



Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams

AGENDA

A - 1 **Opening Call to Order**

(a) Roll Call

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

(c) Welcome/Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Governance Committee agenda be approved."

C - 1 **Approval of the Minutes**

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Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Minutes of the Governance Committee dated October 19, 2023 be approved."

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

E - 1 **New Business – Governance Items**

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(a) Amendments to the General Governance Policy

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the amendments to the General Governance Policy be forwarded to the March 25, 2024 Regular Board meeting for approval."

F - 1 **Other Business**

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Governance Committee meeting be adjourned."

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** TBD



Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: J. Bradford, B. Doyle, C. VanEvery-Albert

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Recording Secretary: C. Dero

Guests: J. Bell, General Legal Counsel

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair S. Gibson and roll call was completed.

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

There were no conflicts of interest.

(c) **Welcome /Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair S. Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

That the Governance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Approval of the Minutes**

THAT the Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting, dated March 23, 2023, be approved.

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Doyle

Carried

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

E - 1 **New Business – Governance Items**

(a) **Amendments to the General Working By-law, General Governance Policy and Borrowing By-law**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the amendments to the General Working By-law, General Governance Policy and Borrowing By-law be forwarded to the October 30, 2023 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried



Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams

MINUTES

Amendments included:

- General Working By-law, Section 1.3
 - The appointment of the First Nations Trustee will occur every fourth year. Once appointed the First Nations Trustee serves under the same terms and conditions as elected Trustees, in accordance with the *Education Act* and current regulations.
- General Working By-law, Section 2.4
 - If there is a request by a Trustee to participate electronically, or by any other means due to extenuating circumstances, the Trustee will consult with the Chair of the Board and Director of Education, and voting will take place by email to directorservices@granderie.ca
- General Governance Policy, Section 4.0
 - The Chair of the Board, in appropriate circumstances, has the discretion to approve expenses in excess of the \$2,000 limit.
- General Governance Policy, Section 9.2 h)
 - Trustees can request additional meeting(s) through the Chair of the Governance Committee.

(b) **Terms of Reference**

The Governance Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed, and it was noted that they would be updated to include the changes made in the General Governance Policy, Section 9.2 h.

F - 1 **Other Business** – Additional meeting to be determined and a request was made for governance learning.

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

That the Governance Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Carried

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
GENERAL GOVERNANCE POLICY

Effective May 30, 2022

Revised ~~October 30, 2023~~ [March 25, 2024](#)

- c) In order to manage workload and ensure that decisions are made in a timely manner, the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, will compile a schedule of reports 'For Information' and 'For Approval' for the upcoming school year for presentation to the Board either at the last meeting in June or first meeting in September for information. Nothing will preclude the Board of Trustees from receiving reports throughout the year that were not initially scheduled in order to provide flexibility to address emerging or unforeseen issues. Committee reports and/or minutes will be accessible by the Board of Trustees.

4.0 Trustee Expenses

The Grand Erie District School Board will reimburse Trustees, including Student Trustees, for recognized out-of-pocket expenses and will provide funds in its annual budget to cover in-service expenses of Trustees [and Student Trustees](#) who attend conferences, seminars, and professional meetings.. Trustees [and Student Trustees](#) will have a budget of \$2000 annually to attend conferences. Trustees [and Student Trustees](#) are expected to share the results of their Professional Learning with other Trustees by reporting to the Board, by circulating a written synopsis or by making materials acquired through the Professional Learning available to other Trustees. The Chair of the Board, in appropriate circumstances, has the discretion to approve expenses in excess of the \$2,000 limit.

4.1 Travel on Board Business

The Grand Erie District School Board's annual budget will include a travel expense fund for Trustees. Trustees using their personal vehicles will be reimbursed for travel expenses (to the following) at the rate per kilometer established by the Board of Trustees:

- a) Board meetings, Statutory, Standing and Special Ad Hoc Committee meetings to which they are appointed;
- b) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA);/ Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO);
- c) Other conferences, workshops or meetings as approved by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board;
- d) Visits to schools and school functions;
- e) Functions of other organizations where the Chair of the Board or designate is representing the Grand Erie District School Board; and
- f) Other events as authorized by resolution of the Board of Trustees.

Please note that a Student Trustee must, if practicable, gain the approval of the Chair of the Board at least one month in advance of the event in order to attend any conference.

4.2 Other Expenses

Trustees may incur other expenses in their position, such as:

candidate's name(s) receiving the fewest votes until one name from each area of the Board achieves a simple majority. *Where there is a tie for the candidates receiving the most votes in an area of the Board, a second vote will be conducted for the candidates tied with the most votes. If the tie remains after the second vote, then straws will be drawn. The candidate that draws the shortest straw shall be dropped from the ballot.* The election process will be completed no later than the last day of February each year.

- f) The names of the elected Student Trustees will be presented to the Board of Trustees as information at the Board meeting in March of each year.

10.5 Dismissal of a Student Trustee

- a) If a Student Trustee misses three (3) regularly scheduled, consecutive Board meetings without the permission of the Board, they will be deemed to have vacated their seat.
- b) A Student Trustee who ceases to be qualified according to the [Education Act](#) and the associated Regulation shall resign.
- c) A Student Trustee shall be disqualified if they fail to adhere to the [Regulation 246/18: Members of School Boards – Code of Conduct](#) and Governance Policy #4 -Trustee Code of Conduct.

10.6 Filling a Vacated Seat During the Year

If a Student Trustee seat is vacated during the term, the Board will determine if the vacancy shall be filled. If it is the determination of the Board of Trustees that the vacancy be filled, applicants will be sought, and a by-election process will be held by the Student Senate as appropriate.

10.7 Type and Extent of Participation

- a) Student Trustees are non-voting members at the Board table. Student Trustees may participate fully in discussions on all matters before the Board except as defined in part (c) of this section.
- b) On any motion, the Student Trustee may have their position officially recorded in the minutes, but their vote is non-binding.
- c) Student Trustees may sit on Board committees. They may not take the place of an elected Trustee on committees that have a legislated requirement for Trustee participation.
- d) Student Trustees are expected to host Student Senate meetings with support from the appointed staff liaison.
- e) Student Trustees under the age of 18 are permitted to attend Student Trustee events with parental/ caregiver permission provided they are accompanied by Board administrative or academic staff, an elected Trustee, or their parent /caregiver.
- f) Student Trustees must have prior approval from the Chair of the Board and their school Principal before registering for Student Trustee events.