



Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2022

Board Room / MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Present:** Committee Chair: T. Waldschmidt, B. Doyle, C. VanEvery-Albert, G. Anderson, R. Collver, E. Dixon, S Gibson, J. Richardson, C.A. Sloat, D. Werden Student Trustees: S. Green, C. Kitchen, R. Mitchell
- 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:** D. Dean
- Administration:** Nil

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee of the Whole Board Chair, T. Waldschmidt at 6:36 p.m.

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

Nil

(c) **In Camera Session**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Board move into In Camera Session to discuss personnel, legal and property matters at 6:36 p.m.

Carried

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

The Public meeting was called to order by Committee of the Whole Board Chair,

T. Waldschmidt at 7:19 p.m. read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

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

S. Gibson requested the addition of two items to the In Camera agenda.

C.A. Sloat noted that, at the November 2021 Board meeting, a motion was passed that approval of F7 be referred to the February 2022 board meeting.

J. Roberto explained that SO32 Exclusion of Students, SO19 Privacy and Information Management, P2 Honoring Indigenous Cultures and Traditions, and Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Plan Report, were referred, along with F7 Reporting of Wrongdoing. This will come forward in March as a result of many other matters being dealt with at this time.

D. Werden requested that in the future, items come to the Board to be referred.



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Moved by: S. Gibson
Seconded by: G. Anderson
THAT the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

C.A. Sloat noted that she left the In Camera meeting discussion on item A-1-a due to her belief that the board did not follow the Education Act Regulation 207(2).

(f) **In Camera Report**

Moved by: B. Doyle
Seconded by: E. Dixon
THAT In Camera item A-1-a be received as information.

Carried

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: R. Collver
THAT In Camera item A-1-c be approved.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the Joint Use of Facilities Agreement between the Board and The City of Brantford.

Carried

(g) **System Showcase**

L. Thompson introduced P. Bagchee, R. Tenbrinke, S. Barless, K. Kitchen, and R. Gee, who presented the Mental Health and Well-being Showcase.

The presenters spoke to Grand Erie's Child and Youth Workers' focus on mental health promotion and prevention. The team shared the Super Self-Reg Program, that was created for the Summer School Transition Program. It has five interactive sessions that teaches students self-regulation skills including feelings, calming strategies, and how their brain works. Parent feedback and examples of how the program is being used in classrooms and were shared.

Presenters spoke to the support that is provided for secondary schools, including wellness rooms and bulletin boards with positive affirmations, self-care, and strategies to promote mental health literacy.

Child and Youth Workers are also delivering professional learning in designated schools to promote the work of the Dr. Stuart Shanker. This professional learning includes six PowerPoint sessions delivered throughout the year.



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(h) **Delegation**

(i) **R. Hunter – Kindergarten Masking Policy**

T. Waldschmidt reminded R. Hunter that he has 10 minutes to present and asked that he respect the information he received by Grand Erie about his delegation on 04-02-2022.

R. Hunter spoke to his views on masking and provided examples of several masking studies. R. Hunter asked that Grand Erie's policies be shifted to reflect his views and that trustees adhere to the medical advice provided.

D. Werden called a Point of Personal Privilege and noted that R. Hunter's statements made assumptions about his family and may be defamatory.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

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

Carried

(ii) **A. Johnston – Kindergarten Masking Policy**

A. Johnston explained that she has compiled letters from concerned parents across Grand Erie. A. Johnson read excerpts from the letters and shared some of their concerns.

Moved by: E. Dixon

Seconded by: J. Richardson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive A. Johnston's delegation as information.

Carried

(iii) **N. Gauthier – Kindergarten Masking Policy**

N. Gauthier spoke on behalf of some parents and referenced his expertise in masking with respect to firefighting. N. Gauthier noted his concern about the impact on children's mental health as a result of masking.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive N. Gauthier's delegation as information.

Carried

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

Nil



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C - 1 Director's Report

(a) Director's Highlights

J. Roberto shared the following:

- Grand Erie's Ready, Set, Kindergarten Campaign is underway.
- Celebrating Black History Month is a great opportunity for everyone in Grand Erie to Lead, Learn and Inspire with intention, incorporating Black histories, voices, and perspectives year-round.
- J. Roberto shared a video from Unite Against Hate, that can be used in classrooms to spark conversations, not only about Black History, but also anti-Black racism and prejudice that we see in our schools and communities.
- Grand Erie is hosting a virtual Public Meeting on February 10, 2022, to answer questions and take input from the Banbury Heights and Branlyn communities on a proposed modification to boundaries for these schools.
- Grand Erie secondary schools are introducing Student Learning Support Days in second semester, providing additional opportunities for students requiring further consolidation of learning to meet their achievement goals in grades 9 – 12.
- In the coming months, staff and students will see more ways we Learn, Lead and Inspire as two new campaigns are rolled out to support engagement in Grand Erie's vision.
- W. Baker highlighted the re-engagement process at Houghton and noted that recently, a Community Support Worker was hired to help re-engage students. To date, seven students from the Low German Mennonite community have been enrolled at Houghton.

C. Kitchen spoke in favour of the Student Learning Support Days, and thanked Sr. Administration for providing this opportunity instead of turning these into additional instructional days.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Director's Report of February 7, 2022 as information.

Carried

(b) Leading and Learning in a Pandemic

J. Roberto provided an update with respect to sports in schools and noted that that this is a priority across the district as it supports the mental health and well-being of students. When an update from the Ministry about wrestling and/or basketball is available, it will be shared.

C.A. Sloat noted that there is some inconsistency across Boards with respect to sports.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Leading and Learning in a Pandemic report of February 7, 2022 as information.

Carried



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D - 1 **New Business – Action/Decision Items**

(a) **Draft Proposed School Year Calendar 2022-23**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the calendars recommended by the School Year Calendar Committee in the Draft School Year Calendars 2022-2023 report.

Carried

C. VanEvery-Albert asked if consideration has been made for exams that may conflict with Longhouses who have mid-winter ceremonies. W. Baker explained that there is a process in place to accommodate those students so they can write their exams without consequences.

C.A. Sloat expressed concern with November 11 being a PD Day.

W. Baker explained that the committee considered this before making the recommendation and noted that they felt this would give students the opportunity to attend a cenotaph ceremony, while still being able to celebrate Remembrance Day at school, perhaps the day before, as when November 11 falls on a weekend.

C.A. Sloat noted that that the proposed activities for PD days were missing from the report.

W. Baker explained that this cannot be added until direction is received from the Ministry of Education.

(b) **Mileage Remuneration Review**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the mileage rate of \$0.61 per kilometer for the first 5,000 kilometers, and \$0.55 per kilometer thereafter affective March 1, 2022.

Carried

C.A. Sloat suggested that this should be passed through budget.

R. Wyszynski explained that trustees did approve the 2021-22 budget, and there are sufficient funds within that approved amount to cover the proposed increase in mileage rate because of decreased travel due to COVID-19.

C.A. Sloat noted a slight error and asked that the motion be revised to reflect the CRA rate of \$0.55 cents, instead of \$0.56 cents. The motion was amended to reflect this.

R. Wyszynski provided some clarification about when CRA rates become effective.



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

Nil

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

(a) **F-02 Budget Development Process**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy Budget Development Process (F-02).

Carried

C.A. Sloat asked for clarification about the meaning of pro forma budget and R. Wyszynski explained that this would be a statement of revenues and expenses.

C.A. Sloat expressed concern that trustees would not be receiving the detailed 31 page excel spreadsheet that they have in the past.

Discussions took place around the amount of detail that trustees need to arrive at and approve a budget.

(b) **SO-08 Community Partnership**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Dixon

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve Policy SO-08 Community Partnerships.

Carried

R. Collver asked for clarification about the removal of criteria for success and asked how the Board can monitor the policy if it is not listed.

L. Thompson noted there is a reference in the policy to SO-008, which includes the guiding principles.

Discussions took place around the placement of guiding principles, and this will be reviewed in future with respect to policies and procedures up for review.

(c) **SO-008 Community Partnerships**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive Procedure SO-008 Community Partnerships, as information.

Carried



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C.A. Sloat questioned the numbering of the procedure.

L. Thompson noted that is operational in nature and J. Roberto explained that Sr. Administration is trying to make sure that they match the related policy.

(d) **SO-18 Environmental Education and Stewardship**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO-18 Environmental Education Stewardship to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO-XXX Environmental Education Stewardship to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

(e) **SO-20 Assessment Evaluation and Reporting**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Policy SO-20 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting, as amended, to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure SO-XXX Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

C.A. Sloat noted that there was a word missing from the policy statement. A. Smith noted the communication from C.A. Sloat, and it would be amended before going out for comment. The motion was amended to reflect this.



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(f) **HR-107 Maintaining Employee Safety While Working with Students**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: D. Werden

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR-107 Maintaining Employee Safety While Working with Students to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

(g) **HR-121 Injury/Incident/Disease Investigation and Reporting**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: D. Werden

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure HR-121 Employee Injury Reporting and investigation to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

(h) **P-106 Home Instruction**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Grand Erie District School Board forward Procedure P-106 Home Instruction to all appropriate stakeholders for comments to be received by April 6, 2022.

Carried

F - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **OPSBA Report**

C. VanEvery-Albert reported that D. Werden was recently elected to be on the OPSBA Policy Development Work Team and C.A. Sloat was elected to be part of the Education Program Work Team. C. VanEvery-Albert will serve as alternate for the Policy Development Work Team.

C. VanEvery-Albert noted that the Student Trustee Handbook 2022 is available on the OPSBA website. The 2022 OPSBA Awards Nominations are now open and can be accessed online.

D. Werden noted when he was the OPSBA Director he shared everything. C. VanEvery-Albert will follow-up.

C. Kitchen added that he appreciated being able to participate in the creation of the Student Trustee Handbook and urged trustees to read it if they haven't already.



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Moved by: E. Dixon
Seconded by: D. Werden
THAT the Grand Erie District receive the OPSBA report as information.
Carried

G - 1 Correspondence

- (a) York Region District School Board – January 20, 2022.
- (b) Greater Essex County District School Board – January 21, 2022
- (c) Upper Canada District School Board – January 14, 2022
- (d) Lakehead District School Board – January 17, 2022
- (e) Algoma District School Board – January 11, 2022.
- (f) Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit Letter – February 2, 2022

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: C.A. Sloat
THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the correspondence as information.
Carried

C.A. Sloat requested clarification on how correspondence is shared.

S. Gibson responded that she will forward items that she receives and also add them to the agenda.

Moved by: R. Collver
Seconded by: J. Richardson
THAT Policy SO-17 Guidelines for Student Accommodation, up to and including Exemption, from Non-Medial or Cloth Masks and the Resource Package be brought back for discussion at the Committee of the Whole Board meeting on March 7, 2022.
Carried

Trustees requested that a conversation about the masking policy take place at the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

The importance of reviewing medical opinions and the hearing the voice of all stakeholders was discussed.

At the request of trustees, a summary of advice from the Medical Officers of Health will be requested.

Moved by: D. Werden
Seconded by: B. Doyle
THAT the Board return to In Camera session at 9:38 p.m.
Carried



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H - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Board Chair, T. Waldschmidt