



## Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 27, 2023

Education Centre Boardroom

### MINUTES

- Present:** Chair S. Gibson (MS Teams), Vice-Chair B. Doyle (MS Teams) Trustees: G. Anderson (MS Teams), J. Bradford (MS Teams), R. Collver (MS Teams), L. Passmore (MS Teams), C.A. Sloat (MS Teams), E. Thomas (MS Teams), C. VanEvery-Albert (MS Teams), T. Waldschmidt, E. Whiton (MS Teams), Student Trustees: M. Baker (MS Teams), A. Skye (MS Teams), T. Zebroski (MS Teams)
- Administration:** Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: W. Baker (MS Teams), K. Graham (MS Teams), L. Munro (MS Teams), L. Thompson (MS Teams), J. Tozer (MS Teams), J. White (MS Teams), R. Wyszynski (MS Teams), Manager D. Smouter (MS Teams), Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken (MS Teams), Executive Assistant: C. Dero (MS Teams)
- Guests:** J. Bell, General Legal Counsel (MS Teams), J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates (MS Teams), Manager of Transportation P. Kuckyt (MS Teams), Planning Officer J. Pathak (MS Teams)

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gibson at 6:30 p.m.

(b) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest – Nil**

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:30 pm)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

**Carried**

(d) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

(f) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

(g) **Memorial**

(i) Kayden Huffman

The memorial of Kayden Huffman was read by Trustee Passmore.



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(h) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

That the Board of Trustees approve In-Camera Item B-1-d.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board of Trustees approve In-Camera Item C-1-b.

(i) **Presentations/Showcase & Learn Lead Inspire Award** – deferred to March 27, 2023

(j) **Delegations**

**S. Brocklebank – Paris Area (Brant North) Boundary Review**

Chair Gibson invited S. Brocklebank to present.

After the presentation, Trustees were given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions. Chair Gibson thanked the delegate, and the delegation was formally received. The written submission will be included in the minutes.

B - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) January 30, 2023 (Regular Board)

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, dated January 30, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Report of the Finance Committee dated February 13, 2023**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for Branlyn Community School, Woodman-Cainsville Public School, Central Public School, King George School, and Major Ballachey Public School, as outlined in Figure 2, effective September 1, 2023.

Trustee Doyle requested a recorded vote:

Trustee Doyle - yes

Trustee Sloat - yes

Trustee Anderson - yes

Trustee Collver - yes

Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes

Trustee Thomas - yes

Trustee Waldschmidt - yes

Trustee Bradford - yes

Trustee Whiton - yes

Chair Gibson - yes

Trustee Passmore – yes

**Carried**



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J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates provided a brief summary of the proposed changes and rationale regarding the Brantford East Boundary Review.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for Waterford Public School, Boston Public School, and Bloomsburg Public School, as outlined in Figure 2, effective September 1, 2023, the new Grade configurations for Waterford Public School (K- 6), and the relocation of Grade 7-8 students from Waterford Public School to the Waterford District High School building effective September 1, 2024.

Trustee Doyle requested a recorded vote:

Trustee Doyle - yes	Trustee Sloat - yes
Trustee Anderson - yes	Trustee Collver - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes	Trustee Thomas - yes
Trustee Waldschmidt - yes	Trustee Bradford - yes
Trustee Whiton - no	Chair Gibson - yes
Trustee Passmore - yes	

**Carried**

J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates provided a brief summary of the proposed changes and rationale regarding the Waterford Area Boundary Review. It was noted that there will be a transition component that will address school staffing and the Administrative team. This boundary review addresses the need to utilize neighbouring schools first to deal with excessive pressures.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for Burford District Elementary School, Cobblestone Elementary School, Glen Morris Central Public School, North Ward School, Paris Central Public School, and St. George-German Public School, as outlined in Figure 2, as well as French Immersion program changes for Burford District Elementary School and Paris Central Public School, effective September 1, 2023.

Trustee Doyle requested a recorded vote:

Trustee Doyle - yes	Trustee Sloat - yes
Trustee Anderson - yes	Trustee Collver - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes	Trustee Thomas - yes
Trustee Waldschmidt - yes	Trustee Bradford - yes
Trustee Whiton - yes	Chair Gibson - yes
Trustee Passmore - yes	

**Carried**



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J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates provided a brief summary of the proposed changes and rationale regarding the Paris Area Boundary Review.

In response to a question about deferring the proposed changes for one year, it was noted that this would not address the excess capacity as needed, the development in Paris is significant and ongoing higher than expected/projected.

An extension or new build is not an option at this time as the Ministry of Education indicated that enrolment needs to be stabilized before a new submission is proposed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Board approve the following draws, from Accumulated Surplus:

- Up to \$300,000 from the Finance Software Surplus
- Up to \$380,000 from the IT Reserve Surplus.

**Carried**

(b) **Audit Committee Appointment**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2026.

(c) **Policy and Program Committee Meeting dated January 16, 2023 Policies**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Policy (SO-16) be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the School Food and Beverages Policy (SO-21) be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policy (SO-22) be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: C.A. Sloat

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Copyright - Fair Dealing Guidelines Policy (SO-24) be approved.

**Carried**



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Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Whiton

THAT the Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions, including Administration of Medication, in Schools Policy (SO-30) be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Accessibility Policy (SO-31) be approved.

**Carried**

Moved by: R. Collver

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Exclusion of Students Policy (SO-32) be approved.

**Carried**

It was noted that the addition of the delegation of authority was previously discussed at the January 30, 2023 Regular Board meeting. The additional statement addresses the fact that the Board needs to delegate to the Student Discipline Committee the ability to hear the appeals pursuant to Section 265(1)(m) of the *Education Act*.

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Animals in Schools, including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Policy (SO-33) be approved.

**Carried**

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meeting** - Nil

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

J. Roberto shared information regarding the following:

- Grand Erie welcomed Dr. Jean Clinton who provided a presentation that focused on establishing a deep sense of belonging and connection as a positive state for learning and well-being.
- February 22, 2023 was Pink Shirt Day. Pink was worn to take a stand against bullying. Waterford Public School, students worked on different projects and initiatives around the theme "Lift Each Other Up".
- Project SEARCH prepares young people for success in competitive integrated employment.
- Staff recently represented Grand Erie in Toronto at the Apple Educator Conference. The focus was on Access Ability: Leveraging Digital to Reach all Learners and using iPads in the classroom to foster curiosity for each learner and to highlight the important role that leaders play in creating the conditions for inclusive learning.



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- Grand Erie Teams and Experience. There is a lot of activity on the athletics front – from hockey to indoor track, and Grand Erie is proud to share some of these teams and experiences. Many Grand Erie athletes are also moving on to represent their schools at the provincial level in wrestling and swimming and we will share these stories in the coming weeks.

F - 1 **Staff Reports - Nil**

G - 1 **Student Trustees' Report - Nil**

H - 1 **New Business – Action / Decision Items**

(a) **Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Program Report**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C.A. Sloat

THAT the Board approve the Pride of Place and Community Partnership Incentive Program Report for 2022-23.

**Carried**

I - 1 **Information Items – Nil**

J - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Minutes dated October 27, 2022**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Student Senate Committee Minutes dated November 3, 2022**

Presented as printed.

(c) **Six Nations Advisory Committee Minutes dated December 8, 2022**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes dated December 8, 2022**

Presented as printed.

(c) **Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes dated January 12, 2023**

Presented as printed.

K - 1 **OPSBA Report**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert attended the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on February 24-25, 2023. Updates included information about:

- Labour relations and legislative updates
- Ministry of Education consultation on electronic meetings
- OPSBA Advocacy Day (held in late November)
- Release of 2023-2024 Grants for Student Needs



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- Indigenous Education/Indigenous Trustees' Council
- Ontario Education Services Corporation
- Government Relations, Public Affairs
- Public Education Symposium
- Program Policy
- Annual General Meeting in June (Collingwood) – more information to follow in OPSBA Connects
- Canadian School Boards Association and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education July 3-5 in Banff

L - 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **Project SEARCH Funding**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Shellard Lane Elementary School**

Presented as printed.

M - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

**Carried**

  
Chair S. Gibson

  
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto

### **Delegation to Board re: Paris Area Boundary Review– February 27, 2023**

Thank you with providing me the opportunity to speak before you on the recommendations for the Boundary Review specific to the Brant North (Paris Area).

My name is Sue Brocklebank and I am a parent that lives in the area delineated as 6-2 for the purpose of the boundary review. I have two children that attend Cobblestone Elementary School. My oldest child has attended the school for 10 years and will be graduating grade eight and moving on to Paris District High School in the fall. My youngest child has attended the school for seven years and is in grade five.

No one who has lived in Paris for the last decade would dispute the intense changes in development that have happened and continues to occur in Paris. And it comes at no surprise that a boundary review is needed. But with all the shuffles that are currently proposed, capacity is still projected to reach 100% within the next few years. I welcome the Boundary Review's special ad hoc committee's recommendation to seek to build an addition on Cobblestone and/or seek to build a new elementary school in the Paris during the next Capital Priorities window.

I am not here to dispute the boundary lines recommended by the committee. I logically understand that with a boundary review, some families are going to be upset by the outcome, and in this case, one of them happens to be mine. I would dispute the wording used in the report to the finance committee meeting of February 13, however, that says that feedback on the Paris boundary review has been generally favourable. I would say that at the time this report was written, many families were unaware of the changes that were being proposed.

Why I am here, is to suggest two amendments to the boundary recommendation that would minimize the devastation to families within the Paris North Area, and specifically to Cobblestone.

My first suggested amendment is to:

1. Allow legacy students to continue their education at their current home school while implementing the new school boundaries effective September 2023 for new registrants. Courtesy transportation would be removed for the legacy students that come from out-of-area.

This recommendation may sound like I am asking for no changes to be made and no surplus spaces created, but I feel that not all families would choose to stay at their legacy school, particularly those with younger students, when other children in their neighbourhood will be directed to a different school. A poll sent to affected families could identify what families would shift and who would want to stay.

This recommendation would help families with older students, that may have watched older siblings graduate and whose families have invested significant time in supporting their school's



community. Moving children to a different school not only alters their own friendships with an established friend group, but breaks a family's developed support system for childcare, programming and transportation.

In the report to the finance committee, the special ad hoc committee recommended at least that the students currently enrolled in Grades 6 and 7 – I would like to see that expanded- have legacy provisions. Unfortunately I don't see that as a part of the recommended motion being put forward today. Is this is part of the future transition plan?

I recognize that this proposal would not create surplus spaces immediately, but allow the Cobblestone population to slowly decrease as some students shift and legacy student's graduate.

My second suggested amendment is to:

2. Delay the boundary changes by one year to be effective in September 2024 to allow families to arrange before and after school care, provide meaningful consultation and give the County of Brant time to implement necessary transportation changes to improve walkability.

With the boundary changes comes a lot of unknowns. Will busing be offered? In my own family's case, my children walk to Cobblestone and we prefer it that way. I find that my kids have time to mentally prepare for school or decompress when they walk home, and they get physical activity.

But there has long been a problem of a lack of walkability to downtown Paris. The special ad hoc committee correctly stated, that the sidewalks along Lions Hill are not a problem, but there are unsafe crossings at the three way intersection of Hwy 2, Dundas St. W and Laurel St. at the top of Lions Hill; at King Edward, Church St. and Dumfries St where the new main County Library at the Bawcutt Needleworks Centre will be built; and at Dumfries St and Grand River St. S. where cars coming up the hill out of downtown Paris have the right of way.

Will sufficient daycare options be available? The Cobblestone students are being split between North Ward, Burford, Glen Morris and Paris Central. Glen Morris and Paris Central have before and after school care that is offered by the County of Brant. Parents tell me that this program is full is fills up extremely quickly.

The final concern with these changes is the fact that many parents feel that there was insufficient consultation on the boundary review. Families did not have a clear understanding of the process and they feel it was not transparent.

- Notice of the first public meeting on November 1 was sent to Cobblestone families five hours before the start of the meeting.
- The second public meeting on January 18 was held on the same night as the Paris District High School orientation to grade nine, providing a conflict

- The proposal at the second public meeting for Cobblestone students located in areas #11 and #12 on the east side of Paris was to move to North Ward, these areas are now recommended to move to Glen Morris, therefore, no public consultation on this option has taken place.

Boundary reviews will come up again in a few years, and as a parent affected by these changes, I offer the following recommendations to improve communication with parents.

- Provide greater notice of public meetings – two weeks or more is best to ensure childcare
- Similar to municipalities, send direct notices to families that are located within boundary changes including a map of the areas proposed to be affected.
- Require principals and representatives to report back to the school community to increase transparency.
- Avoid public meetings on nights with other scheduled events from the local schools.
- Have all possible proposals presented at the public meeting.

The adage of “kids are resilient” can only be taken so far. This school year has been the first ‘normal’ year since the 2018-2019 school year. Mental health issues and anxiety among children have increased since before the pandemic. Shifting particularly the older students is going to cause isolation and anger to those who saw themselves staying with their peers and graduating from their school.

I know that many trustees participated in the webinar last week with Dr. Jean Clinton on the Pillar of Belonging. We heard that when students feel safe, that they belong and are accepted, that it opens the doors to learning. Changing schools falls under the tolerable stress category, which can be tolerated with caring adults to help buffers stress, but it can also have long lasting negative affects.

Please consider these amendments when voting for the Paris Area boundary changes to allow our students not only to survive, but to thrive.

Thank you for allowing me to present my suggestions to the Board on the Paris Area/Brant North Boundary Review.