

The
Blackboard

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting | January 11, 2021

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2ML4Fbg>

GELA Annual Report

Each year, the Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) program provides Trustees with an update on how it's implementing Ministry of Education initiatives and how it's supporting and engaging all students as they strive to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma or further their individual educational needs. GELA supports a wide range of programs for students both over and under the age of 21 as well as other Ministry initiatives and programs offered to the community.



Some of GELA's programs for students under the age of 21 include: Day School, School Within a College (SWAC), Continuing Education, Summer School, eLearning, Heritage Languages Elementary program, After-School Help, Passion Courses and Dual Credit. Some of the GELA programs that support students over the age of 21 include: Mature Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (MPLAR) program, Adult Dual Credit, eLearning, Independent Study, Family Literacy program and the Personal Support Worker program. GELA also offers Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, Bridges to Success and CareerLink.

Highlights from GELA's 2019-20 Annual Report include:

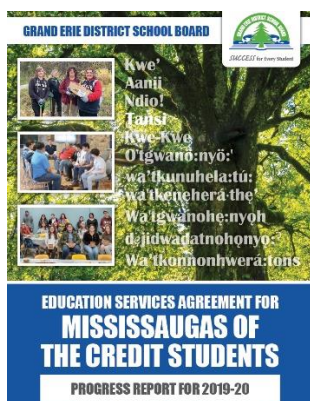
- Total number of GELA graduates were 151, up from 130 in 2018-19
- 144 credits earned out of 144 attempted (100 per cent) by students in the Personal Support Worker Certificate program
- 31 credits earned out of 33 credits attempted (94 per cent) by students under the age of 21 in the Dual Credit program
- 2020 Summer School Highlights
 - 1,651 eLearning credits earned out of 1,719 attempted (94.5 per cent)
 - 272 Hybrid credits attempted, with 242 successful (93.2 per cent)

This report supports the Achievement indicator of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, [*Success for Every Student*](#), through the following statements: "We will set high expectations for our students and staff. We will monitor, measure and reflect on our outcomes." It also supports the Equity indicator and the following statement: "We will promote practices that help students, families and staff feel safe, welcomed and included." To review the report, see pages 35-50 here: <https://bit.ly/2ML4Fbg>.

Director's Report

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

- Kindergarten registration is underway. The deadline to be eligible for French Immersion in 2021-22 is Friday, February 5. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2LIQpPh>.
- Monday, January 18 is a PA Day for Grand Erie elementary students. The focus of the day will be on student assessment and evaluation.
- Grand Erie has deployed a total of 1,495 devices to date. These include laptops and iPads. Additional requests for devices are being address by school principals.
- The final opportunity this year to make a switch between learning models (from online to in-class instruction or vice versa) for elementary students is Wednesday, January 13. As previously indicated, if there are extenuating circumstances after this date, families can work with their school principal.
- The final opportunity to switch between learning models this year for secondary students was January 6. In total, Grand Erie received 363 declarations to switch, with 205 students moving to online instruction and 158 students returning to in-class instruction. The overall result is a net gain of 47 students for Grand Erie's Virtual Learning Academy.
- The Ministry of Education extended its deadline to Monday, February 8 for the Support for Learners program. The program supports families with \$200 per child (up to Grade 12) or \$250 per child (up to age 21) with special education needs for technology or internet expenses associated with online learning. For more information or to apply, visit: <https://bit.ly/3sexOf0>.



Report to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Trustees were presented with Grand Erie's report to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on Monday evening. The report features the results of secondary school endeavours by Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students during the 2019-20 school year. It also highlights student activities and a range of data available for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students. 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 review the report, see pages 7-19 here: <https://bit.ly/2ML4Fbg>.

Allocation of Self-Contained Classrooms for 2021-22

Across Grand Erie, self-contained classrooms have been established to provide alternative options for students in which the most enabling environments are smaller classroom settings and a higher staff-to-student ratio. Self-contained classrooms provide learning environments that are positive, inclusive, and foster student independence and well-being for those unable to access grade-level curriculum in traditional classroom settings.

On Monday night, Trustees were provided with an update on the number and locations of self-contained classrooms for the 2021-22 school year, pending budget deliberations. This report supports both the Achievement and Well-Being indicators of [Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan](#). It meets the following Achievement goal: "We will increase understanding of effective literacy and numeracy instruction that is differentiated to meet student need." It also supports the following Well-Being goal: "We will create and promote enabling environments where all students can participate fully in their education." To review the report, see pages 20-26 here <https://bit.ly/2ML4Fbg>

Additional Items

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Strategic Communications Plan Working Group – Ad Hoc Committee
- Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Members
- Category III Trips (SO15)
- Enrolment vs. Capacity by School Report
- OPSBA Report

The following Policies and Procedures will be sent out for comment:

- FT5 – Pupil Accommodation Review
- SO24 – Copyright – Fair Dealing Guideline
- F101 – Hospitality Expenses
- P102 Business Procedures for Experiential Learning Programs

The following Bylaws and Policies were recommended for approval:

- BL11 – Delegations
- BL15 – Trustee Expenses
- SO9 – Cyberbullying
- SO25 – Visual Identity
- SO31 – Accessibility

The following Procedures were shared as information:

- HR110 – Hiring Procedures

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

- Remote Learning to Continue for Grand Erie Elementary Students
 - <https://bit.ly/3hTii3u>
- A Message to Families from JoAnna Roberto, Director of Education
 - <https://bit.ly/2MQprWR>
- Grand Erie Reaches Tentative Local Agreement with CUPE
 - <https://bit.ly/39cEVMh>
- Government of Ontario Lockdown Impacts for Grand Erie Students, Staff and Families
 - <https://bit.ly/3bf4XkR>
- 2020 In Review: these Summer-Camp Sessions Helped Students Prepare for Year of Learning Amid the Pandemic
 - <https://bit.ly/35lm9kW>
- Ready, Set, Kindergarten! Grand Erie Gets Ready for Kindergarten Registration Month
 - <https://bit.ly/2MK0zQE>

Community

- Tollgate Special Education Class Celebrates Season of Giving
 - <https://bit.ly/2LpKSNP>

Success for Every Student