



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Board Meeting

April 25, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3OPUQo7>

Learn Lead Inspire Award Presentation

The Learn Lead Inspire award recognizes the students, staff members and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to our school communities, aligning with the Board's mission to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging.

Monday evening, Grand Erie was proud to honour educators Jamie Snell, Michael Shirton and Lance Woods as the most recent recipients of

the Learn Lead Inspire award for their role in supporting student athletics during a very challenging time. As the driving force behind the Council for Athletics in Grand Erie, which oversees extracurricular sports at the elementary level throughout the district, Jamie, Michael and Lance have made incredible efforts this year to make participation in athletics possible. Navigating the ongoing changes in policies and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic meant constant collaboration and teamwork to ensure safety and compliance. Scheduling games, events and tournaments meant monitoring numerous moving parts. Refusing to throw in the towel on activities that bring fitness, leadership, confidence and teambuilding to our students, they persevered – and the result has been a school year with safe, Ministry-compliant elementary athletics when there easily could have been none. Congratulations to Jamie, Michael and Lance on their commitments to increasing participation in athletics and building a culture of well-being and belonging in the process.



Above: Jamie Snell, Michael Shirton and Lance Woods are the most recent recipients of the Learn Lead Inspire award.



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Director's Report Highlights

Celebrating National Volunteer Week

Volunteers bring a wealth of varied and diverse experiences to enhance student learning, well-being and belonging in our school communities. They are role models and motivators, generous with their time and skills. To celebrate Volunteer Week, we're featuring a daily profile of some of the many volunteers making a difference in Grand Erie. Be sure to check these out on the [website](#) and social media.



JoAnna Roberto,
Director of Education

GEPIC Speaker Series Continues this Thursday

The Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) is thrilled to present an evening of learning for parents and guardians, featuring two renowned subject-matter experts - Dr. Karyn Gordon and Dr. Onkar Singh - in a unique doubleheader format. This virtual event will provide insightful, interactive learning to equip parents with knowledge and confidence on two timely topics. Check the [website](#) for details on how to participate on Thursday, April 28 starting at 6:30 pm.



Updated Elementary Science Curriculum

In March of this year, the Ministry of Education released a newly updated science and technology curriculum for Grades 1 to 8. Educators will be required to start teaching the revised curriculum in September 2022. It focuses on both STEM skills and fundamental science and technology concepts to reflect the skills students will need to navigate our rapidly changing, scientific and technologically sophisticated world. Our central staff will provide professional development to support the implementation for the Fall of 2022.



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New Primary and Junior EQAO Assessment Overview

This spring, our Grade 3 and 6 students will once again participate in Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial assessments of reading, writing and mathematics after a two-year pause. The format and content have changed considerably, with the most significant changes being digitalization and modernization, leading to a very different student experience.

This year language and math components are divided into four sessions requiring a total of approximately two-to-four hours. Only students attending in-person will participate in the assessments, and EQAO will only report outcomes on students who participate in the assessments.

This year's sample test has been designed to help students familiarize themselves with the digital platform and the new features. Our central staff have created resources and provided PD to administrators, LRTs, Instructional Coaches and teachers to ensure every Grade 3 and 6 student has a positive experience while participating in the EQAO assessments and that they are able to best demonstrate their knowledge, skill and understanding in this newly revised digital format.

Ministry Funding for Tutors

Grand Erie's plan to take advantage of this new opportunity currently spans April to August, and will include:

- Funding for small groups of students to meet with EAs/DECEs before or after school to receive support for homework completion or supplementary literacy and numeracy learning tasks.
- An average group size ratio of 5:1, with five students with one support staff.
- Smaller group size averages, including 1:1 individual tutoring, can be supported for students who would benefit from more attention based on student need, including students with special education needs.
- Additional learning opportunities for students and educators will be enhanced (e.g., summer camps, professional development opportunities)





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Revised Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship Course, New Grade 9 Science

The Minister of Education has issued a revised Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship course for September 2022 as part of the government's commitment to modernizing education and preparing students for success beyond the classroom. The Civics and Citizenship course is redesigned to help students learn what it means to be a responsible, informed, and active Canadian citizen, both within the classroom and in the communities they belong to outside of school.

Additionally, the Ministry has issued a new Grade 9 Science course (SNC1W). The course is part of the Ministry's commitment to modernizing education with a renewed focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and can be accessed on the Curriculum and Resources website. The new de-streamed Grade 9 Science course replaces the existing academic and applied science courses, and will be implemented in classrooms across the province starting in September 2022.

Professional Development: Not just a day, but a way

On Friday, April 22, all educators participated in a day of learning titled Not Just a Day, But a Way. This was phase two of Grand Erie's Cultural Competency program, and began with Niigaan Sinclair, Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba. Niigaan supported educators with knowledge of Indigenous culture and provided perspectives on how to include content within the classroom and school.



Following the presentation, educators were shown digital resources and used an Indigenous lens while thinking about their learning environment. The afternoon provided an opportunity to critically learn and reflect on our identities and how they affect and impact teaching practices, ideas and biases. This learning aligned Indigenous perspectives with school improvement planning and culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy.



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Graduation Review

Data from 2020-21 show a steady to slightly improving four-year graduation rate for high school students in Grand Erie, and a four-per-cent increase in the five-year graduation rate over previous years. Educators are engaging in professional development and deploying new initiatives to help prepare every student for their chosen post-secondary destination, with a focus on gathering and understanding qualitative and quantitative data, as outlined in *Street Data* by Shane Safir and Jamila Dugan. Participation in targeted and innovative programming is increasing, with more than 360 students enrolled in Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs, and more than 420 in various Specialist Skills High Major programs.

Project SEARCH

Grand Erie is proud to support Project SEARCH, a 10-month secondary employment preparation program for students with a primary diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability who are in their final year of high school. JBLC is hosting an information night on Thursday, May 5 to provide anyone interested with more information on this program to help students reach their employment goals through three co-operative internships at a host business (St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre and Stedman Community Hospice) combined with training in employability and life skills along with employment planning and support.



Additional Items

Memorial: A memorial statement was read to honour Grace McSweeney, a student at Bellview Public School. Grace is remembered as an amazing writer, with a particular talent and appreciation for poetry. She was artistic and hardworking, and used those skills to teach herself to play guitar. She was a great friend and used her sense of humour to keep classmates and staff in good spirits. She was a light to everyone she crossed paths with and will never be forgotten. We want to express our deepest sympathies to Grace's family, her friends and everyone connected to this loss.



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Additional Items Contd...

Approval of Minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- March 28, 2022 (Regular Board)
- April 11, 2022 (Committee of the Whole Board)

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (March 10, 2022)
- Safe and Inclusive School (SIS) Committee Minutes (March 24, 2022)

The following Policies and Procedures were rescinded:

- SO17 Guidelines for Student Accommodation, up to and Including Exemption, from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks (September 2021)
- HR106 COVID-19 Immunization Disclosure (September 2021)

Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2021, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this multi-year plan is the vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire, and a mission to build a culture Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

Learning

- Learning Partnership Brings Cutting-Edge Technology to James Hillier Public School: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/learning-partnership-brings-cutting-edge-technology-james-hillier-public-school>
- Virtual Reality Brings School Bus Driver Training to Another Level: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/virtual-reality-brings-school-bus-driver-training-another-level>



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Multi-Year Plan Stories Contd...

Belonging

- One-Stop Grad Shop is Dressing Up Grade 8 Graduates for Free:
<https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/one-stop-grad-shop-dressing-grade-8-graduates-free>
- Free Store at Pauline Johnson Gives Life Skills Students Valuable Learning Opportunities: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/free-store-pauline-johnson-gives-life-skills-students-valuable-learning-opportunities>