

Committee of the Whole Meeting | March 29, 2021

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3cy3h6k>

Student Recognition Returns: Ava Ro, Grade 8, River Heights School

If you don't recognize the name Ava Ro yet, you will soon – and it will likely be in lights. Ro is a remarkable young woman who is balancing academics with a career in show business, and she is the most recent recipient of a Student Recognition honour. The actor, singer and dancer has starred in series airing on TVOKids, CBC Gem, Discovery Kids, and Netflix, including Big Top Academy, Holly Hobbie, and Paw Patrol. In 2019, she was a finalist on America's Got Talent with her musical group GFORCE, which recently rebranded as GEN:ZED. She has completed level 6 vocals with the Royal Conservatory of Music, plays piano, guitar, drums and ukulele, and also composes original songs.



In addition to achieving these significant milestones in the performing arts, Ro is known at River Heights School for her cooperative attitude and sense of humility, perseverance and responsibility.

Grand Erie Student Achievement and Well-Being Plan

Throughout the 2020-21 year, our school communities have risen to the occasion time and again, whether it was implementing pandemic protocols, setting up the Virtual Learning Academy and pivoting to remote learning, or supporting one another's physical and mental wellbeing. Despite the challenges, Grand Erie has continued to focus on Success for Every Student.

The Mid-Term Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being shines a spotlight on our many accomplishments and continuous student improvement and ongoing dedication of staff and administrators. The plan establishes overall goals and targets, but it goes beyond the numbers. This plan is a living document of how our outstanding educators engage students in their learning every day and set them up for lifelong success. The success of this plan, considered alongside other important data collected by schools, demonstrates that our Board is trending upwards in a positive direction.

On behalf of Grand Erie Trustees and Senior Staff, thank you for all you do to support our students and their learning.

The full report can be found on pages 28-66: <https://bit.ly/3cy3h6k>

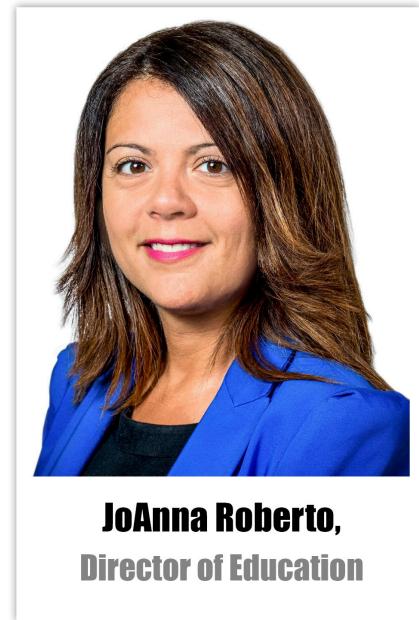


Director's Report

Kindergarten Registration Promotion

Registration continues for the 2021-22 school year. Further to the board's annual plan to promote Kindergarten registration for the upcoming school year, some additions include:

- To ensure and prepare families for the next school year, the Program team will support schools in providing online resources such as digital welcome activities and instructions on how to host a virtual open house.
- School Messenger that includes a virtual Kindergarten Registration poster as a reminder to families that may already have a child or children in the school system and/or to encourage them to remind their friends, family and neighbours.
- The Grand Erie Communications team will facilitate a virtual interview between Director Roberto and current SK students where they discuss advice for this year's Kindergarten class. This video will be posted on the Kindergarten landing page.
- A refresh of the "What to expect" electronic document to become interactive and highlight important information for parents and students, packaged in a way that is accessible for children and parents to read together.

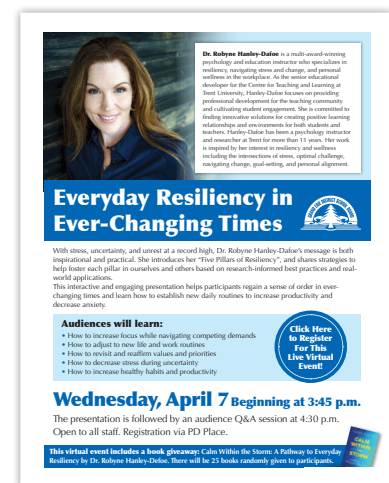


Self-Regulation and Well-Being Presentations

Dr. Stuary Shanker is a world-leading authority on self-regulation and child development. His work was integral to the development of the Ontario Kindergarten Program, particularly in the development of the Self-Regulation and Well-Being frame. Self-regulation is a focus in Grand Erie, aligning with the Multi-Year Plan goal of creating enabling environments where all students can participate fully in their education. This opportunity is provided is on behalf of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Joint Professional Learning Committee. To extend learning, Grand Erie educators who attend both presentations will receive a copy of Dr. Shanker's Self-Reg Schools: A Handbook for Educators.

Everyday Resiliency in Ever-Changing Times: April 7

The Mental Health and Wellness team invites you to attend the virtual event, Everyday Resiliency in Ever-Changing Times, presented by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe. This interactive and engaging presentation will inform participants about the Five Pillars of Resiliency, regain a sense of order in ever-changing times, and learn how to establish new daily routines to increase productivity and decrease anxiety. The presentation on Everyday Resiliency is inspirational, practical and timely, and will help participants regain a sense of order in ever-changing times.



Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe is a multi-award-winning psychology and education instructor who specializes in resiliency, managing stress and change, and personal wellness in the workplace. As the senior educational developer for the Centre for Teaching and Learning at York University, Robyne Dafoe focuses on providing professional development for the teaching community and cultivating student engagement. She is committed to building positive relations for creating positive learning relationships and environments for both students and teachers. Robyne Dafoe has been a psychology instructor and researcher at York for more than 15 years. Her work is inspired by her interest in wellness, and resilience including the intersections of stress, optimal challenge, navigating change, goal-setting, and personal alignment.

Everyday Resiliency in Ever-Changing Times

With stress, uncertainty, and unrest at a record high, Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe's message is both inspirational and practical. She introduces her "Five Pillars of Resiliency", and shares strategies to help foster each pillar in ourselves and others based on research-informed best practices and real-world applications. This interactive and engaging presentation helps participants regain a sense of order in ever-changing times and learn how to establish new daily routines to increase productivity and decrease anxiety.

Audiences will learn:

- How to increase focus while navigating competing demands.
- How to adjust to new life and work routines.
- How to revisit and realign values and priorities.
- How to decrease stress during uncertainty.
- How to increase healthy habits and productivity.

Click Here to Register For This Live Virtual Event!

Wednesday, April 7 Beginning at 3:45 p.m.
The presentation is followed by an audience Q&A session at 4:30 p.m.
Open to all staff. Registration via PD Place.

This virtual event includes a book giveaway! Cahn Within the Storm: A Pathway to Everyday Resiliency by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe. There will be 25 books randomly given to participants.

Cultural Competency Learning Plan

In line with Grand Erie's mandate, Success for Every Student, the Indigenous Education team has created a Cultural Competency training plan with the goal of affecting positive change for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students of the board. This cultural competency training plan will provide the opportunity for Grand Erie staff at all levels to acquire better understandings around the lived realities of the local Indigenous communities both on and off-reserve. This training involves a series of six workshops, facilitated by Indigenous leaders, experts from the local Indigenous community, and the Indigenous Education team.

Additional Items

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

- Policy F7 – Disclosure of Wrongdoing
- SO14 – Equity and Inclusive Education

The following Policies were recommended for approval:

- SO24 Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines

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

- Getting to Know Grand Erie: Tracy Hale, Vice-Principal
- Update on Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
- Grand Erie Teacher Recognized as 'Impact Influencer' for Data-Driven Math Lessons

Community

- Join us for the GEPIC Virtual Thursday Spring Speaker Series