



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

May 9, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3L1G2zk>

Capital Priorities Update

As presented earlier this year, the launch of 2022-23 Capital Priorities Program, including child care capital funding, required Boards to submit business cases for requests for funding to support new school space construction, as well as the creation of new or renovated licensed child care spaces in schools. Altogether, there were 290 requests from 58 school boards for school capital projects valued at \$3.4 billion. These projects also included 132 requests from 39 school boards for child care capital funding totaling \$303.9 million. After careful review of our board's submissions, the Ministry did not approve funding for our projects; however, senior administration will be reaching out to the Ministry for a full debrief.

Director's Report Highlights

Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week

Students, staff, families and community members across Grand Erie recognized Education Week and Mental Health Week last week (May 2 – 6). Grand Erie focused on the five ways to well-being – Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give – and connected those themes to the work going on in our schools throughout the year. Through classroom presentations, staff wellness contests, morning announcements, and a school-community signage challenge, celebrating Mental Health Week is also a celebration of educators and school support staff who lead the way all year.



JoAnna Roberto,
Director of Education



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Effective Early Reading Instruction

Early reading is a key priority of Ontario's Learning Recovery Action Plan, addressing the impacts of learning disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. To support effective instruction in early reading, the Ministry has worked with English and French academic experts to develop an educator guide that outlines evidence-based instructional strategies to support students in Kindergarten to Grade 3, and beyond. **Effective Early Reading Instruction: A Teacher's Guide** has been released to support staff. This resource can be accessed or downloaded as a PDF through the **Curriculum and Resources** website. The Ministry is also undertaking a review of the following curricula to align with scientific, evidence-based approaches that emphasize direct, explicit and systematic instruction:

- Elementary Language curriculum
- Grade 9 English course
- Elementary Français
- Actualisation linguistique en français
- Programme d'appui aux nouveaux arrivants
- Grade 9 Français curriculum

Effective early reading instruction: a guide for teachers

This guide is intended to support teachers' ongoing efforts to build students' reading skills. It provides teachers with information on foundational early reading skills, an understanding of how these skills develop in young children, and examples of evidence-based systematic and explicit instructional strategies to support students to become proficient and fluent readers.



Honouring Administrative Professionals Day

Grand Erie took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate all administrative professionals on April 27, honouring their dedication and commitment to supporting staff, students and families across the district. These members of the team make countless contributions to learning, well-being and belonging at Grand Erie's schools, and their efforts are appreciated every day.



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Marking National Principals' Day

Grand Erie has a vision to learn, lead and inspire, and our administrators are on the frontline of bringing that vision to life in our schools. May 1 was National Principals' Day in Canada. Every day, our principals and vice-principals work with students, staff, families and communities to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging. The administrator role is one of the most influential in education, and we are very proud of their dedication to the pursuit of learning to support the learning of others. To all our administrators: you are an inspiration to your staff and students, and Grand Erie is grateful for all you do.

Virtual Learning for 2022-23

As confirmed through a February Ministry announcement, Grand Erie will continue to offer virtual learning for the 2022-23 school year. A survey conducted in April of this year showed the families of approximately 125 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 have opted for online learning in 2022-23. Additionally, Six Nations Federal Schools has confirmed that they are unable to offer online learning for the upcoming school year. As a result, we are pleased to share that up to 48 students from Six Nations may be joining Grand Erie's online learning through the Reciprocal Education Agreement process.



With the addition of Six Nations students to our elementary program, we hope to offer opportunities to Six Nations students to engage in cultural-based learning and to work with a cultural mentor. Based on the current numbers for elementary online learning, programming will be offered through Graham Bell-Victoria Public School and Grandview Public School.



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

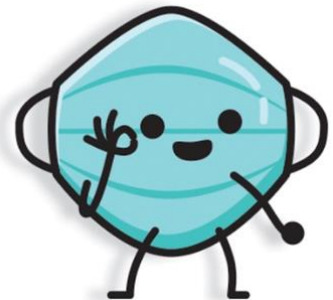
2022 DELF Exam and Certification in Grand Erie

The DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) is an internationally recognized certification of proficiency in French. DELF exams take place in 175 countries worldwide. Obtaining DELF certification not only opens doors to post-secondary and employment opportunities, but it also serves as an official, internationally recognized testament to a student's language learning and accomplishments.

On May 2, 3, and 4, 78 Grand Erie students in their final year of secondary school registered to take the exam. Grand Erie had set a goal to grow the participation to 100 students by the end of 2024. In 2019, Grand Erie had 50 students challenge the DELF. This is the first year the exam has been held since. Based on these trends, Grand Erie is on track to meet or exceed its goals for students obtaining this certification.

COVID-19 Screening Update

There have been some revisions to the COVID-19 school and child care screening tool. Changes were made to align with updated federal guidance for fully vaccinated travelers who are exempt from quarantine. Upon return from international travel, fully vaccinated travelers are no longer required to wear a mask when in public settings for 14 days after arrival in Canada or to maintain a list of all close contacts for their first 14 days in Canada.



Additional Items

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

- Acceptable Use of Technology (SO-27 & SO-XXX)

The following Policies were recommended for approval:

- Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting (SO-20)
- Environmental Education and Stewardship (SO-18)
- Honouring Indigenous History, Cultures, and Traditions (P-02)



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Additional Items Contd...

Trustees also received the following reports as information:

- Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting (SO-020)
- Environmental Education and Stewardship (SO-018)
- Employee Injury Reporting and Investigation (HR-121)
- Home Instruction (P-106)
- Maintaining Employee Safety While Working with Students (HR-107)
- Honouring Indigenous History, Cultures, and Traditions (P-002)

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.

Well-Being

- Mental Health Week: The Five Ways to Well-Being: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/mental-health-week-five-ways-well-being>

Belonging

- It's National Volunteer Week: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/its-national-volunteer-week-1>