



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Board Meeting

October 25, 2021

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

First Learn Lead Inspire Recognition Awarded to Former Student Trustees

The Learn Lead Inspire award recognizes the students, former 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.



On Monday, the first Learn Lead Inspire award was given to three former Grand Erie students – Ava Burtis, Zachary Garbaty and la'teieka:nerih Doxtader-Swamp – who, during their time as student trustees in 2020-21, championed an important cause, put the student voice at the center, and positively affected change. Now, thanks to their efforts, the Menstrual Equity campaign



is being implemented in all Grand Erie schools. This campaign will see menstrual products available free of charge in Grand Erie schools, and free of barriers, to help end period poverty, and promote belonging and well-being. Burtis, Garbaty and Doxtader-Swamp received their award during a virtual presentation.



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Elementary Class Size

Since 2007-2008 the Ministry of Education has required Boards to be fully compliant with class size caps such that 90 per cent of primary classes will have 20 or fewer students and up to 10 per cent of primary classes may have up to 23 students. For the 2021-22 school year, no changes to elementary class sizes were required; however, fully remote classes would apply to in-person class size requirements. Students attending remotely would be included as part of the elementary class size calculations and reporting for the main school. Boards are required to maintain a board wide average FDK class size of 26 or lower. The funded average class size will remain at 25.57 for 2021-22.

Director's Report Highlights

A 'Great' Book Launch

Walter Gretzky Elementary School staff and students helped launch *Great Too*, a children's book authored by Glen Gretzky and Lauri Holomis, telling the stories of Coach Wally as he helps players build confidence and work together. Special thanks to Mr. Sam Grewal, Principal Jeannette Marry and Vice Principal Jessica Rypma for organizing the event.



JoAnna Roberto
Director of Education

Take Our Kids to Work Day: November 3rd

This year, due to COVID-19, all opportunities to participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day will be virtual. The online events planned aim to inspire an exciting and engaging day of career exploration. The theme for Take Our Kids to Work this year is 'You Belong Here.' Thank you Superintendents Kevin Graham and April Smith for arranging these virtual experiences.



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Menstrual Equity Campaign Launched

In alignment with the Ministry's recent announcement to enhance student access to menstrual products, Grand Erie is pleased to announce a menstrual equity campaign throughout all Grand Erie elementary and secondary schools. This week, schools will receive a basket of menstrual products to be placed in an all-inclusive or gender-neutral washroom along with information about replenishing menstrual-product supplies so they are available free of charge to any students who require them. Thank you to Superintendent Lisa Munro for coordinating the launch.

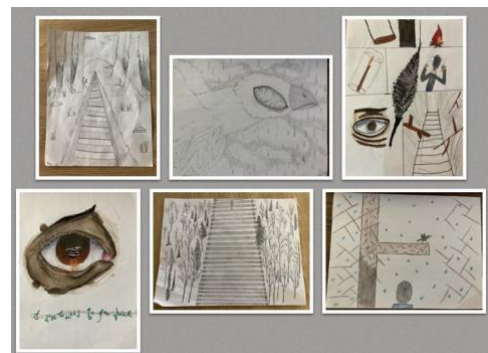


Professional Development: Understanding and Developing Student Thinking

Last week, author and researcher Dr. Alex Lawson, along with Heather Wark, joined primary teams and administrators in math learning sessions focused on understanding and developing student thinking. This session provided educator teams with learning experiences to gain insights into students' mathematical development. Thank you to Superintendent April Smith and Principal Lead Alison Cooke for coordinating this math series.

Secret Path Week

Secret Path Week is a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack, taking place annually in October. Last week, staff and students across Grand Erie honoured those legacies with walks, artwork and much more. Thank you to Superintendent Kevin Graham, Principal Lead Robin Staats, and the Indigenous Education team for promoting and supporting this event.



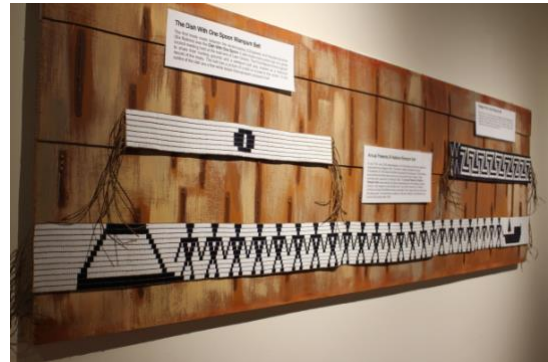


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Treaties Recognition Week: November 1-7

Next week marks a time to signify the importance of Treaties and relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The week gives educators the opportunity to set aside time for curriculum-related activities to share with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, families and staff to support the ongoing efforts to build a deeper understanding, stronger relationships, and broader awareness. Grand Erie's Indigenous Education team will provide support materials to schools to use as part of Treaties Recognition Week.



Additional Items

Memorial

A memorial statement was read to honour Jennifer Smyth, Designated Early Childhood Educator, who passed away September 25, 2021 from cancer. Jennifer started her career in 2001, and worked at multiple schools including Bloomsburg, Prince Charles, Brier Park, Major Ballachey, and River Heights.

Approval of minutes

Trustees approved the minutes of the September 27, 2021 (Regular Board) and October 4, 2021 (Committee of the Whole) meetings.

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee
- Audit Committee



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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 of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

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

Well-Being

- Pandemic a Chance to Reflect on Early Childhood Education – and Write a Book: <https://bit.ly/3jDeRjG>

Belonging

- A 'Great' Book Launch at Walter Gretzky Elementary: <https://bit.ly/3nvryy3>