



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting of the Board

January 29, 2024

All reports for this meeting can be found here: bit.ly/42fnW7m



From left: Board Chair Susan Gibson, Pamela O'Halloran, Joan Maloney, David Gervais, Adriana Potichnyj and Director JoAnna Roberto.

Learn Lead Inspire Recognition: Adriana Potichnyj, David Gervais and Pamela O'Halloran

In times of crisis, leadership and teamwork shine even more brightly. That was the case in December when Adriana Potichnyj, Vice-Principal at McKinnon Park Secondary School, answered a phone call that raised her concern. On the line was Joan Maloney, a recently retired, now casual Educational Assistant, calling about a work assignment, but her speech and inability to respond to questions that morning suggested she might be experiencing a stroke.



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Learn Lead Inspire Recognition, Contd.

With the help of McKinnon Park's office staff, Adriana determined that Joan resided in Waterford, more than half an hour away from Caledonia, but not far from Waterford District High School. Potichnyj quickly sought assistance from the administrative team there. Vice-Principal Dave Gervais answered the call, and sprang into action. Together with Principal Pam O'Halloran, the two visited Joan's home, and upon arrival, confirmed further indicators of stroke. An ambulance was called immediately, and meanwhile, Pam was able to retrieve contact information for Joan's daughter. Joan was taken to Brantford General Hospital, spent 19 days recovering, and was able to return home.

The quick thinking, sound decision-making, wisdom and cooperation demonstrated that morning allowed these leaders to navigate through a complex, uncertain situation, and get a colleague crucial help. They are a true reflection of Grand Erie's vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire.

Construction Updates

Per Grand Erie's Major Construction Policy (FA-01), a bi-monthly update was provided indicating the status of each active capital project.

Updates include:

- South-West Brantford Joint-Use Elementary School: The project has been submitted to the Ministry of Education to obtain approval to proceed to tender. An agreement to purchase the land, with the purpose to jointly own the parcel, is being developed and will be included in a proposed Agreement of Purchase and Sale, once ready.
- Caledonia Joint-Use Elementary School: The board has provided approval for this project to proceed to tender.
- Cobblestone Child Care Addition: The project has been submitted to the Ministry of Education to obtain approval to proceed to tender.





The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Director's Report Highlights

You Belong Here: Supporting Successful Secondary Transitions

Secondary schools across the district opened their doors to future Grade 9 learners and their families, providing a look at the excitement and possibilities that await, with open-house events concluding this month. To support successful transitions for learners joining Grand Erie secondary schools from elementary schools on reserve, the Indigenous Education team hosted registration support days last week. Finally, the You Belong Here campaign is featuring some of the Grand Erie secondary administrators whose history in the board extends back to their own time in secondary school, and highlights the lessons in leadership along the way.



ESL Program Finds New Home at Pauline Johnson

The transition of Grand Erie's adult English language program is complete, with a new home at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School. Classroom and assessment programming moved to the Brantford secondary school earlier this month, and staff and students have been welcoming and patient as the renovations were finalized and the program now settles into the new space. During the first week of classes, the PJ Leadership Program, led by educators Jen Janzen, Melanie Kraemer and Neal Stamer, made an extra special effort to create welcome signs in many different languages to greet learners.





The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Development Adds Up to Student Success in Math

As Grand Erie continues to build on learners' confidence, understanding and enjoyment of mathematics, central staff had an opportunity to learn with Cathy Marks Krpan, former educator and current consultant on teaching and learning strategies in math. This professional-development session on January 22 aligned with the Math Achievement Action Plan, with participants exploring effective use of assessment criteria. In addition to that session, math coaches had the opportunity to take part in two days of learning and development focused on new pedagogical practices and reflecting on how best to support learners in math.



Careers in Grand Erie

From left: This month, Human Resources' staff members Tara Capinding and Gemma Jepma were at the Wilfrid Laurier Teacher Candidate Job Fair, working to recruit the next generation of educators to Grand Erie.



In Memoriam

Memorial statements were read to honour the memory of Grand Erie staff member Carie Ferrell. Our deepest condolences to Carie's friends, family and colleagues.



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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

- **McKinnon Park Triumphs at DECA Business Competition**

Well-Being

- **Finding Focus and Fun in Mindful Movement**

Belonging

- **You Belong Here: Alison High, Valley Heights Secondary School**