



Grand Erie District School Board's Highlights from the Board Room

Committee of the Whole Meeting | November 9, 2020

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

Facility Renewal Plan 2020-21

On Monday evening, Trustees recommended for approval Grand Erie's 2020-21 Facility Renewal Plan. The plan outlines the Board's capital-related work to address urgent needs and other commitments across Grand Erie. Proposed projects in 2020-21, which are funded by the School Renewal Allocation and the School Condition Improvement allocations, total \$25.9 million. Previously approved allocations for Building and Grounds budgets, Pride of Place, Community Partnership Incentive Projects and School/Program Improvement Fund Projects are included. To review the report, see pages 47-52 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>. This report supports the Environment indicator of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#), through the following statement: "We will ensure that students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and work."



Balanced School Year Ad-hoc Committee Terms of Reference

At the last Committee of the Whole meeting (October 5, 2020), Trustees directed staff to create Terms of Reference for a committee that will make recommendations concerning a Balanced School Year Calendar to the Board in November 2021. On Monday, Trustees received the Terms of Reference, which outlines the purpose and responsibilities of the committee, the composition of the committee, the committee's operating procedures and the role of the Board. This report supports the Well-Being indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, [Success for Every Student](#), and the following statement: "We will create environments that are healthy and that recognize the well-being of mind, body and spirit of staff and students." To review the report, see pages 7-10 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>.

Consolidated Financial Statements and Preliminary Year End

On Monday, Trustees recommended for approval the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2020. In addition, they also received detailed financial information for the 2019-20 school year in the 2019-20 Preliminary Year End Report. In the spring of 2020, the Ministry of Education formally notified Grand Erie that it had successfully achieved the targets set out in its Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan. This target required the Board to achieve an accumulated surplus equal to one per cent of its operating allocation. It also encouraged Grand

Erie to continue to responsibly build an accumulated surplus balance of two per cent to address future contingencies. At the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year, Senior Administration is pleased to report an in-year surplus of \$396,008. This surplus increases Grand Erie's accumulated surplus from \$2.88 million to \$3.28 million. The Board's annual operating allocation for 2019-20 was \$286,464,883, resulting in an accumulated surplus of 1.15 per cent. To review Grand Erie's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2020 as well as the Preliminary Year End for 2019-20, see pages 11-46 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>.

Director's Report

JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education, shared the following items with Trustees on Monday during her report to the Board:

- Grand Erie is pleased to share that 2,200 devices are being deployed to schools to support the device refresh initiative. Information Technology Services has also received 525 devices to support students participating in virtual learning. The increase in devices has enabled the board to support families who require more than one device to learn at home.
- A survey for parents, students and educators enrolled in Grand Erie's Virtual Academy is underway. The purpose of the survey is to understand what is going well as well as what areas need improvement.
- There will be a variety of after-school professional development sessions offered to elementary teachers over the next few weeks to support assessment, math, and French.



2020-21 Indigenous Education Board Action Plan

Grand Erie's Achievement and Well-Being Plan, *Success for Every Student*, is a plan for all students, and Indigenous students are included within that plan. The Board Action Plan for Indigenous Students is focused on the implementation plan included in the First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Framework as well as the performance measures contained within it. Total funding for this work in 2020-21 is \$123,426, not including funding from other areas. To review the action plan, see pages 79-82 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>. This report supports both the Achievement and Equity indicators of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff; We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes; We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included."

Grand Erie Graduation Rate Report

For the second straight year, graduation rates for Grand Erie students increased. Students in the 2014-15 cohort saw a nearly two per cent (1.9) jump in the four-year graduation rate, growing from 63.7 per cent in 2018 to 65.6 per cent in 2019. Grand Erie's five-year graduation rate also saw a small boost, increasing 0.5 per cent (74.8) in 2019, compared to 2018 (74.3). The



Graduation Report highlights Grand Erie's engagement strategy for students as well as next steps to see continued growth. This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan and the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." To read the report, see pages 75-78 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>.



Multi-Year Plan 2016-20 Update

[Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#) was approved by Trustees in 2016. The plan has served to provide focused direction for system growth and improvement for staff and programs at all levels of the organization. Each year, elements of the plan are reviewed and monitored by Trustees through the presentation of Annual Operating Plans as well as the Board Improvement Plan. In the past, a plan for the development of a renewed Multi-Year Plan is presented at this time with a target start date. Due to the pandemic, the process and specifics are yet to be determined. The information gathered to date

will be used to help determine the process for moving forward in the spring, at which time a report for the renewed Multi-Year Plan will be presented to Trustees.

Annual Update Multi-Year Plan Accessibility Plan 2017-22

Grand Erie's annual update to the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2017-22) was presented to Trustees on Monday. The update features highlights from the 2019-20 school year, including:

- Program staff in all portfolios working to enhance the skills of all educators
 - For example: delivering programs using universal design and differentiated instruction strategies in order to achieve full participation of all students, in both face-to-face and virtual models of learning
- School events to celebrate diverse abilities and to promote full participation of students using Rick Hansen Foundation School Program resources, introduced to administrators in the fall of 2019.
- Explicit focus on supporting all teachers to understand how to use the Brightspace learning platform.
- Work on Grand Erie's Parent Portal

The plan also included focus for this year (2020-21). The annual update was vetted through Executive Council and the Board's Accessibility Committee. It was also presented to the Special Education Advisory Committee for input. To review the update, see pages 63-74 here: <https://bit.ly/3kaENRc>. This report supports the Equity and Environment indicators of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan through the following statements: "We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included; We will ensure that students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and work."

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Rural and Northern Education Spending Report
- Preliminary Year End
- Trustee Honoraria
- Trustees' Travel and PD Expenses
- Contract Award – Softchoice Term Licence and Maintenance
- Health & Safety Annual Report 2019-20
- Student Suspension Report
- Student Expulsion Report
- Student Exclusion Report
- OPSBA Report
- Correspondence: BHNCD SB Letter to the City of Brantford

The following Policies will be sent out for comment:

- FT10 Green Schools Construction
- FT11 Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships
- SO2 School Councils
- SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools

The following Policies were recommended for approval:

- Regulation 44/20 – revisions to Grand Erie policies SO6, SO7, SO110 and SO11

The following Procedures were shared as information:

- FT105 Playground Equipment
- SO110 Exemption to Human Development and Sexual Health

Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2016, 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 *Success for Every Student*. Grand Erie will achieve *Success for Every Student* through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The six indicators that support the Multi-Year Plan are: Achievement, Community, Environment, Equity, Technology and Well-Being.

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

Achievement

- Achieving and Inspiring through Storytelling
 - <https://bit.ly/32qT0Dp>
- Grand Erie Bids Fond Farewell to Long-Serving Superintendent and Educator
 - <https://bit.ly/38on6LB>

Community

- Grand Erie Accepting Applications to Fill Vacant Trustee Position
 - <https://bit.ly/2U3RtP2>

Success for Every Student