



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Board Meeting

January 24, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/343fOww>

Learn Lead Inspire Award Presentation

The Learn Lead Inspire award recognizes the 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.

This month, Grand Erie is proud to recognize Caleb Holdsworth, a grade 12 student at Waterford District

High School, whose talents and accomplishments in the world of photography have been pivotal in reviving his school's interest and achievement in this artform. A largely self-taught photographer with a specialty in capturing the natural world, Caleb has submitted work to a number of local, national and international photo competitions, counting first-place finishes and a top-25 placement in a global competition which saw 20 thousand entries from nature photographers in more than 96 countries, among his achievements. His work was recently featured in the Simcoe Reformer newspaper, which resulted in Caleb being presented with a certificate of recognition from Norfolk County. His commitment to learning his craft is now inspiring his school – Caleb is about to take on a co-op teaching assistant role in the photography class, and continues to work with the online yearbook project, which began during the pandemic to safely capture portraits of his fellow students outdoors without masks.





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Director's Report Highlights

Bell Let's Talk: Grand Erie's CYWs are Listening

Grand Erie's Mental Health team will be sharing resources and engaging classrooms in a variety of ways for Let's Talk (Wednesday, January 26), meant to break the silence, decrease stigma, and start meaningful conversations around mental health and well-being. Child and Youth Workers will present to elementary and secondary classes, using talk-bubble activities to spark dialogue on topics such as self-care, accessing supports, and promoting positive change.

Some classrooms will be sharing their activities on Twitter. A selection of engagement activities and resources have also been added to the Mental Health and Well-Being Resource binder on Brightspace for teachers to access.

Am I alone?

You are never alone.
Let's talk. 😊



Absence Tracker Added to Grand Erie Website

While the Ministry of Education requires reporting on staff and student absences to a central site, we have created our own publicly available [absence tracker](#) on our website.

Absence data is pulled each day at approximately 10:30 a.m. to correspond to Ministry requirements, and it includes information for each school over the past five days. This tool reports staff illness or quarantine absences, and student absences connected to illnesses, and amalgamates them into a total absence number and a percentage of total school population. If absences for any school exceed 30 per cent, we will review the data, compare it to average absences, and advise families as required.



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Ontario College of Teachers Sexual Abuse Prevention Program

Effective January 3, a new notation was added to Certificates of Qualification indicating whether a certified teacher has successfully completed the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program. All qualified teachers will be required to complete this online program by August 31, 2022, including teachers who are on leave. Additional Information about the Sexual Abuse Prevention Program is available on the oct.ca [FAQ page](#).

Heart of Turtle Island Book Donation

Through a generous donation by local photographer Mark Zelinski, every elementary and secondary school will be receiving *Heart of Turtle Island – The Niagara Escarpment*, a book of photography. This book captures the wonders of the escarpment across Southern Ontario and Manitoulin Island with the opportunity to “experience a multi-layered perspective.” It will be available in all school libraries.





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Additional Items

Approval of Minutes: Trustees approved the minutes of the following meetings:

- December 13, 2021 (Inaugural Board)
- January 10, 2022 (Committee of the Whole Board)

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Student Trustees' Report
- Major Construction Project Report
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee – December 16, 2021
- Special Education Advisory Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2021
- Native Advisory Committee (NAC) Minutes (Draft) – December 2, 2021
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Minutes (Draft) – December 9, 2021
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) Minutes (Draft) – January 13, 2022

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 Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

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

Learning

Grand Erie Schools Prepared for Return to In-Person Learning:

<https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/grand-erie-schools-prepared-return-person-learning>

Belonging

Grand Erie Inviting Applicants for Equity Advisory Group:

<https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/grand-erie-inviting-applicants-equity-advisory-group>