



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Board Meeting

March 28, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3DmUJe0>

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.



John Schut, lower left, is the most recent recipient of the Learn Lead Inspire award

Grand Erie is proud to recognize John Schut, Transportation Officer, as the most recent recipient of the Learn Lead Inspire award. John is the newest member of the Transportation team, and he's hit the ground running (or with engine revving). Joining the team during the COVID-19 pandemic meant adapting to new, diverse and ever-changing needs, and John has gone above and beyond. He is the definition of a lifelong learner, pushing himself to improve processes in his role and for the department. Overseeing the transportation needs of schools, students and families in Norfolk County, his efforts have not gone unnoticed. John is also the definition of a team player, supporting administrative staff so they in turn can support the needs of their school communities. Building a culture of learning, well-being and belonging begins for many students on the bus ride to school, and thanks to John's approachable demeanor, problem-solving abilities and behind-the-scenes efforts, he ensures Grand Erie's mission is carried out each day.



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Construction Updates

In October 2020, the Ministry of Education provided the Board with approved funding to address the enrolment pressure in Southwest Brantford by constructing a new 650-pupil place elementary school. The project partners with both the City of Brantford and the Brantford Public Library to construct a joint-use elementary school that would include an enhanced library, a triple gymnasium, and a 4-room child care centre at the undeveloped site near the intersection of Shellard Lane and Anderson Road in Brantford. The next step is to secure Ministry of Education approval to retain an architect. This process involves the submission of a space template for the project, which occurred on March 4, 2022.

In March 2021, the Ministry provided the Board with an Approval to Proceed with a child-care addition at Cobblestone Elementary School. The general scope of the project is to build an addition that will create a four-room Child Care Program which will service 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers and 15 spaces for a family hub centre. Staff is working on establishing the project committee and proceeding with studies required for a Site Plan application.

In March 2021, the Ministry of Education provided the Board with an Approval to Proceed with a project to build an addition and renovate the existing two child-care rooms at Banbury Heights Elementary School, which will create a four-room Child Care Program that will service 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers and 15 spaces for a family hub centre. The full report is available on pages 43 – 45 here: <https://bit.ly/3DmUJe0>

Director's Report Highlights

Equity Advisory Group

The Equity Advisory Group held its first meeting, and 14 enthusiastic members participated from an initial list of 90+ applicants. They all have lived experiences in historically marginalized groups and shared their backgrounds with the group. Members were provided with a sketch of where the board lies in its equity journey and, more importantly, the task ahead of them: the creation of the board's Equity Action Plan. Principal Pete Ashe is co-chair of the group, and the other co-chair will be selected by the members.



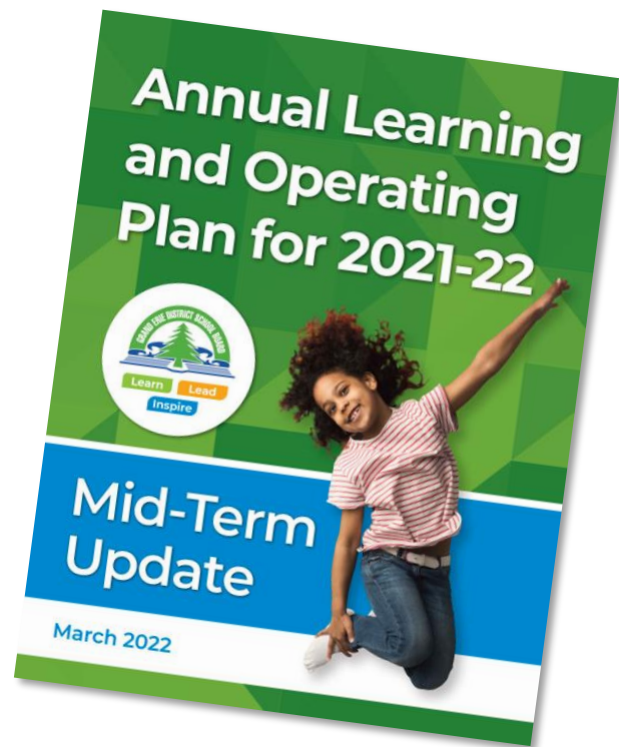
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Annual Learning and Operating Plan: Mid-Term Update

On behalf of senior team, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Dave Smouter, Manager of Communications, Craig Wright, Jenny Gladish, and the following Grand Erie staff member who helped bring our Annual Learning and Operating Plan to life:

- Ann Myhal
- Greg Rowe
- Brianne Naylor
- Jessica King
- Shannon White
- Tara Duncan-Smith
- Anne Goodrow
- Rebecca Malo
- Erica Deserranno
- Heather Brown
- Piyali Bagchee
- Stephen Wills
- Natalie Woron
- Ranae TenBrinke
- Maribeth Naus
- Robin Staats
- Cheryl Bannister



We thank you for your commitment and dedication to Learn, Lead and Inspire.

[Read the Mid-Term Update here.](#)

Kindergarten Promotion

Kindergarten registration materials have been translated into Hindi, Punjabi and Arabic, and are being distributed across the district to reach stakeholders. Promotional materials will also be going out to library locations to support our Kindergarten campaign.



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Elections Reminder

With municipal elections just around the corner, [Bylaw 35](#) sets out guidelines and expectations with respect to campaigning, visits to schools and school-related events.

Leading and Learning in the Pandemic

While we are no longer required in schools to wear masks, many continue to lead and model by masking up as a protective measure. This messaging that “Wearing a mask is OK” in schools has been welcomed and the mask-friendly environment has been supported by all. Staff and students are reporting that it has been a positive and respectful return to school.



#LeadGEDSB in Action

From time to time, I share with staff a #LeadGEDSB reflection. Last month, the focus was on the *Vision 2 Lead*, and discussed the leadership privilege we all have. I invited staff members to share an example of a Grand Erie leader – in any role – who’s inspired them. I received a poignant reflection from Miriam Lapeare, who shared the inspiration Monique Goold, principal at Onondaga-Brant Public School, has provided. Each day, Monique leads by example, intentionally setting a tone of well-being and belonging for every student. I also heard from Katie Terpstra, who reflected beautifully on working with principals Lisa Van Leeuwen and Heather Robinson, each of whom has had a lasting impact on Katie’s own leadership development through the examples they’ve set. I’m proud to say this is what leadership looks like in Grand Erie.



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Additional Items

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

- February 28, 2022 (Regular Board)
- March 7, 2022 (Committee of the Whole Board)

Trustees also received the following reports:

- Grand Erie Annual Learning and Operating Plan mid-term report 2021-22
- Student Trustee's Report – Student Senate
- Major Construction Project Report

The following Policies and Procedures were rescinded:

- SO17 Guidelines for Student Accommodation, up to and Including Exemption, from Non-Medical or Cloth Masks (September 2021)
- HR106 COVID-19 Immunization Disclosure (September 2021)

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 Goes Dark for Earth Hour:
<https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/grand-erie-going-dark-earth-hour>

Well-Being

- Mental Health Initiatives at Grand Erie Secondary Schools Raise Awareness and Support Well-Being
<https://bit.ly/3iKmwM3>