



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural and Regular Meeting of the Board

November 21, 2022

All reports for this meeting can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3gp6XvK>

Susan Gibson Acclaimed Chair of Grand Erie District School Board

The Grand Erie Board of Trustees acclaimed **Susan Gibson** as the 2023 Chair of the Grand Erie District School Board during the annual Board Nomination and Organization meeting held on Monday, November 21. Gibson represents the City of Brantford, and this is her second one-year term as Chair of the Board. **Brian Doyle**, who represents the County of Haldimand, was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair for the coming year, and this is also his second year in this role.

“It’s an honour to once again have the support of my fellow Trustees as we collectively work to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging,” said Gibson. “Our Annual Learning and Operating Plan has established clear goals to prioritize the needs of students in Grand Erie, and I am looking forward to working collaboratively as we learn, lead and inspire.”

Gibson was first elected to the Board in 2018. She has a more than two-decade career in health care, advocating for patients and their families. She has transferred that passion for helping others to her role as Trustee in public education, collaborating and problem-solving to support student success.

Also elected during Monday night's meeting were:

- **Claudine VanEvery-Albert** as Grand Erie's Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) Director/Voting Delegate:
- **John Bradford** as OPSBA Alternate Director/Alternate Voting Delegate



Susan Gibson
CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Brian Doyle
VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD



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Learn Lead Inspire Awards

The Learn Lead Inspire award celebrates students, staff members and volunteers who have made outstanding contributions and shown steadfast commitment to their school communities, aligning with the Board's mission to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging to inspire each learner. This month, Grand Erie is proud to recognize the following staff members, who were presented with Learn Lead Inspire awards Monday night:

Stephanie Farrow

Volunteer, Supervisor and Casual Educational Assistant
École Dufferin

Like many school volunteers, Stephanie wears a lot of hats to ensure the school she loves is a great place to learn and play. In her years at École Dufferin, she has run the snack program, overseeing planning, ordering and organizing the collective efforts needed to bring nutritious snacks to promote student learning and well-being. She has also taken on the role of supervisor before school starts and during nutrition breaks. But it is her ability to recognize needs and mobilize the actions necessary to meet those needs that sets her apart. Her commitment and dedication to the school has also provided unique insights into how she can best contribute to it. This year, she worked to secure a grant to purchase a freezer for the snack program. She mentors new supervisors and proactively works to ensure coverage needs are met. And most recently, she committed to training in order to provide coverage at the school as an occasional educational assistant. She greets students by name, and they share inside jokes. She goes to great lengths to ensure lost-and-found items are returned to their owners. She ensures everyone who walks through the doors of the school is welcomed and included. It is the small, daily gestures, as well as the big commitments Stephanie contributes that makes it an honour to present her with a Learn Lead Inspire award.





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Learn Lead Inspire Awards Contd.

Chris Kawamura

Transportation Technology

Delhi District Secondary School

In his role as an automotive tech teacher, Chris is inspiring a new generation of students to explore skilled-trades career paths. As the branch OSSTF president, he is a leader at school, in the community, and inspires colleagues through the examples he sets. At a recent charity event in Norfolk, Chris was there to make a pitch to a local chapter of a philanthropic organization that allocates funding and resources to good causes. He was there to ask for resources to help him obtain older engine parts, particularly cast-iron engines and carburetors so he could continue to build a strong foundation in learning and a well-rounded automotive technical program. His pitch followed a moving presentation by the Simcoe Special Olympics – his competition at this event.

Moved by it, Chris bowed out of competition, and asked that all the resources and funding that night go towards supporting the wonderful work they carry out instead. Luckily the connections he made still helped his own cause ultimately, but the gesture exemplifies what Chris is all about – a learner, leader and inspiration in Grand Erie and beyond. Grand Erie is proud to recognize Chris Kawamura as a recipient of the Learn Lead Inspire award.



Memorial: Tyreece Warren

A memorial statement was read to honour the memory of Tyreece Warren, a Grade 12 student at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School. Our deepest condolences go out to Tyreece's family and his friends.



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Director's Report Highlights

Safe and Inclusive Schools

With a focus on teaching to diversity, equity and inclusion, deep self-reflection and new approaches to understanding how we serve students are required. This commitment will be amplified internally and externally in the coming months as Superintendent Wayne Baker and his team launch the Equity plan that is not only aligned with but embedded in the Annual Learning and Operating plan.



The Safe and Inclusive Schools team has also produced an anti-racism video series. Behind this series is five powerful videos – videos that are at times uncomfortable, but which contain messages that will challenge all of us to think more deeply and clearly about how we foster a culture of belonging to inspire every learner.

Check out the introductory video [here](#).

Indigenous Education: Rock Your Mocs

Rock Your Mocs is a student-led initiative supported by the Indigenous Education team and Robin Staats, System Principal, aimed at unifying Indigenous Peoples globally by sharing stories and displaying the artistic craftsmanship of moccasins. Cultural mentors throughout Grand Erie provided opportunities for Indigenous Student Leadership members to engage in moccasin making activities.





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

Learning

- Major Ballachey Public School Joins Canadian Military Memorials Database: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/major-ballachey-public-school-joins-canadian-military-memorials-database>

Belonging

- A Gold Medal Lesson in Leadership at Jarvis Public School: <https://www.granderie.ca/board/news/gold-medal-lesson-leadership-jarvis-public-school>