



# The Leader

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Regular Meeting of the Board

September 26, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3DW2vhA>

#### Learn Lead Inspire Award

The Learn Lead Inspire award recognizes the staff members, students 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.

Grand Erie was proud to recognize **Susan Pasek** Monday evening, as the first recipient of the Learn Lead Inspire award for the 2022-23 school year. In her role as Lead Educational Assistant, Susan works with Grand Erie learners, and with a whole-system approach, builds responsive, inclusive environments for students to learn and achieve. Susan is an exemplary coach and mentor, leading the way for Grand Erie's teams of educational assistants, and collaborating with



them to solve problems and improve processes. With a deep understanding of the challenges that can face those working in this caring field, she is always mindful of her colleagues' well-being, and works tirelessly to support ongoing professional development, build leadership capacity and enhance access to resources to improve the working conditions for education assistants. A lifelong learner, Susan continues to enhance her own professional practice, adding to her wide and diverse skillsets. Her commitment to teamwork and leadership is an inspiration, and makes a tangible difference the lives and school experiences of so many learners. Susan's work in Grand Erie truly exemplifies what it means to Learn, Lead and Inspire.



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### Director's Report Highlights

#### Edith Monture Elementary School Naming: September 28

The official event to commemorate Edith Monture Elementary School's new name will be MCed by students, with Indigenous opening and closing ceremonies, dancing and drumming, and the formal event followed by the planting a white pine tree. Formerly Ryerson Heights Elementary School, the new name was selected through a process of public consultation, and honours the legacy of Monture.

Born in 1890 in Six Nations of the Grand River territory, Monture was the first Indigenous woman to become a registered nurse in Canada. In 1914, after graduating from New York's New Rochelle Nursing School, she vote, becoming the first Indigenous woman and registered band member in the country's history to do so.



#### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day: September 30

September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day. This is an opportunity to remember, to witness and honour the healing journeys of residential-school survivors and their families. It demonstrates a commitment to processes of reconciliation and recognizes the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and providing an opportunity for all people in Canada to engage in discussions or provide acknowledgement and support in addressing the brutal legacy of the residential school system. On Friday, Grand Erie will raise the Survivors' flag, which symbolically carries the lived experiences of survivors.





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### Maawdoo Maajaamin Child Care Opening: October 5

With construction completed during the pandemic, this fall presents the opportunity to formally acknowledge the successful opening of the Maawdoo Maajaamin Child Care Centre, located at Hagersville Secondary School. The project's partners include Grand Erie District School Board, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and Health and Social Services Haldimand-Norfolk.



### Kanien'kéha Language Circle

Robin Staats, Principal Leader of Indigenous Education and Equity, represented Grand Erie recently as various Mohawk communities came together for the purpose of endorsing linguistically strong Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) individuals to teach the Kanien'kéha Language within Ontario schools. This pilot project will help identify suitable teacher candidates who will be certified as teachers of Mohawk language by the Ontario College of Teachers.

## Additional Items

### In Memoriam

A memorial statement was read to honour Penny Medeiros-Wilkins, teacher at Cayuga Secondary School, who passed away this summer following a battle with cancer.



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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 Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

The following showcases one of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Plan.

#### Well-Being

- Grand Erie Renovates for a New School Year:  
<https://granderie.ca/board/news/grand-erie-renovates-new-school-year>