



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2020
Education Centre, Board Room

MINUTES

Present: C.A. Sloat – Committee Vice-Chair, G. Anderson, R. Collver, D. Dean, B. Doyle, J. Richardson, C. Speers, C. VanEvery-Albert, Z. Garbaty (Student Trustee), A. Hauser (Student Trustee), I. Doxtador-Swamp (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director - B. Blancher; Superintendents – W. Baker, L. De Vos, L. Munro, S. Sincerbox, L. Thompson, R. Wyszynski; Recording Secretary – L. Howells

Regrets:

Trustees: S. Gibson – Committee Chair, E. Dixon, D. Werden
Administration: D. Martins

A - 1 Opening

(a) Roll Call

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

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

(c) In Camera Session

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel, legal and property matters at 6:30 p.m.

Carried

(d) Welcome to Open Session

The Public Session meeting was called to order by Committee Vice-Chair, C.A. Sloat at 7:15 p.m.

(e) Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval

Presented as printed. C.A. Sloat noted that Item D-2-b will be presented before the C-1 Director's Report.

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried



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(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board confirms the Director's Interim Performance Appraisal has been completed.

Carried

(g) **Student Showcase**

Six students from three Grand Erie secondary schools were showcased and recognized for their first-place, third-place and runners-up categories in the Laurier Stedman creative writing competition. The competition is run by Wilfred Laurier University's Faculty of Liberal Arts' English program.

Congratulations were given to:

- Sovai DiVeto, Stephanie Pugh and first-place overall winner Samiha Sanjida of Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School.
- Sam Earls and Cassidie Kent of Waterford District High School
- Chloe Schaefer of Paris District High School

Trustee G. Anderson, Trustee R. Collver and Director Blancher presented all recipients with a certificate signed by Director Blancher and G. Anderson, Chair of the Board.

The recipients in attendances were congratulated by the Trustees and responded to questions and comments.

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

(a) **Haldimand-Norfolk French Immersion Secondary School Program Enrolment Status**

L. De Vos referred to the Haldimand-Norfolk French Immersion Secondary School Program Enrolment Status report and provided a high-level overview on the background. L. De Vos reviewed the 2020-21 preliminary enrolment numbers for the French Immersion program at Simcoe Composite School (SCS) and noted, given the challenges with class cap size, running a 10-credit French Immersion Program will severely compromise the offering of other course selections at SCS. L. De Vos stated with declining enrolment and uncertainty around class size caps, Sr. Administration recommends exploring changing the program designation at SCS from French Immersion (10-credit program) to Extended French (7 credit program) to retain our market share of students. L. De Vos reviewed the next steps.

D. Dean asked how do the numbers in the current grade 8 class, compare with the Grade 6 and 7 classes. L. De Vos responded that when the survey was completed last year, the current



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grade 8 class was in Grade 7. Of the 23 Grade 7 students, only 17 indicated they would attend SCS. Of the 15 Grade 6 students at the time, only 10 would attend a program at SCS.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Sr. Administration to implement an Extended French Program (7 credits) instead of the French Immersion Program (10 credits) at Simcoe Composite Secondary for the 2020-21 school year

Carried

C.A. Sloat asked about lack of staffing and should the Board consider reviewing our current French Immersion program for Kindergarten and siblings. L. De Vos responded that she would be happy to take that away and bring back a report to Board in November 2020.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by; J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approves a review of the Kindergarten and sibling French Immersion program for a report back at the Committee of the Whole Meeting in November 2020

Carried

D-2-b Student Trustee Selection 2020-21

B. Blancher referred to the Student Trustee Selection Report noting the North Student Trustee was re-elected and the Indigenous Student Trustee was acclaimed and introduced the new acclaimed Student Trustee for 2020-21 from the South, who was in attendance at the meeting.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Senate's report on the appointment of the following Student Trustees for 2020-21:

Grand Erie North: Zachary Garbaty

Grand Erie South: Ava Burtis

Grand Erie Indigenous: la'teieka:nereh Doxtader-Swamp

Carried



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C - 1 Director's Report

Director's highlights:

- **Brightspace Presentation** – Director Blancher asked L. Munro to provide Trustees with a quick overview on Brightspace
 - L. Munro provided Trustees an overview on Brightspace and how it is linked with the Parent Portal
 - C. Speers asked if a parent will be able to see the curriculum? L. Munro responded that not the curriculum, only course lesson plans or assignments.
 - C. VanEvery-Albert asked how the use of this application is communicated with parents. L. Munro responded that communication occurs via a letter sent home to families which provides instructions on how to access etc.
- **Trustee Interviews re: Multi-Year Plan (MYP)**– As a follow-up to the message Director Blancher sent to Trustees on March 6th regarding the opportunity to share your feedback about our current Multi-Year Plan as part of information that will assist in the development of a renewed plan. As noted in OPSBA's *Guide to Good Governance, 2018-2022, A thoughtful and robust strategic plan reflects what has been learned from the past, not what has been done in the past.* As Trustees are aware, one of Director Blancher's Goals this year is:
 - To collect and consolidate data during the last year of our current MYP in an effort to effectively inform the development of the next MYP.
 - Voluntary interviews Trustees can be scheduled with Greg Rousell, our System Research Lead in April and May – at your convenience, which can include evenings or Saturdays should that be your only availability. Interviews will take approximately 30 to 60 minutes and can be conducted at the Ed Centre or another site that works best for each Trustee.
- **Bylaw 8 Committees Impacted by Job Action** – the Chairs' Committee requested an update on how Committees of the Board are being impacted by job action. The 5 Statutory committees are continuing to meet; however, 3 of the 10 Standing Committees are not meeting due to the prevalence of members who are either ETFO or OSSTF staff and who according to their sanctions are unable to attend meetings unless scheduled during the instructional day. The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee is not currently meeting nor is the Native Advisory Committee and also the Safe and Inclusive Schools Committee is not meeting.
- **Bullying in Schools Survey** - on February 26th, the Minister of Education announced the launch of an online survey to hear from students, parents, guardians, and school staff about experiences with bullying in Ontario schools. The goal is to determine how bullying manifests itself in classroom settings to assist in framing the problem to develop programs and interventions to keep students safe. Students, parents and guardians and school staff are encouraged to participate in the survey, which is posted at



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<https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-bullying-ontario-schools> and *Information for Parents/Guardians about Ontario's Survey on Bullying* is also [available online](#).

- **Next Week is March Break** – schools are closed for this holiday week.
- **Update on the Lakewood Elementary School Track** – Director Blancher asked R. Wyszynski to provide an update
 - R. Wyszynski stated that a report was brought in June 2019 regarding the fundraising plan at Lakewood and to provide a quick background which required the School Council to raise \$150,000 and \$50,00 covered by the school Budget, with the Board contributing \$50,000 towards the project.
 - R. Wyszynski was pleased to announce School Council has raised \$220,000 and noted the project will proceed and there may be some enhancements
 - R. Wyszynski noted the next steps will be to put together the construction plan and send out for tender by the end of March
 - R. Collver shared her appreciation to the Principal and staff, parent council at Lakewood for their work and commitment and noted she was not surprised that they exceeded their \$150,000 fundraising requirement

G. Anderson took a moment to acknowledge the overwhelming number of emails Trustees have received to date from Grand Erie staff as a result of ongoing job action. G. Anderson noted that while he and the rest of the Trustees were unable to respond to them, he did think that everyone involved wanted a fair and equitable deal so that we can all move forward together. G. Anderson also stated that Grand Erie Teachers and Support Staff do a fantastic job for students on a day-to-day basis and have a positive impact on so many lives in our school communities.

Vice-Chair Rita Collver also took a moment to thank Grand Erie's Principals, Vice Principals and the Senior Administration team for their tremendous efforts and work during job action. R. Collver noted this was a challenging time for all involved and congratulated them on their work to keep the needs of students top of mind and for always ensuring student safety and well-being.

Moved by: D. Dean

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of March 9, 2020 as information.

Carried



D - 1 New Business – Action/Decision Items

(a) Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2020-21

L. Thompson referred to the Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2020-21 report stating Grand Erie provides self-contained classroom placements in a variety of locations throughout the board to provide alternative options for students in which they have the most enabling environment for them to meet their program goals in a smaller class setting with a higher staff to student ratio. L. Thompson noted that feedback/consultation was received from Grand Erie's Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), elementary and secondary school administrators, and system special education staff. L. Thompson further stated that as in previous years, attempts have been made to minimize changes for the 2020-21 school year, but some changes are required as students move from elementary to secondary and as profiles of students change.

L. Thompson reviewed the recommended changes for the 2020-21 school year for Elementary and Secondary, additional information, budget implications and the next steps.

R. Collver thanked L. Thompson for the thinking behind this report and asked for further explanation around the Tier support. L. Thompson responded that Tier 1 support is available to all students in the classroom, stating it is necessary for some but good all. Tier 2 strategies become more intensive and student may require more attention and support. Tier 3 support are very intensive supports and can be offered best in a self-contained classroom.

C. Speers asked what are the rights of a Tier 3 student and parent in a non self-contained environment? L. Thompson responded that we strive to work with the family to have a plan that best meets the student's needs and if there are disagreements, we work to address those on a case by case basis.

L. Thompson continued and provided an overview on the Complex Behaviour Intervention Team (CBIT), noting that moving into 2020-21 the support of the CBIT will be expanding. L. Thompson noted the new model will see the CBIT work more closely for the students that are being considered for our Strategies classrooms.

The CBIT has proven to help many students with behavioural challenges meet with greater success. L. Thompson shared that moving forward Strategies classrooms will focus on providing support for students in the late junior and intermediate grades.

C. Speers asked if the staff are made aware of changes. L. Thompson responded they are.

D. Dean referred to Projected Elementary Self-Contained chart and requested further information for the decreased capacity use in the Gifted classroom. L. Thompson responded



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that gifted is capped at 25 per Ministry requirements and further noted that students who typically attend to receive modified or alternate programs are able to find their needs can be met in the regular classroom setting. Also, some students don't want to leave their social circle in their home school location.

C. Speers asked what do you do if a parent rejects the self-contained dedicated spot? L. Thompson responded that placement in self-contained classrooms is done through the IPRC and we strive to have all stakeholders on board before the student is brought to the IPRC.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the locations and number of self-contained classrooms for 2020-21 as outlined, pending budget deliberations.

Carried

(b) **Board Approval Transportation Review**

R. Wyszynski invited P. Kuckyt, Manager of Transportation Services to the table. P. Kuckyt referred to the Board Approved Transportation Review report providing background, additional information and an overview on the following items and highlighted key changes:

- Background
- Out of Boundary Students
 - Norfolk Secondary
 - Oakland-Scotland to Waterford District High School Express Route
 - Caledonia to Cayuga Secondary Express Route
 - Students attending River Heights
 - Out of Boundary Students attending Houghton Public School
- Out of District Students
 - Norwich/Otterville/Burgessville students attending Delhi District Secondary School
 - Princeton/Drumbo/Wolverton students attending Paris District High School
 - Tillsonburg students travelling through Courtland Public School Transfer
- Specialized Programs
 - Section 23 Students – Woodview Program

R. Collver asked if the transportation cost for Norwich/Otterville students to Delhi District was offset by the additional enrollment revenue gained by the Board through the Grant For Student Needs? R. Wyszynski responded that it is.

R. Collver further inquired how the out-of-boundary Houghton students had zero additional cost associated with the service. P. Kuckyt responded that there isn't any additional costs at



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this time as the students ride on the same express routes that transport Valley Heights students to their placements at the Annex building, which is on the same property as Houghton Public School; express routes for the Valley Heights students currently start at Valley Heights and Langton Public School.

C.A. Sloat referred to the Oakland-Scotland to Waterford District High School Express Route and asked if Trustees believe that a boundary review was warranted? G. Anderson responded that there is risk to limiting the options to students who attend Oakland-Scotland as they do have the option to go to Assumption for their high school years.

C.A. Sloat asked about the transportation exception for Bobby West street. G. Anderson responded that he wrote a letter to the County which has been forwarded to the Public Works Department who will investigate. G. Anderson noted that Brant County does not plan to make any changes for September 2020.

R. Collver asked if the Board pays for mid-day services? P. Kuckyt responded that there is a regularly scheduled magnet bus service for Brantford and Brant County secondary schools to Tollgate and that any student on a modified day program, as identified in their Individual Transportation Plan, is also accommodated with Board funded services.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in this report for the 2020-21 School Year

Carried

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

(a) **Transportation Consortium Annual Report**

R. Wyszynski requested P. Kuckyt, Manager of Transportation to present and review the Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) – Annual report which consisted of and identified any variances:

- Background
- Route and vehicle information
- Route costs
- Rider's aides
- Vehicles utilization
- Transported students of the Board
- Courtesy Transportation
- Student Ride Time



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- Goals Updates: Board of Directors Goals and Objectives & STSBHN internal Goals and Objectives
- Going Forward: Contracts, Technology & Safety

Moved by: J. Richardson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) Annual Report as information.

Carried

(c) **Information Technology Services Annual Update**

L. Munro referred to the Information Technology Services Annual Update Report providing a high-level overview on background, additional information, ITS Milestones 2019-20 and the ITS Initiatives for 2019-20. L. Munro further reviewed the budget implications and next steps.

C. VanEvery-Albert stated that she is very impressed with the report.

J. Richardson asked how many of our schools still have slow wireless connection. L. Munro responded that Oneida is our only school with challenges and that we are close to a solution.

J. Richardson asked when the Mobile app will be operational? L. Munro responded that we do not have a deadline.

D. Dean asked about budget implications. L. Munro responded that some of these items are already in the budget and some items will be part of the 2020-21 budget discussions.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: C. Speers

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Information Technology Services Annual Update Report as information.

Carried



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

(a) FT9 Transition Committees

R. Wyszynski noted Policy FT9 Transition Committees has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the revisions.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy FT9 Transition Committees to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by May 1, 2020.

Carried

E – 2 Procedure Consideration – Information Items

(a) HR111 Personal Protective Footwear

R. Wyszynski noted Procedure HR111 Personal Protective Footwear has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and reviewed the suggested revisions.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR111 Personal Protective Footwear to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by May 1, 2020.

Carried

(b) HR119 Progressive Discipline

S. Sincerbox noted Procedure HR119 Progressive Discipline has been identified for review, will be going out for comment and noted there are no suggested revisions.

Moved by: C. Speers

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR119 Progressive Discipline to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by May 1, 2020.

Carried

(c) FT105 Playground Equipment

R. Wyszynski referred to the FT105 Playground Equipment report noting when recently working with one our partners, it was discovered that a section of the procedure is dated and needs to be revised. R. Wyszynski reviewed the request and noted modifications are required and noted that FT105 Playground Equipment is scheduled for a full review in Fall 2020. R. Wyszynski requested Trustees support the direction to make the minor revisions at this time and continue with the regular review schedule.



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Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: D. Dean

THAT Bylaw 9 – Process for Developments of Bylaws, Policies and Procedures be waived with respect to circulating Procedure FT105 Playground Equipment to all appropriate stakeholders for comments.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure FT105 Playground Equipment as information.

Carried

(d) **SO113 Extreme Weather**

R. Wyszynski referred to the SO113 Extreme Weather report noting this is a new procedure which outlines the guidelines how to handle extreme weather conditions (hot/cold) in schools that are compliant with provincial and municipal health and safety requirements.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO113 Extreme Weather to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by May 1, 2020.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C.A. Sloat referred to the OPSBA Report and provided a high-level overview.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the OPSBA report of March 9, 2020 as information.

Carried

G - 1 **Correspondence**

Nil



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H - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Vice-Chair, C.A. Sloat