



# The Leader

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Regular Meeting of the Board

April 22, 2024

All reports for this meeting can be found [here](#).



**Above:** Learners and educators from James Hillier Public School and the Punjabi language program each presented as part of the student showcase.

### Student Showcases: James Hillier Public School Poetry and GELA's Punjabi Language Program

The James Hillier French poetry team recently placed first at the Norfolk Musical Arts Festival. Students received a trophy for their French second language presentation of the piece, "Le corbeau et le renard," which they recited at the board meeting as part of the Student Showcase. Mme Sorensen is the French teacher at James Hillier School, and the French poetry team is made up of learners in Grade 8.

Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) runs international language programming including Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu classes. April is Sikh Heritage Month, so to help celebrate, GELA's Punjabi-language students performed a shabad in honour of Visakhi or Khalsa Sajna Day. Mr. Singh worked with students from secondary-school credit classes and elementary Punjabi classes who attend Cobblestone, Woodman, Walter Gretzky and Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, who presented the performance.

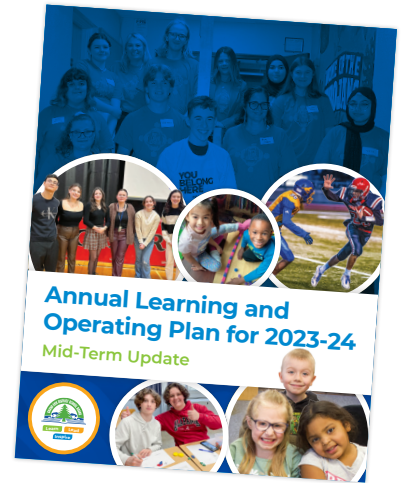


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### Annual Learning and Operating Plan: Mid-Term Update

The **Annual Learning and Operating Plan** is both a roadmap to success and a vital check-in to chart Grand Erie's progress as it works to realize collective goals related to Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner. The mid-term update, presented Monday, highlighted achievements in math, literacy, graduation, school culture and mental health, Indigenous Education and operational administration. These gains, and the positive momentum generated, will be the focus as the end of the school year gets closer, and the strategies and collective commitment behind all of this work lights the route into next year. A series of videos accompanied the update, showcasing the work of educators and support staff in the areas of math coaching, skill-building, re-engagement, experiential learning and Specialist High Skills Major programming. The mid-term update can be found [here](#).



### Director's Report Highlights

#### Eco Eclipse

Several schools in Grand Erie worked to ensure their solar eclipse glasses got a second chance through the organization Astronomers Without Borders, including student-led initiatives at St George-German Public School, Walsh Public School, Valley Heights Secondary School, Bloomsburg Public School and Langton Public School. As part of Earth Day and environmental commitments, Grand Erie also centrally collected eclipse glasses at the Education Centre. The organization sends the special glasses, which allow safe viewing of solar eclipse events, to schools around the world.





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### Learning in Grand Erie

Grand Erie's math strategies were in action at Rainham Central as the Grade 6 class shared some of their learning on social media early in April. Students engaged in approaches and processes, through the support of math coaches, to implement the math curriculum. In elementary and secondary school math classes, a range of tools are in place to support learning.



### Art Soup a Recipe for Student Creativity

Grand Erie's Art Soup program aims to expose junior students to various artistic disciplines, with a recipe for success that includes connecting them to working artists in visual arts, music, theatre, and dance in workshops hosted at their future high schools. This event aligns with Grand Erie's efforts to support student retention from elementary to secondary. Thank you to Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Paris District High School, Waterford District High School and Dunnville Secondary School for hosting.



### Braiding Diversity into Justice

For many young people, a career in law may feel out of reach. Braiding Diversity into Justice is a career-modelling program directed at marginalized and racialized young women meant to help "see themselves in law" by introducing them to legal professionals with whom they share similar experiences. Late in March, the Brantford chapter of the Ontario Justice Education Network hosted approximately 30 young women from Brantford secondary schools for an opportunity to meet and learn from women established in the legal profession.





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### In Memoriam

A statement was read to honour Dallas Grandpre, a dedicated member of the Facility Services team. Dallas began his career in Grand Erie in 2010 as a casual caretaker, and worked as an afternoon caretaker at a number of locations before becoming a Custodian in 2013, working over the years at schools including Agnes Hodge, Princess Elizabeth, Oakland-Scotland, Bloomsburg and others. Most recently, Dallas had joined Maintenance as a grounds staff member. Our deepest condolences go out to Dallas' family, friends, colleagues, and everyone connected to this loss.

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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

- **Honouring Innovation and Achievement at Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair**
- **Break a Leg! Months of Preparations Culminate at DramaFest**

#### Belonging

- **You Belong Here: Jeff Benner, Principal Leader**