee in place, and A. Smith added that Grand Erie has Transition Teachers who work on the Student Success Team. These teachers bring the perspective of the secondary experience to the grade 7 and 8 classes through experiential learning and other activities.

J. Roberto added that student voice plays an important role in this and suggested that Student Trustees share any additional suggestion regarding the Grade 8 to 9 transitional components.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Enrolment vs Capacity report as Information.

Carried

(d) **Quarterly Budget Report (F2)**

Presented as printed.

D. Werden asked for clarification about how the revenue/expenditure for administration balances.

R. Wyszynski provided examples of how this is supplemented with other programs and added that this can be shared as part of the year end package.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Quarterly Budget Report for the three months ended November 30, 2021 as information.

Carried

E - 1 **Bylaw/Policy/Procedure Consideration – Action/Decision/Information Items**

(a) **F4 Trustee Honoraria**

Presented as printed.

C.A. Sloat expressed concern that the Accountability/Criteria section has been removed from this and other policies and added that she doesn't believe that linking to the Ministry document is sufficient.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT Grand Erie District School Board refer Policy F4 Trustee Honoraria to Senior Administration to review the required elements of Regulation 357/06.

Defeated on a 4-4 tie

S. Gibson asked for clarification about the attendance allowance for trustees who attend statutory committees. R. Wyszynski explained that this is an option that can be activated by trustees if they chose.

C.A. Sloat noted that Ont. Reg. 357/06 requires that the Board makes a statement on the attendance allowance, so this policy is in violation of the Regulation.

D. Werden added that he will investigate this further prior to the Board meeting to make sure the policy doesn't contravene the Education Act.

J. Roberto explained that the intent of the link was to ensure it was current with the legislation. A legislation link is not success criteria.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Moved by: S. Gibson
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve to continue past 10:00 p.m.

Carried

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy F4 Trustee Honoraria.

Carried

(b) **HR118 Occasional Teacher Evaluation**

Presented as printed.

C.A. Sloat noted leaving strikethroughs when removing text and a retention statement on the document would be helpful.

Moved by: G. Anderson
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure HR118 Occasional Teacher Evaluation as information.

Carried

(c) **P-01 Service Provision for Students Special Education Needs**

L. Thompson presented the revised policy and suggested that, because there has been such a large change to the policy, that it be circulated for comments to be received by Feb 24, 2022.

C.A. Sloat asked for clarification around the statement about governance and noted that there are no accountability or procedures embedded in this policy.

D. Werden noted that Board decisions are made in public session as per the Education Act, and a decision related to governance has not been made at the Board table and wanted it removed from the policy.

J. Roberto explained it was noted in the cover page of the policy and this will be reflected in the next report when it comes back from comment.

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: E. Dixon
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy P-01 Service Provision for Students with Special Education Needs to all appropriate stakeholders for comment to be received by February 24, 2022.

Carried



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(d) **SO121 Request to Attend a School Outside the Home School Area**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO121 Request to Attend a School Outside the Home Area to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by February 24, 2022.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C. VanEvery-Albert reminded trustees that last spring they received a paper called Transitioning from the COVID-19 Experience. Trustees were invited to participate in discussions in the Fall of 2021. C. VanEvery-Albert added that she made a submission on behalf of Indigenous Trustees Council. Following those discussions, a paper has been put forward called *The OPSBA Submission Regarding 2022-23 Education Funding and the GSN (Grants for Student Needs)*, can be found in the Board package. If there is any further discussion on this C. VanEvery-Albert will share it with trustees.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the January 10, 2022 OPSBA report as information.

Carried

(b) **Board Bylaws**

C.A. Sloat raised concerns regarding Bylaw 5 Provision 3 a) 12, that states that a quarterly report of all grievances will be provided to the Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting during the In Camera session, and noted that this did not happen in camera tonight.

J. Tozer explained that this is a Final Stage Grievance Report, and the final stage grievances were submitted to the Board for review this evening.

J. Tozer recognized that this report is different from the previous reports that have been received. The items on the report are all at the final stage.

D. Werden noted that the Board has been receiving a report of all grievances for many years and added that he doesn't believe that the Education Act is being contradicted by trustees seeing all grievances. D. Werden expressed concern that there is a different interpretation of the Bylaw now.

J. Roberto indicated that the final stage grievances are the grievances that trustees are involved in versus the lower stage grievances. J. Roberto added that she can request a formal legal opinion on this item.



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

D. Werden requested that a trustee representative be present for the legal opinion with the Director.

J. Roberto replied as Secretary to the Board that the legal opinion can be brought as an in-camera item so all trustees can be part of the discussion.

D. Werden replied that he did not think this was an in-camera item.

J. Roberto explained that it would be discussed in camera in as part of Personnel Matters as legal opinions are privileged and confidential.

G - 1 **Correspondence**
(a) **Halton DSB December 16, 2021 Letter**

H - 1 **Adjournment**
Moved by: C.A. Sloat
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:26 p.m.
Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Vice-Chair, C. VanEvery-Albert